

# The Return of Carbon Credit Investment

## Protect Alert

Published on 29/01/19

Victims have been offered carbon credit certificates, voluntary emission reductions (VERs) or certified emission reductions (CERs) investments, which they cannot sell or trade resulting in a loss of money to companies based abroad. Several boiler rooms heavily promoted investments of carbon credits approximately four years ago, stating that it's a growing development market which will help the environment, and will off-set the victim's emissions.

Recently victims who have previously invested in a forest, land and trees are being offered VERs. The certificates are being pitched with a value, and members of the public have been sent a list of voluntary carbon credits to choose from and invest in. Funds from the sale of assets, are being held in escrow accounts and in order for the funds to be released, the victim is required to pay a supplementary fee.

**Inference:** Victims who invested in carbon credits over four years ago, will be targeted by fraudsters offering VERs for an advanced fee which do not materialise, causing the victim a greater financial loss.

## What you need to do

- Never reveal any personal or financial details as a result of an unsolicited call, email or text. Even if someone knows your basic details (such as your name and contact details), it doesn't mean they are genuine.
- Don't immediately agree to any offer that involves an advance payment or having to sign a contract on the spot. Always speak with a friend or family member first.
- Always check the credentials of any financial company on the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) website: – they should be on the register. Contact the preferred company directly and reject any offers made through unsolicited communications.