



ABOUT IWCA IN GENERAL

What is the legal entity of IWCA?

IWCA is a group of wineries bonded by the standing rules document. IWCA founding members reserve the right to create a non-profit based Association or Foundation if the size of the working group needs a greater entity body.

How has the IWCA 2030 and 2045 objective been fixed?

Both 2030 and 2050 IWCA GHG emission reduction targets have been set considering the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and therefore are science-based goals. IWCA objectives are aligned with these goals: to reduce total emissions 50% by 2030 and to become Climate Positive by 2050.

IWCA will be used as a certificate? Is it a marketing product?

IWCA has not been created to be used as a certification. Instead, Familia Torres and Jackson Family Wines founded IWCA as a tool to promote GHG inventory and GHG emissions reductions while offering the possibility to join an international group of wineries committed to mitigating climate change. IWCA members are climate leaders and catalyzers in influencing others to reduce the global GHG emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change.

What are the benefits of becoming an IWCA member?

Given the science-based approach of IWCA and the strictness of its requirements, Members and Applicants of IWCA will be perceived as one that is strongly and sincerely committed in the fight against climate change. This working group is designed as a platform for sharing best practices that mitigate climate impacts in vineyard and winery operations. The more wineries participating in the IWCA, the louder our voice to raise awareness about climate change and urge for immediate, global action.

How is it governed? Is there a President?

At this early stage, founding members take the lead to govern IWCA although, as written in the standing rules, all members will be able to vote on any new governance initiative. No president is expected, instead a third-party entity will run IWCA to maintain impartiality and efficiency.

Is there an annual event? How are people going to attend given the fact it is an international “association”? Would there be a high carbon footprint for all these trips?

Yes, there will be an annual event to give Applicants and Members the warm welcome they deserve. Being aware of the implications that an international event might create in terms of travels, we have set just one annual event in which all members and applicants will be invited. We are even analyzing the possibility to organize a virtual event or several events simultaneously all over the world to reduce the GHG emissions of IWCA events. It must be said at this point, that the whole process of IWCA creation is been done through phone and virtual conversations.



ABOUT THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

These audits might force small wineries not to enter the IWCA because of their costs?

All wineries matter and we would like everyone to be able to join IWCA. However, to ensure credibility and rigor, all IWCA members are required to follow the WRI (World Resources Institute) Greenhouse Gas Protocol as a primary methodology, performed and certified according to the ISO 14064 process. That's why IWCA has partnered with Lloyd's Register to offer a best price for any winery asking for their services to certify the ISO14064.

For the very small wineries with no opportunity to obtain such ISO certification, we are working on a different IWCA category. They won't have the same treatment as IWCA Applicants or Members, but they will get the recognition for their efforts even with no certification. Instead, other proving documents will be required.

Why is only ISO14064 certification accepted as emissions inventory certification?

The purpose of IWCA is to promote the use of carbon footprint calculations as a tool to reduce GHG emissions. With the aim to ensure an equal treatment to all candidates, the use of a unified system for carbon footprint verification is needed. ISO is globally recognized, used and trusted. Wineries might be familiar with ISO14.001 (Environment), ISO50.001 (Energy Efficiency), ISO9.001 (Quality), etc. and therefore it makes sense to use this same standard for the carbon footprint verification, and that is ISO14064.

This ISO14064 needs to include scope 3 emissions and be verified by an ISO-accredited third party. Note that not all auditors comply with this requirement. Only ISO14064 accredited ones will be accepted.

What exactly are Scope 3 emissions?

The emissions of a company are separated into 3 scopes. Scope 3 emissions account for all the indirect emissions derived from the company's activity, that is any emission not under the direct responsibility of the firm. This includes all the embedded emissions in prime materials, packaging, distribution, etc. More detail can be found in the IWCA GHG Emissions Inventory Document.

Why is reforestation accepted but no other kinds of sequestration?

Reforestation in owned or long term leased land means that the winery has total control of the reforestation project from the beginning until the end, ensuring that the trees are well planted but also well maintained. Reforestation on owned land means the winery is committed to compensating for emissions with on-site investments, rather than purchasing offsets where sequestration is handled by a 3rd party.



Why is only on-site renewable energy accepted?

We encourage self-generation to effectively reduce the local impact of energy use. We believe that the energy transition should be performed on-site, to effectively reduce GHG emissions. The IWCA renewable energy target (20%) includes both electricity generation and thermal heat, giving wineries the flexibility to determine which pathway is more appropriate for each specific winery. Alternately, leasing, renting or other financial operations would be accepted if the renewable energy generated by the onsite system is used to offset onsite energy consumption, so long as the winery retains the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) associated with that system's generation. The purchase of RECs from the open market are not acceptable if those associated RECs are generated offsite.

Why is IWCA asking for a certain % of self-consumption in countries where the electrical grid is already almost 100% renewable?

For those special cases where the local electrical grid is at least 70% renewable, and heat consumption is low, IWCA will be flexible with this requirement, reducing it to a 10% offset from onsite renewables, if correctly justified.

Why are CO2 emissions retained by the vineyard not considered?

Vineyard sequestration can be measured and tracked but does not currently count as an approved sequestration method. The reasons for this are the carbon is constantly circulating through the biosphere in a short-term cycle known as the biogenic carbon cycle. This cycle is considered short term because carbon emitted or sequestered is estimated to change form again within the next 100 years. Scopes 1-3 emissions measured as part of the GHG Inventory account for the permanence of carbon emissions in the atmosphere.

Additionally, while vineyards do sequester carbon, a proper accounting method will consider what type of land use would have existed in place of the vineyard and the carbon sequestration of natural habitats like forests, grasslands and native vegetation.

Why are emissions embedded in cork stoppers or barrels not considered for sequestration?

IWCA members commit to a robust standard of accounting for upstream and downstream emissions associated with wine production. While certain products such as corks and oak barrels may have positive environmental attributes, if these are not a direct result of winery actions on property owned and operated by the winery, counting sequestration from purchased products is similar to purchasing external carbon offsets. Additionally, there are not universal systems set up for cork recycling, which means that many of these corks cannot be recycled, reused or composted, and therefore the CO2 contained is released again. Please consult the IWCA GHG Guidance Document for more detailed information on how to account for emissions associated with corks and oak barrels.