

California Cap-and-Trade Program and Québec Cap-and-Trade System

2023 Annual Auction Reserve Price Notice

Issued on December 1, 2022

Update Issued on December 9, 2022

Second Update Issued on December 21, 2022

Auction Summary

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Québec Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP)¹ will hold joint auctions of greenhouse gas (GHG) allowances in 2023. This document, 2023 Annual Auction Reserve Price Notice, specifies the California (CA) and Québec (QC) 2023 Annual Auction Reserve Prices and the number of allowances to be offered in 2023 for the quarterly auctions as part of the Current Auction and Advance Auction. The 2023 quarterly GHG allowance auctions will offer 2023 vintage allowances and 2026 vintage allowances for sale.

The 2023 Annual Auction Reserve Prices² and the number of 2023 and 2026 vintage allowances to be offered for sale in 2023 are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: 2023 Auction Data

Auction	Number of Allowances to be Offered	CA Annual Auction Reserve Price (USD)	QC Annual Auction Reserve Price (CAD)
Current Auction (2023 vintage)	224,386,869	\$22.21	<u>\$20.83</u>
Advance Auction (2026 vintage)	30,308,000	\$22.21	<u>\$20.83</u>

¹ Ministry of the Environment, the Fight against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks.

² The term "Annual Auction Reserve Price" will be used throughout this document to refer to the "minimum price" as defined in the Québec cap-and-trade regulation.

Annual Auction Reserve Prices

The Annual Auction Reserve Prices refer to the minimum prices set and released annually by each jurisdiction in accordance with Section 95911 of the California Cap-and-Trade Regulation and Article 49 of the Regulation respecting a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas emission allowances (Québec Regulation). The respective Annual Auction Reserve Prices for California and Québec will be used to determine the Auction Reserve Price for each joint auction by applying the Auction Exchange Rate as discussed below.

The Annual Auction Reserve Price for each jurisdiction is equal to the Annual Auction Reserve Price for the previous calendar year increased by 5 percent plus the positive rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).³ Each jurisdiction uses a jurisdiction-specific CPI in accordance with its respective regulation.

Table 2. Annual Auction Reserve Prices

Jurisdiction	2022 Annual Auction Reserve Price	Consumer Price Index	2023 Annual Auction Reserve Price
California (USD)	\$19.70	7.75%	\$22.21
Québec (CAD)	\$18.69	<u>6.44%</u>	<u>\$20.83</u>

Auction Exchange Rate and Auction Reserve Price

Entities registered under the Québec Cap-and-Trade System (QC entities) may participate in joint auctions in either United States Dollars (USD) or Canadian Dollars (CAD). To manage multiple currencies, an Auction Exchange Rate is determined prior to each joint auction. The Auction Exchange Rate (USD to CAD FX Rate) in effect the day of a joint auction and for financial settlement by qualified bidders will be determined the business day prior to each joint auction as the most recently available daily average exchange rate⁴ for U.S. and Canadian dollars as published by the Bank of Canada and will be displayed in the Auction Platform.

³ For California, the Annual Auction Reserve Price is equal to the Annual Auction Reserve Price for the previous calendar year increased by 5 percent plus the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

⁴ This refers to the daily average exchange rate for U.S. and Canadian dollars as published by the Bank of Canada.

The Auction Reserve Price will be determined as the higher of the Annual Auction Reserve Prices established in U.S. and Canadian dollars after applying the established Auction Exchange Rate (USD to CAD FX Rate).

Current Auction Allowances Offered for Sale

As indicated in Table 1, the number of allowances to be offered for sale in 2023 Current Auctions includes the approximate number of 2023 vintage allowances to be offered for sale. This number includes the total number of allowances jurisdictions offer for sale and the allowances to be consigned by California electrical distribution utilities and natural gas suppliers (consigning entities).

Table 3: 2023 Allowances Offered by Jurisdictions and Consigning Entities

Auction	Number of Allowances to be Offered by Jurisdictions	Number of Allowances to be Offered by Consigning Entities
Current Auction (2023 vintage)	143,522,370	80,864,499

A portion of the total number of allowances offered for sale in 2023 by each jurisdiction, as provided in Table 1, may be offered for sale at each auction. California consigning entities are required to notify CARB 75 days before each auction of the number of allowances they intend to consign. Allowances from California consigning entities not consigned in the first three auctions in 2023 will be included in the November 15, 2023 auction.

The actual quantity of allowances in the Current Auction may fluctuate during the year. Additionally, the vintages and types of allowances offered for sale may vary. There are several factors that may account for these fluctuations and variations in the allowances offered for sale at each auction arising out of each of the jurisdiction’s regulatory provisions. Current Auction allowances may come from allowances issued under the California Cap-and-Trade Program and the Québec Cap-and-Trade System that remain unsold from an undersubscribed⁵ Current Auction in prior years and are returned to auction after two consecutive Current Auctions have resulted in a settlement price

⁵ An undersubscribed auction is an auction with total qualified bids less than the total allowances offered for sale.

above the Auction Reserve Price.⁶ Additional allowances may also be made available for auction from closed Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS) accounts, allowances submitted for untimely surrender obligations, and the potential return of freely allocated allowances (distributions free of charge). In each of these situations, the vintages of the allowances may not be the same as the current calendar year, or the allowances may be an allowance type with no vintage if they were purchased from a jurisdiction's Reserve Sale.⁷

Information on the specific quantity of allowances by vintage and type available for sale in Current Auctions will be made available in each Auction Notice, which is posted at least 60 days prior to each joint auction on the [CARB Auction Information](#) webpage and [Québec Auction Information](#) webpage.

Allowances are transferred to successful bidders following completion of financial settlement. Successful bidders will receive awarded allowances, including the quantity of each allowance vintage or type, based on the proportion of the quantity of each jurisdiction's contribution to the total allowances offered in the auction. For example, in a simple case where the Current Auction allowances are all the same vintage and if the allowances offered for sale in the Current Auction included 75 percent California 2023 vintage allowances and 25 percent Québec 2023 vintage allowances, each bid lot of 1000 allowances received would include 750 California and 250 Québec allowances.

The same concept applies to a more complex case to determine the composition of each lot of allowances awarded. For example, if the Current Auction includes multiple vintages (continue to assume that the allowances offered are still split 75-25 between the jurisdictions) where the Québec portion includes 40 percent 2020 allowances and 60 percent 2023 allowances, each awarded bid lot of 1000 allowances would include 750 California 2023 vintage allowances, 100 Québec 2020 vintage allowances, and 150 Québec 2023 vintage allowances. This example can be expanded if there are more than two allowance vintages or types for a jurisdiction.

In a situation where there are not enough allowances awarded of a specific vintage or type offered for sale to evenly distribute across all successful bidders, the number of allowances assigned to successful bidders is determined by multiplying the successful bidder's share of Current Auction qualified bids by the number of allowances of that specific allowance vintage or type awarded, rounded to the nearest whole number. Assignments of allowances may be adjusted by no more than one allowance added to

⁶ For specific treatment of unsold allowances in California's program, see the [Guidance on Treatment of Unsold Allowances](#) on the CARB [Auction Information](#) webpage.

⁷ In this document, Québec Sales by Mutual Agreement is referred to as 'Reserve Sales' for simplicity.

or removed from the total allowances assigned until the number of allowances assigned to successful bidders equals the number of allowances of the specific vintage or type awarded.

Advance Auction Allowances Offered for Sale

The Advance Auction budget represents 10 percent of the allowances from each of the jurisdiction's allowance budgets that are created for the year three years subsequent to the current calendar year. Since the combined annual allowance budget in 2026 is 303,080,000 the Advance Auction combined budget for auctions conducted in 2023 is 30,308,000 2026 vintage allowances. These future vintage allowances will be equally divided for sale across the four Advance Auctions conducted in 2023.

Quarterly Auction Information

An Auction Notice will be published at least 60 days prior to each auction. The Auction Notice provides information about the number of GHG allowances to be offered and the auction schedule for the applicable auction.

Additional background information, detailed instructions, and examples will be available in two supporting documents, which will include information applicable to the 2023 auctions:

- 1) The **Detailed Auction Requirements and Instructions** document will provide background information on the California Cap-and-Trade Program and Québec Cap-and-Trade System, as well as detailed requirements and instructions for participating in a joint auction.
- 2) The **Auction Examples** document will provide information and examples of how United States (U.S.) and Canadian currencies are managed, how to determine the amount of a bid guarantee, bid evaluation procedures for purchase limits, holding limits, and bid guarantees, and examples of auction bid fulfillment.

The Auction Notices and supporting documentation will be available on the [CARB Auction Information](#) webpage and [Québec Auction Information](#) webpage.

Table 4 provides information specific to the scheduled quarterly auctions.

Table 4. California and Québec 2023 Quarterly Joint Auction Critical Dates

Auction Dates	Auction Consignment Due Date for Consigning Entities	Auction Notice Posting Date Auction Application Period Opens	Auction Application Due Date Auction Application Period Closes
February 15, 2023	December 2, 2022	December 16, 2022	January 17, 2023
May 17, 2023	March 3, 2023	March 17, 2023	April 17, 2023
August 16, 2023	June 2, 2023	June 16, 2023	July 17, 2023
November 15, 2023	September 1, 2023	September 15, 2023	October 16, 2023

Contact Information

For further information about the Annual Auction Reserve Price, the Auction Reserve Price Determination for a joint auction, or the Current Auction and Advance Auction allowance budgets for auctions conducted in 2023, please contact one of the following⁸:

California Cap-and-Trade Program
Erica Coleman, California Air Resources Board
erica.coleman@arb.ca.gov
(916) 277-0474

Québec Cap-and-Trade System
Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs
EncheresGES-qc@environnement.gouv.qc.ca
(418) 521-3868 ext 7400
1 (800) 561-1616 ext 7400

⁸ When contacting jurisdiction staff, please take precautions when submitting personal or confidential information. If it is necessary to transmit personal or confidential information, please contact listed jurisdiction staff for information on how to provide this information securely.