Proof of Green.
Foundation

Proof-of-Green (PoG) is a pioneering initiative to achieve cross-chain, cross-stakeholder consensus on a core of minimum standards for measuring and disclosing carbon emissions in blockchains and cryptocurrency. Introducing the concept of a "**Minimum Viable Benchmark**," PoG will be associated with an expandable,chain-agnostic specification document as a foundation for interoperability and comparability of environmental impact metrics for diverse stakeholders in the blockchain ecosystem, enabling a shared language to discuss, measure, compare and mitigate environmental impacts. The sectoral impact in terms of decarbonisation could be significant.

Transparency
A standardized method of disclosure will make it easier for users, investors, and regulators to understand the environmental impact of different blockchain networks and applications. This could lead to greater accountability and pressure to reduce emissions.

Compatibility
With a standardized measurement method, it will be possible to compare the emissions of different blockchains and applications directly. This could incentivize blockchains to become more efficient in order to be more attractive to environmentally conscious users and investors.

Innovation
The need to reduce emissions could drive innovation in the blockchain space, leading to the development of more energy-efficient consensus mechanisms and other technologies.Chain specific tooling can also grow from this standard, such as blockchain mining with emission ceilings, or regulatory alerts and dashboards when a chain or node exceeds agreed targets, or places strain upon the domestic electricity grid.

Regulation
Clear and consistent disclosure of emissions could facilitate the development of regulations aimed at reducing the environmental impact of blockchain technology.

Public Perception
The energy consumption and environmental impact of blockchain technology, has been a controversial issue. A consensus on emission disclosure could help improve the public perception of blockchain technology by demonstrating a commitment to transparency and environmental responsibility.

Investment
Investors are increasingly considering environmental factors in their investment decisions. A standard for measuring and disclosing blockchain emissions could influence investment flows in the blockchain space, potentially favoring more energy-efficient networks, applications, and user behaviors.

The Need for Proof-of-Green

- The rapidly growing blockchain industry faces increasing scrutiny regarding its environmental footprint.

- Diverse and, at times, conflicting metrics and methodologies are leading to confusion and skepticism across the stakeholder landscape, undermining trust in blockchain technologies.

- *A fragmented landscape makes regulatory convergence challenging.*

Proof-of-Green Unites Stakeholders

- **Blockchains**
  Elevate trust, transparency, and cross-chain alignment with green initiatives.

- **Researchers**
  A harmonized base for research, preventing repetitive work and fostering interdisciplinary insights.

- **Regulators**
  A consistent, reliable metric and shared language to streamline regulatory frameworks.

- **Technologists**
  An interoperable foundation for developing green tech tools.

- **Existing Blockchain Emission Metrics Providers**
  An opportunity to emphasize the depth and rigor of their own metrics while benefiting from a shared foundational language with which to engage policymakers and civil society.

How Proof-of-Green Works

3 *Principles*

Shared Starting Point

PoG serves as the common ground and language upon which diverse metrics can be based, allowing for both standardization and individualized depth and variation. While ensuring minimum methodological standards it will be compatible with the full range of credible implementations, allowing, for example, for both consequential and attributional approaches, rather than being prescriptive beyond essentials.

Interoperability

Facilitating ease of communication and comparison across various blockchains, tools, and metrics.

Adaptability

As an open-source, iterative document, PoG will evolve with the industry, maintaining its relevance.

Organizational Structure & Governance

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A non-profit company limited by guarantee in the UK, protecting directors from liability, ensuring financial disclosures and transparency, and designed in a diverse and democratic way, such that no single stakeholder or entity can exercise undue influence, while being governed by a diverse board representing the broad spectrum of the ecosystem and its stakeholders. Central to Proof-of-Green is its commitment to democratic, multi-stakeholder leadership. The Foundation ensures:

Equal representation of stakeholders

Transparency of all proceedings, decisions, and methodologies

Continuous evolution to address the ever-changing landscape of blockchain and its environmental impacts.

3 Tiers of Participation

Founding Directors
Responsible for PoG's overall vision, they'll have an equal say in the final form of the specification and represent PoG externally. At the founding stage, commercial entities will be charged for membership, to make the Foundation self-sustaining, while non-commercial entities will be expected to contribute in kind.

Partners
Institutions with a memorandum of understanding, collaborating closely without decision-making power in the Foundation.

Collaborators
The community network advancing and promoting PoG without formal institutional ties.

Timeline and Milestones

September 2023

Legal establishment of the Proof of Green Foundation

December 2023

Public launch at COP28 in Dubai
- Formal global launch of the Proof-of-Green Foundation
- Daily events, podcasts and interviews showcasing the founding members, partners, and supporters.
- Asyncronous opportunities to refine and finalize the PoG concept.

Q1 2024 and Beyond

Post-COP28
- Ongoing collaboration to identify, formulate, validate, and establish PoG as the industry's benchmark. Engagement with regulators, technologists, and other stakeholders to ensure widespread adoption and implementation.

Joining the Proof-of-Green Foundation provides stakeholders with a strategic opportunity to lead in defining and promoting sustainable practices in the blockchain industry. As a founding member or partner, you can play a pivotal role in shaping the future of blockchain sustainability. By collaborating on this shared vision, we can jointly usher in an era of increased trust, innovation, and responsible growth in the blockchain space.

Benefits of Proof-of-Green

The emergence of PoG doesn't aim to replace or compete with existing metrics, but to act as a complementary, foundational layer. Proof-of-Green is conceived as the shared starting point that supports:

Harmonization

It aids in reducing fragmentation in the ecosystem by providing a common language, ensuring that different metrics, while keeping their depth and rigor, can speak to one another.

Differentiation

Established metrics can leverage PoG to showcase their unique value propositions, whether it's the depth of their methodology, their rigor, or their holistic approach.

Interplay

Different implementations can identify areas of overlap, areas where they can complement one another, and areas where they might offer alternative viewpoints. This interconnected ecosystem can only bolster credibility and spur innovative solutions.

As a shared, universal starting point Proof-of-Green provides numerous advantages, including:

Elevated Trust

Cross-chain standardization minimizes misinformation and enhances public trust in blockchains' sustainability efforts.

Regulatory Coherence

A common language simplifies the job for regulators who are striving to frame cohesive policies. It also provides a shared policy space in which blockchain stakeholders can help shape the regulatory consensus.

Research & Development

By building a shared foundation, researchers and developers can more effectively build on each other's work, rather than "reinventing the wheel."

Stakeholder Value Propositions

- **Blockchains**
  - Use **PoG** as a foundation to credibly differentiate and showcase advanced green initiatives.
  - Enhance your public image by clearly demonstrating a verifiable and trusted commitment to sustainability.
  - Attract environmentally-conscious developers and users.
  - Reduce the market costs of "guilt by association" with a general message of blockchain environmental destruction, differentiating in a widely agreed, transparent and respected way.

- **Researchers**
  - Access to a core standard and shared specification facilitates comparative studies and interdisciplinary research.
  - Play a defining role in refining and evolving the metric.
  - Collaborate with a broad spectrum of industry stakeholders, enriching academic-industry partnerships.

- **Regulators**
  - Simplifies oversight by having a shared language and consistent metric across blockchain platforms and applications.
  - Enables the crafting of informed, effective, and nuanced policies.
  - Streamlines communication between the blockchain industry and regulatory bodies.

- **Technologists & Developers**
  - A universal starting point fosters the development of compatible tools and solutions.
  - Greater opportunity for collaborative projects and funding.
  - Reduction in redundancy: build atop a shared foundation rather than from scratch.

- **Existing Blockchain Emission Metrics Providers**
  - **PoG** acts as a catalyst, highlighting the depth, rigor, and unique strengths of your own advanced metrics.
  - Opportunity for metrics to become industry gold standards by transparently correlating and differentiating from alternatives.
  - Foster synergies with other metrics, enhancing the collective learning.

How to Get Involved

Join as a Founding Leader

Join the board of the Proof of Green Foundation, drive the mission from the front, shaping its core philosophies and methodologies and be in the room in Proof of Green's dialogues with regulators, civil society, funders and guiding institutions.

By joining as a founding member, your organization will hold a pivotal role in shaping Proof-of-Green's trajectory. You'll have the opportunity to be at the forefront of a global initiative, driving the sustainability agenda within the blockchain ecosystem. Your commitment and insights will set the tone for others to follow.

Partner Through a Memorandum of Understanding

Collaborate closely with the Foundation, sharing expertise, tools, and insights in a strategic and significant way without taking on the responsibility of board membership.

Your collaboration will bring invaluable expertise to the table. As a partner, you will have the platform to demonstrate and implement your unique solutions within the PoG framework. Your contribution will aid in refining and expanding the metric to cater to various blockchain environments and their unique challenges.

Become a Collaborator

Contribute to PoG's development by offering feedback, participating in working groups, or other forms of engagement.

Every piece of feedback, every new perspective, enhances the effectiveness of Proof-of-Green. Collaborators are our eyes and ears in the vast blockchain ecosystem. By providing feedback, sharing insights, and engaging with the initiative, you help ensure the metric remains dynamic, relevant, and effective.

Thought Leadership at COP28 in Dubai

Founding members and partners will be central to the Proof-of-Green showcase at COP28 in Dubai. Engage with a global audience, through interviews, podcasts, round tables, blogs and social media, emphasizing your institution's role in this groundbreaking initiative.

The Proof-of-Green Methodology

Proof-of-Green's success lies in its collaborative ethos. Here's a glance at how it works:

Working Groups

- Diverse groups formed from representatives of all stakeholders. Responsible for refining, updating, and ensuring the PoG metric's relevancy and effectiveness.

Open Forums

- Regularly scheduled sessions for the broader community to engage, provide feedback, and gain insights into PoG's developments.

Feedback Mechanism

- An online portal for continuous feedback submission, ensuring the metric remains agile and responsive.

Next Steps

Declaration of Interest

- Express your interest in joining as a founding member, partner, or collaborator.

Co-design Sessions

- Attend our upcoming engagement sessions to learn more, ask questions, and share preliminary thoughts.

Road to COP28

- Participate in pre-event webinars, working group sessions, and promotional activities leading up to the grand launch at COP28.
- As a foundational supporter of PoG, be part of our daily event showcases, highlighting your contributions and vision for a sustainable blockchain future.

Frequently Asked Questions

What sets PoG apart from other metrics?

While other metrics focus on in-depth analysis for specific blockchains or use cases, PoG provides an interoperable starting point, offering a common language that complements, correlates and supplements these detailed metrics.

How will PoG ensure unbiased representation?

The PoG Foundation is set up to ensure diverse representation, with stakeholders from all segments of the ecosystem. No single entity has undue influence, ensuring collective decision-making.
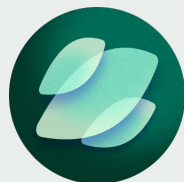
Is there a cost involved?

Depending on whether your organisation is for profit or not for profit, a minimum membership fee will be in cash or in kind, to ensure the independence and longevity of the initiative.

Conclusion

The environmental implications of blockchain technology are a concern for all. With Proof-of-Green, we have a unique opportunity to address this collectively, harnessing our collective expertise. By providing a shared starting point, PoG allows for enriching synergies, ensuring that as blockchain technology advances, it does so sustainably.

Your participation as a founding member or partner will not only elevate your organization's commitment to a green future but will also shape the narrative around blockchain's environmental implications. Together, we can ensure that blockchains aren't just the future of finance and technology, but also the vanguard of sustainability.

Join us in making history. Be part of the Proof-of-Green revolution.

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