

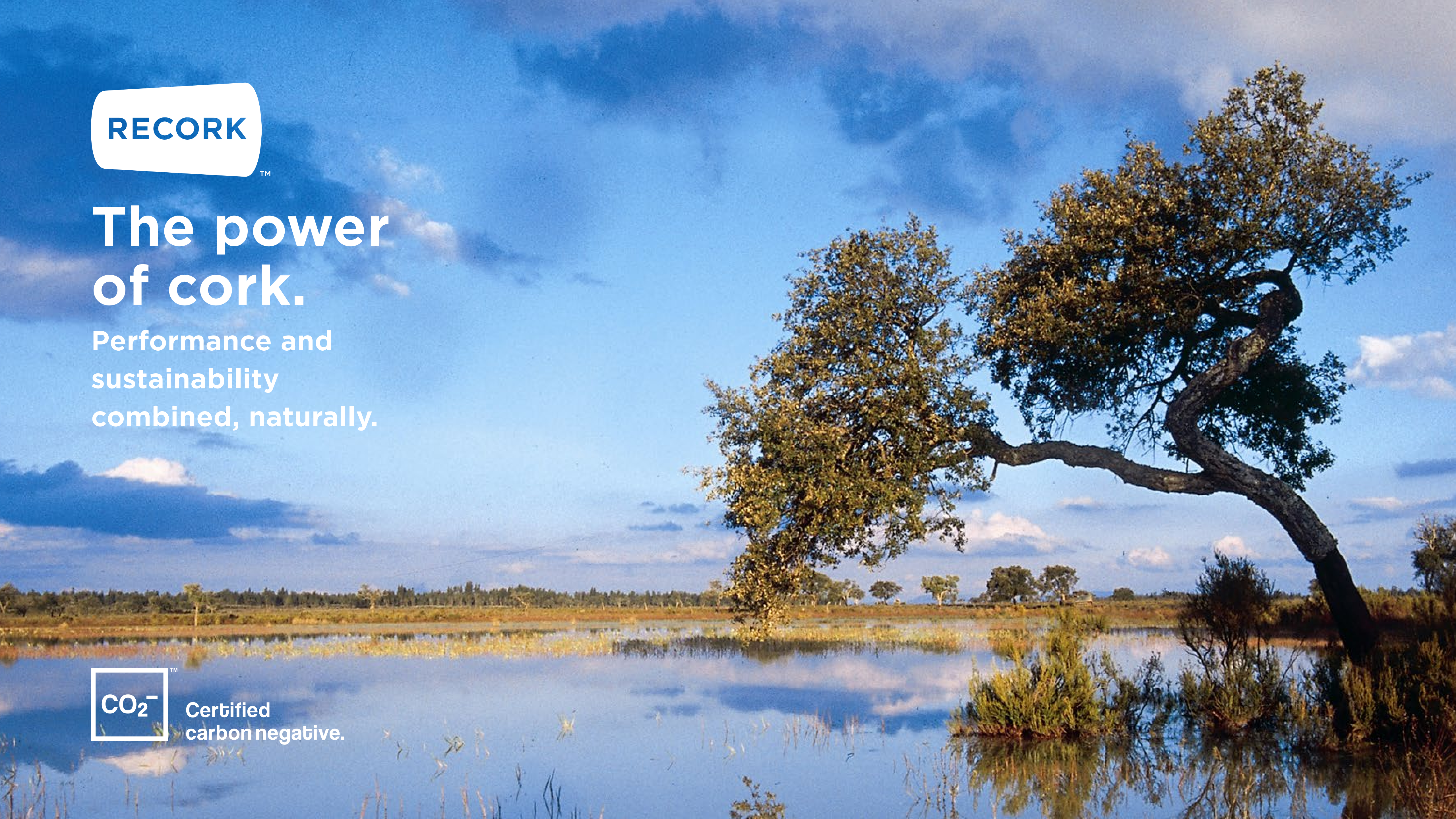


# The power of cork.

Performance and sustainability combined, naturally.



Certified carbon negative.





**A natural material with  
incredible potential.**



## First, a little cork history.

Cork was commonly used by the greatest of ancient civilizations. Thousands of years ago Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans used cork for the soles of their sandals, for fishing and sailing, for insulating their homes, and of course as a stopper for wine and oil containers.

In the late 1600s cork gained its ultimate popularity as a wine stopper due to its ability to allow wine to age and evolve slowly over time.

In modern times cork's versatility has lead to it being used in a range of applications, from cork flooring to insulation in spaceships.

And now with ReCORK™, the possibilities are endless.

# So what is cork?

Simply put, it's the bark of the cork oak tree (*Quercus suber*).

Cork oaks grow in 2.7 million hectares of ecologically sensitive, high-biodiversity forests.

In Portugal, the heartland of cork, these forests are known as the Montado.

Cork oaks are remarkable carbon sinks. Every year, **cork oak forests absorb as much CO<sub>2</sub> as driving 1.5 million cars all year would produce.**





Cork oak forests provide crucial habitat for **hundreds of species of animals, birds and plants.**

These include some of the world's most endangered creatures, like the Iberian Lynx and the Iberian Imperial Eagle.

# Cork is harvested without ever killing a tree.

Each cork tree can be sustainably harvested every 9-12 years.





## Each tree can be harvested 15-18 times.

When a tree is harvested it starts absorbing up to **five times more CO<sub>2</sub>** as it photosynthesizes to grow back the bark that's been removed.

The 2000 represents the last year of harvest to inform future harvesting dates within the 9-12 year window.

Cork bark is unique in that it has a thick outer layer that can be removed **without killing the tree.**

The bark is carefully cut and peeled away from the trunk of the tree **by hand**, in a skilled trade passed down over generations.

The harvesting of a cork oak is one of the finest examples of **traditional, sustainable land use.**

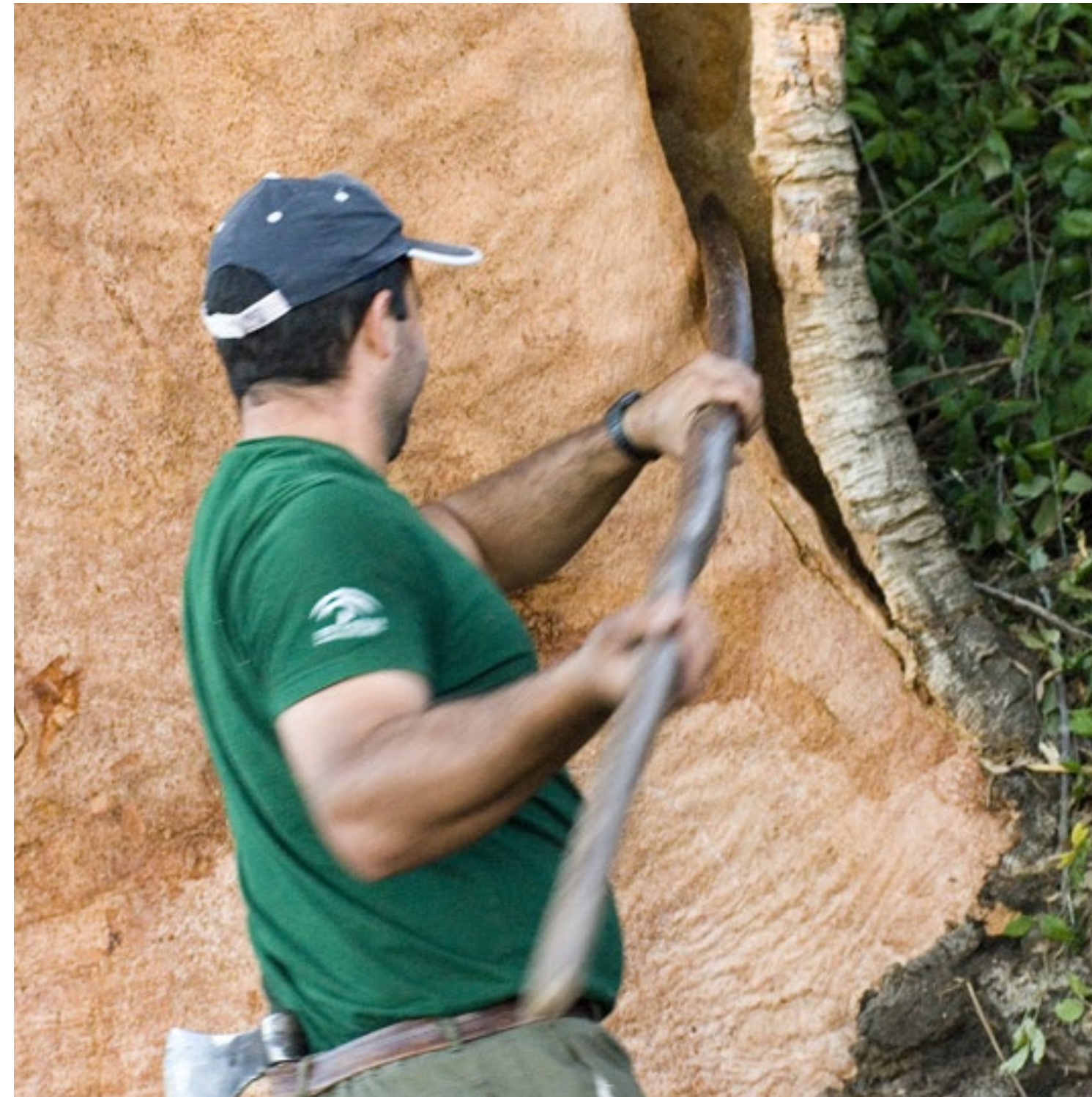


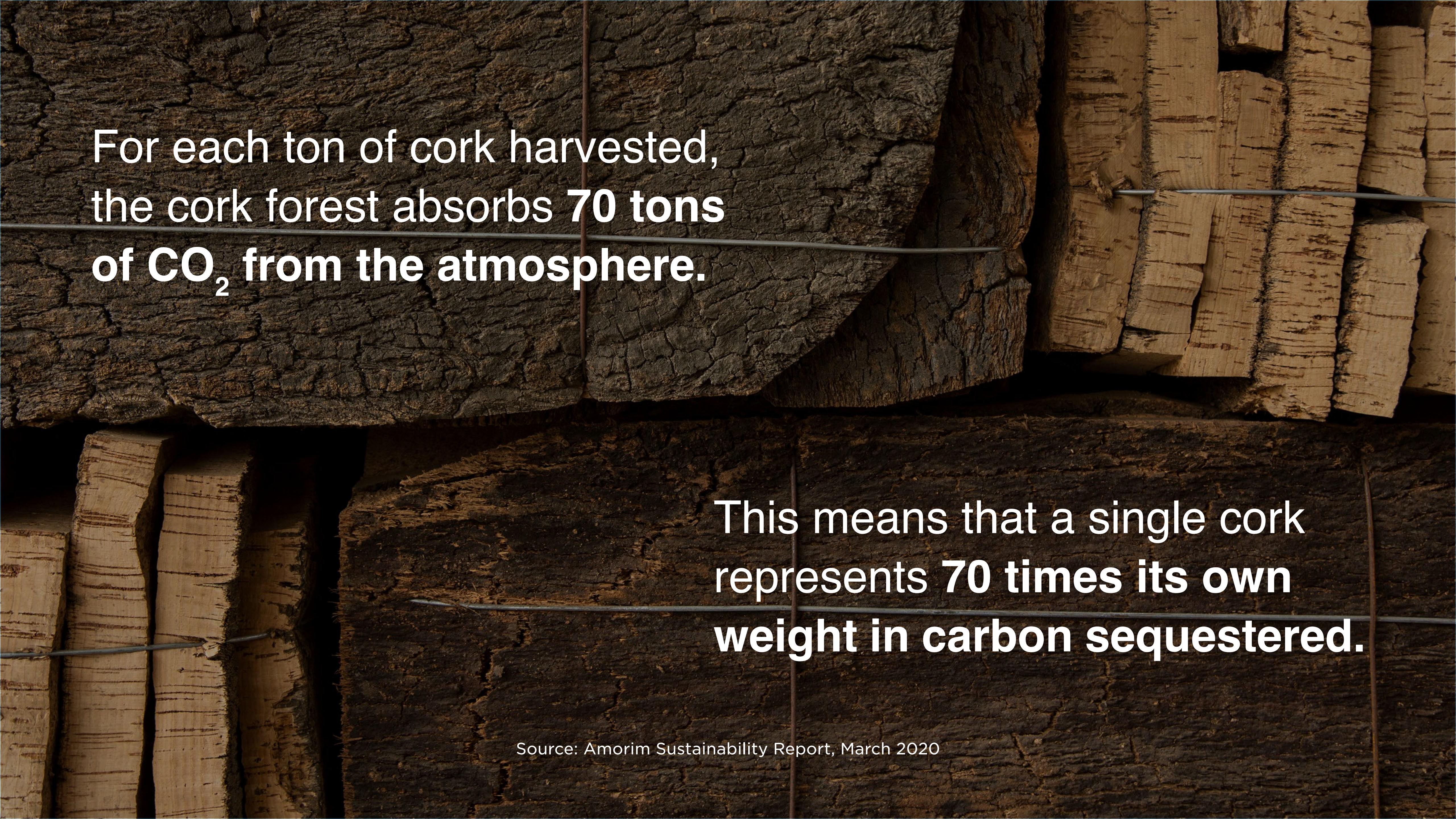


# Remarkable carbon sinks.

The best carbon sinks are big trees with dense wood, like the cork oak which grows to be up to 20 meters (65 feet) tall.

Harvesting the bark actually **extends the life of the tree from 75 years to over 200 years.**





For each ton of cork harvested,  
the cork forest absorbs **70 tons**  
of **CO<sub>2</sub>** from the atmosphere.

This means that a single cork  
represents **70 times its own**  
**weight in carbon sequestered.**

Source: Amorim Sustainability Report, March 2020

# Nothing is wasted.

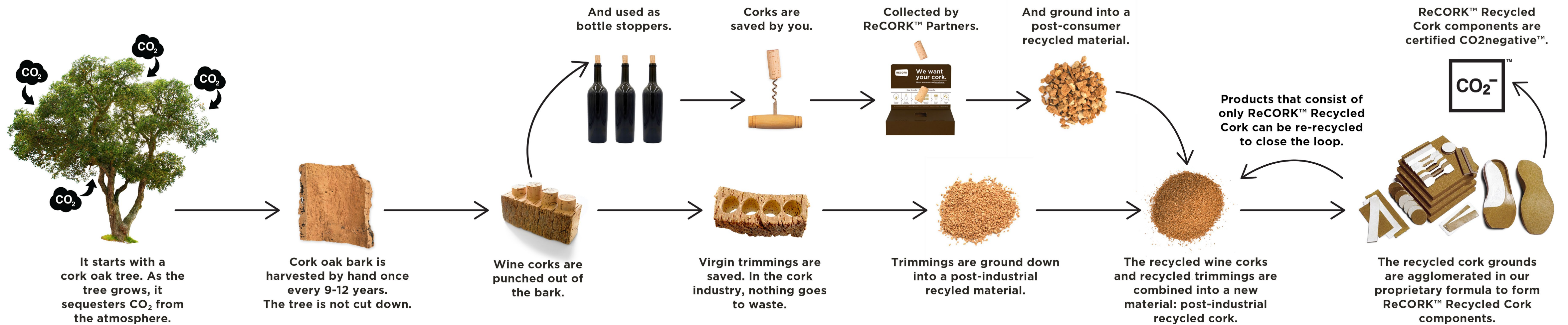
Wine corks are punched directly from the bark.

The excess trimmings are saved, ground down and re-agglomerated in a new raw material. This raw material is known as **post-industrial recycled cork**.

ReCORK™ collects used wine corks and recycles them into **post-consumer recycled cork**.



# The ReCORK™ Recycled Cork process.





## Who is ReCORK™.

ReCORK™ creates high-performance, carbon-negative composite materials and components using natural recycled cork.

ReCORK™ was launched as a natural wine cork recycling program in 2008 by Canadian footwear company SOLE™. It has since become the largest program of its kind in North America, with an R&D team dedicated to innovation around the cork recycling process.

ReCORK's proprietary material, ReCORK™ Recycled Cork, redefines what's possible using cork, offering a natural, sustainable, versatile alternative to foams and plastics derived from fossil fuels. ReCORK's mission is to make petroleum-based foams and plastics obsolete.

# ReCORK™ Recycled Cork has three key environmental benefits.

1

## **Carbon sequestration**

Purchasing post-industrial recycled cork creates direct economic benefit for the cork industry. This means supporting cork oak forests as they remove huge amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from our atmosphere.

2

## **Reducing post-consumer waste**

Recycling cork stoppers to prolong the useful life of a natural, sustainable, versatile material that would otherwise end up in landfills.

3

## **Offering a high-performance alternative to petroleum-based synthetics**

Eliminates the need for carbon-intensive foams and plastics manufactured from petrochemicals.

# Cork is naturally...

- Lightweight
- Buoyant
- Thermal insulating
- Shock absorbing
- Moisture resistant
- Compressible
- Carbon negative





## ReCORK™ Recycled Cork is...

- A **carbon-negative** alternative to harmful petroleum-based components.
- More **flexible, durable, water resistant and lightweight** than any other cork on the market.
- **Comparable to synthetic foams** in all measures of performance.
- Can be made with a **plant-based binder**
- Prop 65 compliant, food grade and **REACH certified**
- **Free from** harmful Restricted Substance List materials.

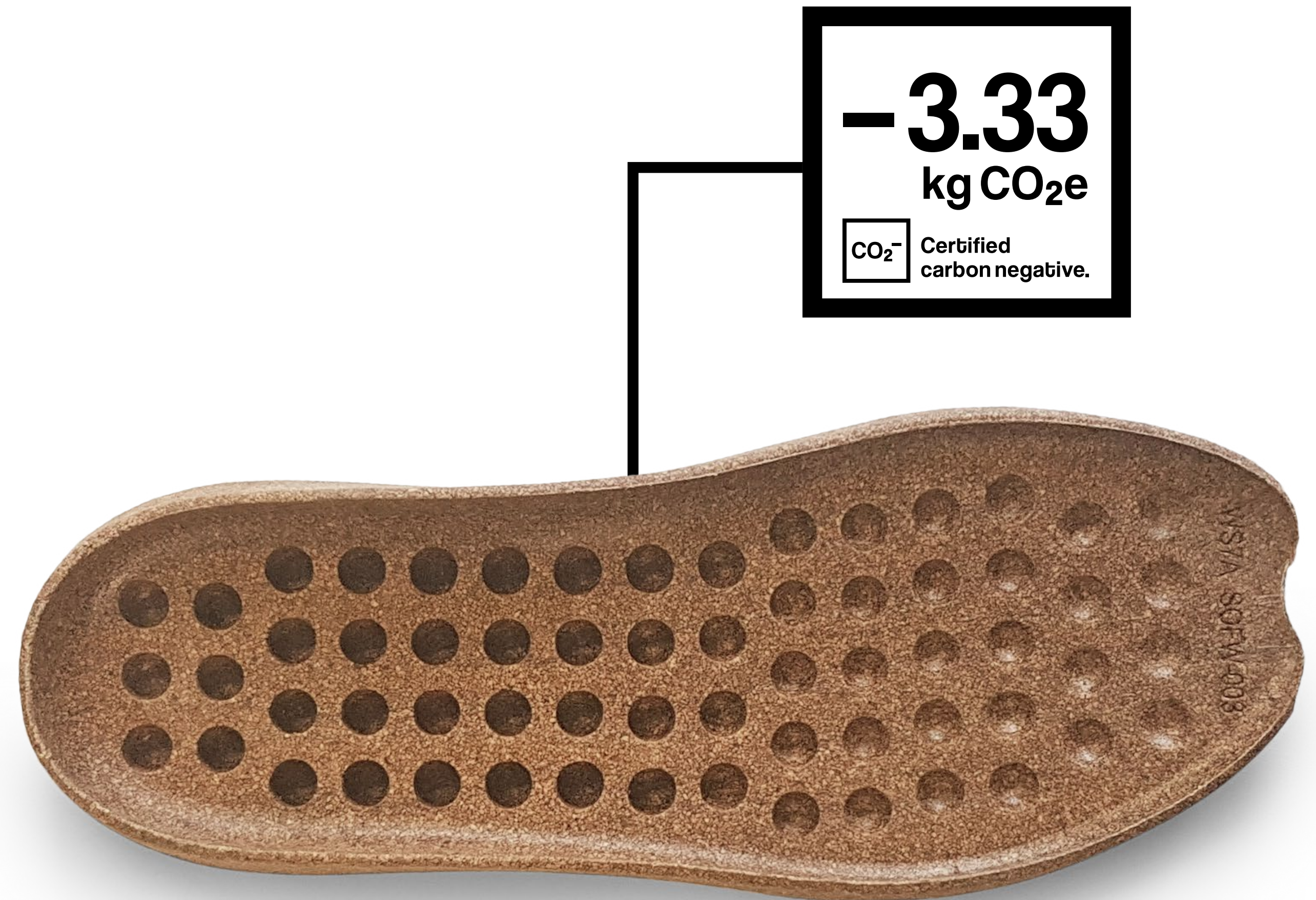


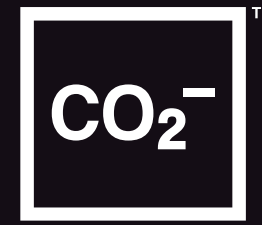


# The future of cork.

At ReCORK™, we have taken the natural strengths of cork and created a material that can satisfy high-performance demands.

The results are materials with a vast range of applications that are not just less damaging to the planet than their petroleum equivalents; **they're carbon negative.**





Certified  
carbon negative.

**Our vision is to  
replace harmful  
petroleum-based  
foams and plastic  
with cork.**

**Thanks to you,  
we're one step closer.**

[recork.com](https://recork.com) | [co2neg.com](https://co2neg.com)

