This makes carbon isotopes great tracers for biological carbon, which will be enriched in $^{12}\text{C}$ (i.e., depleted in $^{13}\text{C}$, and thus have a low $\delta^{13}\text{C}$). The lighter isotope of carbon, $^{12}\text{C}$, is greatly preferred.

In photosynthesis, carbon dioxide + water \[ \rightarrow \text{organic matter} + \text{oxygen} \]

6$\text{CO}_2$ + 6$\text{H}_2$O $\rightarrow$ C$_6$H$_{12}$O$_6$ + 6O$_2$

Carbon dioxide + water $\rightarrow$ Organic matter + Oxygen

In photosynthesis,

Fractioation of carbon isotopes in photosynthesis

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