

Carbon Offsetting

International Air Transport Association:

<https://www.iata.org/whatwedo/environment/Pages/carbon-offset.aspx>

The IATA has a program for airlines to set up carbon offsetting for passengers.

11 Airlines That Offer Carbon Offset Programs

1. The Emirates. According to the Emirates website, the Emirates airline does not believe in passing on the responsibility of minimizing emissions to the customers but rather they do it themselves. ...
2. Qantas. ...
3. Virgin Australia. ...
4. Delta Airlines. ...
5. British Airways. ...
6. Jetstar. ...
7. Air New Zealand. ...
8. United Airlines ...
9. Air Canada ...
10. Jet Blue ...
11. Gulf Air ...

The IATA website says: "Carbon offsetting is simply a way for individuals or organizations, in this case airline passengers and corporate customers, to "neutralize" their proportion of an aircraft's carbon emissions on a particular journey by investing in carbon reduction projects.

"Over 30 IATA member airlines have introduced an offset program either integrated into their web-sales engines or to a third party offset provider.

"IATA's program brings both standardization to the process and makes it possible for airlines of any size to easily introduce a credible and independently validated offset program.

"Our program offers best practice in the structure and implementation of carbon offsetting. Offsets are carefully selected and accounted for, and the issue of carbon calculation has been resolved by committing to the ICAO methodology supplemented with actual airline carbon data.

"The program has been independently audited and approved by the world's highest standard for carbon offsetting - the Quality Assurance Standard. QAS-approved offsets are checked against a 40 point checklist which includes emissions calculations, carbon reduction project selection and information provision. IATA is one of only four organizations worldwide to meet this standard."

They DO address additionality in their guidelines: "Additionality addresses the question: "would the activity have occurred, holding all else constant, were the activity not implemented as an offset project?" Or, in simpler terms "would the project have happened anyway"? If the answer is yes the project is not additional. Additionality is determined by examining a proposal against one or more tests, depending on which quality standard is being employed."

terrapass

terrapass allows individuals to purchase carbon offsets, ECs, etc. for many activities, not just flying. www.terrapass.com

From the TerraPass website:

"Personal Carbon Offsets

"\$4.99 per 1,000 lbs

"Your carbon footprint is reduced by the equivalent amount of carbon offset purchased from emission reduction projects like dairy farms and wind turbines. This one-time personal carbon offset purchase will help make a positive impact on the environment.

"The average American citizen produces 36,000 lbs. of CO2 emissions each year, or about 3,000 lbs. each month.

To purchase 1 year of carbon offsets, enter "36" lbs. in "Quantity"

To purchase 6 months of carbon offsets, enter "18" lbs. in "Quantity"

To purchase 1 month of carbon offsets, enter "3" in lbs. "Quantity"

terrapass DOES address additionality: "terrapass supports specific carbon offset standards, which assure transparency and quality in the creation, quantification, and verification of offset projects. These standards require that offsets be real, additional (i.e., they wouldn't have happened under a "business as usual" scenario), permanent, quantifiable, never double-counted or double-sold, and independently verified.

Currently, terrapass uses the Gold Standard, Verified Carbon Standard, the Climate Action Reserve, and the American Carbon Registry as our only carbon offset standards."

Airlines Doing it Themselves

WIRED Magazine said, online on November 20, 2018 that, "By 2021, airlines that fly internationally will have to offset any extra emissions under a UN agreement (called the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation, agreed on in 2018 in Montreal, Canada)." <https://www.wired.com/story/airline-emissions-carbon-offsets-travel/>

Is it worth setting up a carbon offset program for two years?

Opinions on Whether Carbon Offsetting Works

Scientific American – YES, but may be limited: "The study also examines the question of whether offsets "resemble the purchase of indulgences," easing businesses' perceived need to reduce emissions internally. It concludes that they do not, at least so far, because their use is relatively limited."

" 'If the program approaches the 8 percent maximum, then it would be appropriate to reassess whether offset credits have too great an impact on other emissions reductions.' "

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/carbon-offsets-really-do-help-lower-emissions/>

MIT Technology Review – NO: “Here’s the problem. Some of those new companies and projects would have been undertaken anyway, without the credits. In that case, the credits won’t actually lead to less emission.

“For a carbon-credit system to work, it seems that you’ve got to have a competent regulatory body that can give credits only to companies and projects that need the credits to succeed. But this requires a detailed understanding of industries and economies all over the world, as well as new technologies. According to the Journal article, it’s taken years for a UN regulatory body to figure out that it was issuing credits to projects that didn’t need them.”

<https://www.technologyreview.com/s/410009/why-carbon-credits-dont-work/>

Forest Ecology Network – YES, BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH: “The simple answer is that we do not have enough time. In order to mitigate the impacts of global warming many experts believe that our greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. This reduction has no chance of being reached through a voluntary cap and trade system utilizing the free market system. With the projected population increase of at least three billion more people in the next fifty years, it is totally unrealistic to believe that carbon reductions on a large scale can be attained unless mandatory reductions are implemented and a full scale global effort to contain population is initiated.”

http://www.forestecologynetwork.org/climate_change/credits_%26_offsets.html