



## Carbon Offsets - Mitigating Climate Chaos

### What is a Carbon Offset?

A carbon offset is a real and verified reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Carbon offsets are measured in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent, and are bought and sold through brokers, online retailers, and trading platforms.

Buying carbon offsets can help individuals and businesses take accountability for the environmental costs of their polluting activities. Some examples include the use of fuel for vehicles and air travel, emissions from manufacturing goods, and heating an office building.

*Are carbon offsets the answer to climate-altering flights?* David Suzuki Foundation. Available at: <https://david Suzuki.org/what-you-can-do/carbon-offsets/> accessed on October 7, 2023

### The Bigger Picture:

While it is preferable to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases we emit, some emissions are difficult to limit or control. To “offset” the emissions released from polluting activities, individuals can invest in carbon offset projects that have removed carbon from the atmosphere (carbon sequestration), or have reduced/avoided emissions (e.g. solar power projects).

When buying carbon offsets, it is important to invest in projects that would otherwise not have existed without the financing associated with the sale of the carbon offset. For example, if emissions reductions are required by government policy in a particular sector, a project created for the purpose of reducing these emissions would not count as a verified carbon offset.

In Canada, the standard for carbon offset projects, including EBCs, is ISO-14064-2, with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) CleanProjects Registry as the primary platform for registration.

### Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy and Carbonzero Partnership:

In Canada, individuals and companies may choose to purchase offsets as a way to mitigate their unavoidable emissions, but are not mandated to do so.

Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy (EBC) is a charitable land trust that has been protecting forests from development since 1997. In collaboration with Carbonzero, EBC offers carbon

**Protecting the UNESCO Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Since 1997**



offsets through the Niagara Escarpment Forest Carbon Project (NEFCP). Carbonzero ensures that the emission reductions generated by NEFCP are additional, meaning they would not have occurred without the carbon offset purchases.

Our carbon offsets are independently certified to standards recognized by CSA. The NEFCP project is listed on the CSA CleanProjects Registry. It is independently verified by Carbon Consult Group under ISO-14064-2.

### **Why is NEFCP Important?**

The properties managed by EBC encompass diverse ecosystems, from productive forest lands to open grasslands. Our carbon offsets target areas where trees were at risk of being harvested if not for EBC's conservation efforts, as well as zones of new tree growth. Revenue generated from offset sales is directly applied to maintaining and expanding forest cover, particularly in regions threatened by activities such as logging and mineral extraction.

By promoting tree growth, the project not only sequesters carbon but also enhances biodiversity. Between 2002 and 2022, the NEFCP achieved reductions equivalent to over 70,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, protected rare species, and facilitated sustainable recreational activities.

### **Offset Your Emissions:**

- Donate between \$250 to \$499 to receive 1 Tonne of certified Carbon Offsets from Carbonzero, covering 5,000kms of mid-size car driving for a year, with a retail value of \$25
- Donate \$500 or more to receive 2 Tonnes, covering 10,000kms, with a retail value of \$50

Aim for a carbon-neutral life. Limit your emissions and use EBC Carbon Offsets to further reduce your carbon footprint. Together, we can build a trail to a healthier planet. For inquiries, please reach out to [info@escarpment.ca](mailto:info@escarpment.ca) or call 1(888) 815-9575, (416) 791-2108 x201.