

Carbon offset programs

Many of us cannot make the big changes immediately (examples: adding solar panels, replacing our vehicles). Even if our consciousness is raised we must wait until our finances or lifestyle logistics permit these big changes.

Carbon offsets allow us to participate in making big change. These organizations pool our money to supply seed funding to growing new business segments which are actively sequestering (recapturing) greenhouse gases, or reducing our dependence on greenhouse gas emitting technologies. In this way we can actively participate in the offset of the emissions we personally are creating.

| | Your money supports | Their organization is | Third-party verification of projects | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| CarbonFund.org | Renewable energy, Energy efficiency, Reforestation. | Non-profit | Yes. Viewable online. | Their motto is "Reduce what you can, offset what you can't." "We support a variety of alternative energy projects in the US and globally." |
| DriveNeutral.com | works with the Chicago Climate Exchange | Non-profit | Presumably, yes. | The Chicago Climate Exchange is an organization of companies who have committed to reducing their emissions by certain amounts. If a company reduces their emissions more than the targetted reduction, they are entitled to sell those credits, and that's what you're buying through DriveNeutral. You're basically participating in an incentive program for companies to reduce their emissions. -JP |
| NativeEnergy.com | Farm methane and wind energy projects (their "Cool Driver" program) | Privately held | unknown. | "NativeEnergy helps you help build Native American, farmer-owned, and charitable purpose renewable energy projects that create social, economic, and environmental benefits." |
| TerraPass.com | Wind energy, biomass, industrial efficiency | For-profit | Yes. | "TerraPass funds clean energy projects like wind farms, methane capture and more." |