

Carbon Mitigation Project Development

0.5 bonus points available

Rationale

This credit recognizes institutions that are actively involved in carbon mitigation efforts beyond their campus boundaries by developing offset projects. By developing projects directly, the project implementer can provide learning opportunities for students and minimize offset costs.

Criteria

Institution has actively participated in carbon mitigation efforts beyond its campus boundary during the previous three years by developing one of the following types of offset projects:

- A. *Peer reviewed offset* project. Institution has developed a peer reviewed carbon offset project that follows an existing carbon reduction protocol.
- B. *Innovative offset* project. Institution has developed an innovative carbon offset project that follows a new or modified project protocol.

Scoring

An institution earns 0.5 bonus points for having developed a carbon mitigation project during the previous three years that meets credit criteria. Partial points are not available.

Reporting Fields

Required

- ☐ During the previous three years, the institution has: (Select all that apply.)
 - ☐ Developed a peer reviewed carbon offsets project that follows an existing carbon reduction protocol
 - ☐ Developed an innovative carbon offsets project that follows a new or modified project protocol
- ☐ A brief description of the institution's carbon mitigation projects
- ☐ Documentation of the institution's carbon mitigation project (e.g., contract, management plan, project development document, or verification report) (upload or website URL)

Optional

- ☐ Additional documentation to support the submission (upload)
- ☐ Data source(s) and notes about the submission
- ☐ Contact information for a responsible party (an employee who can respond to questions regarding the data once it is submitted and available to the public)

Standards and Terms

Innovative offset

Consistent with The Offset Network:

Innovative Offset Projects are those which pursue new strategies outside of currently approved offset methodologies. In general, Innovative Offset Projects may take one of three forms:

- A. Innovative Offset Projects may draw on widely-accepted existing methodologies for generating offsets, offering approaches which reduce the requirements of currently accepted offset protocols such that they are approachable by a greater audience and feasible on a smaller scale.
- B. Alternatively, Innovative Offset Projects may incorporate methodologies used for other purposes but which have not yet been demonstrated specifically in the area of carbon offsets.
- C. Finally, Innovative Offset Projects may put forth truly unique approaches for generating carbon offsets.

Innovative methodological approaches for carbon offsets should be grounded in theory, should reference peer-reviewed literature, and should ideally be supported by anecdotal pilot initiatives.

Peer reviewed offset

Consistent with The Offset Network:

Peer Reviewed carbon offsets are the same as traditional market available carbon offsets with one key difference. Instead of receiving verification by an International Standards Organization (ISO) accredited verifier, Peer Reviewed offset credits are verified by a peer institutional verifier and therefore, at present, may only be used towards an academic institution's carbon neutrality commitment. These credits are non-marketable and may only offset scope 3 emissions, not to exceed 30% of an institutions total emissions.