

Key Considerations for Companies When Purchasing Carbon Offsets - Northmore Gordon

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Efficiency Assessments Energy Procurement Navigate energy markets with confidence Virtual Environmental Manager Leverage our teams wide experience Certificates Close Certificates Open Certificates Certificates Our Environmental Attribute Certificate services help businesses accelerate technology adoption, improve project ROI, and manage claims of renewable energy, energy efficiency and carbon offset 1 carbon offset = 1 tonne of CO₂-e avoided or removed from the atmosphere. Avoided emissions covers activities that alter behaviour that would have otherwise caused emissions such as energy efficiency improvements or avoided deforestation. Removal covers activities that permanently remove CO₂ from the atmosphere such as new forestry plantations, soil carbon improvement or carbon capture and storage. certificates Live Certificate Prices The value of certificates change day-to-day, check todays prices Solar VEECs (VEU PBA) VEU PBA for Large-scale Solar Measurement & Verification (VEU & ESS) M&V; for Large C&I; Efficiency Projects (VEU PBA & ESS PIAM&V;) BESS Calculator Estimate the Peak Reduction Certificate revenue available to your NSW battery project in minutes ERF & Carbon Credit Registration ACCUs for Emission Reduction Projects Boiler Upgrades (VEU & ESS) NSW & VIC Boiler Rebates REC Registration (I-RECs & LGCs) Register renewable assets for I-RECs and LGCs Trade RECs & Carbon with us Trade Local & International Environmental Attribute Certificates moREnewable100 (RECs & Offsets) Reach Global Sustainability Goals with Certificates and Offsets Deemed Certificates (VEU & ESS) NSW & VIC Rebates Global Certificates Environmental Attribute Certificates Australian Programs Australian EAC Programs Case Studies Sectors Articles Team More Close More Open More Northmore Gordon Learn more about Northmore Gordon with the latest news and insights, were to find us, and the extensive terminology used in emissions reductions About Us Who we are & what we do in energy efficiency & decarbonization. Locations Find our offices near you. Contact Us Get in touch with our team. Careers Join our team making a sustainability difference Articles Learn about energy efficiency & carbon reduction. Latest News Stay informed on industry developments. Government Updates Track policy changes impacting your energy use. Accreditations See our certifications for trusted service. Glossary Define key terms in emissions reduction. Key Considerations for Companies When Purchasing Carbon Offsets Sid Bansal March 25, 2024 Articles Share this article As businesses worldwide increasingly recognize the importance of sustainability, the demand for carbon offsets has surged. Carbon offsets allow companies to compensate for their greenhouse gas emissions by investing in projects that either reduce or remove an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, with the growing market for carbon offsets, it becomes crucial for companies to navigate the landscape carefully. In this article, we will explore the essential criteria that businesses should consider when buying carbon offsets to ensure they make informed and responsible choices. Carbon Offset Criteria: Methodology Companies must scrutinize the methods employed in carbon offset projects. Whether it's reforestation/Afforestation, Carbon removal, or methane capture, understanding the methodology is vital in determining the actual impact of the offset. Aligning your organization's goal and scopes with high quality carbon offsets is critical. For instance, projects utilizing carbon capture and storage (CCS Carbon capture and storage (CCS) or carbon capture and sequestration is the process of capturing carbon dioxide (CO₂) before it enters the atmosphere, transporting it, and storing it for centuries or millennia.) technologies directly capture emissions from industrial processes and power plants, preventing them from entering the atmosphere. On the other hand, nature-based solutions such as afforestation and reforestation leverage the natural ability of ecosystems to sequester carbon. Understanding these methods helps companies gauge the actual impact of the offset and its contribution to emission reduction. Technology vs Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) Evaluate the balance between technological solutions and nature-based solutions. Tech-based projects may include carbon capture technologies (avoided emissions), while nature-based projects involve activities like afforestation and reforestation (sequestration / removal). A strategic mix can provide a more comprehensive approach to carbon mitigation. Striking a balance between these two approaches ensures a comprehensive and sustainable carbon offset strategy. Vintage The vintage of carbon offsets refers to the year in which the emission reductions occurred. Companies should consider the vintage to ensure that the offsets align with their current emission levels and goals. This consideration prevents the purchase of outdated offsets that may not contribute effectively to a company's current sustainability targets. Other target frameworks allow for some flexibility with vintage and act as a good

yardstick for procurement. Countries/Location/Market Boundary Geographical considerations play a significant role in the effectiveness of carbon offset projects. Companies should assess whether the projects are in regions where emissions reductions are critical and whether they align with global climate goals. To avoid greenwashing, considering market boundaries ensures that the offsets adhere to international standards and contribute meaningfully to the global effort to combat climate change.

Price Range While cost is a factor, it should not be the sole consideration. Assess the price range of carbon offsets to ensure it aligns with your budget, but also consider the impact and quality of the projects associated with the offsets. the price of carbon offsets varies based on project type, location, and vintage. Cheaper offsets may not always guarantee the same level of emission reduction or removal. Companies should evaluate the cost-effectiveness of offsets by considering the quality and impact of the underlying projects. Some frameworks require third-party audit for verification of the projects.

Registry Preference Choosing carbon offsets registered with recognized carbon registries is crucial for transparency and credibility. Well-established registries, such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS Verified Carbon Standard is the program operated by Verra and is the most widely used voluntary greenhouse gas program internationally. Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) are created under the program. More) or the Gold Standard Accreditation scheme for voluntary carbon offset and renewable energy projects. The tradable instruments are Verified Emission Reductions (VERs). The Gold Standard label can also be applied to CERs and I-RECs where the project meets the Gold Standard requirements around sustainable development and project additionality. , ensure that emission reductions are accurately measured, reported, and verified. Companies should prioritize offsets that adhere to these standards to build trust in the offset's environmental integrity.

CORCs Carbon dioxide removal certificates where CO₂ is physically captured from the atmosphere and stored for a minimum of 50 years. It is a voluntary market certificate created under the Puro.earth standard. (Carbon Removal Credits) by Puro Earth registry is another wonderful example of high-quality credits.

Quantity Accurately assessing the quantity of carbon offsets required involves a detailed understanding of a company's current emission levels (Scope 1 ,2 and 3 measurement) and reduction goals. This may require collaboration with experts in emissions accounting and carbon offsetting to calculate the precise number of offsets needed to achieve carbon neutrality.

Diversity of Projects Building a diverse portfolio of carbon offset projects minimizes risks associated with a single project type. Including Afforestation/reforestation, Human induced regeneration (HIR) and methane capture projects, among others, ensures resilience against potential fluctuations in the efficacy or viability of any one project. This diversification enhances the overall impact of a company's carbon offset strategy.

Alignment with Standards (CCP/Oxford/CORSIA) Ensure that the chosen carbon offset projects align with reputable standards such as the Carbon Clean Solutions (CCP), Oxford Standard, or CORSIA Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) is the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)'s market-based greenhouse gas offset mechanism. Corsia has specific eligibility criteria for offsets. (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation). Compliance with these standards enhances the credibility and environmental integrity of the offset.

Purchasing carbon offsets is a strategic step toward mitigating the environmental impact of business operations. By delving into the technical intricacies of each criterion, companies can make informed and strategic decisions when purchasing carbon offsets. Technical expertise and a comprehensive understanding of these considerations will empower businesses to select offsets that not only align with their sustainability goals but also contribute meaningfully to the global fight against climate change.

Northmore Gordon has experience establishing a carbon offset criteria suitable for your business, Procurement of high-quality carbon credits and third-party verification. Carbon Offsets , Carbon Strategy , Net Zero , RECs You may also like: Beyond annual matching: The evolution of time-stamped RECs Discover what worked in 2025 and where to focus in 2026. Beyond Net Zero: The Practical Sustainability Moves That Will Matter Most in 2026 Latest Updates ASRS Group 3: are you in scope and don't know it? September 18, 2026 Correct as at 13 September 2026. If your company is a large proprietary company, you Read More » Welcome to our August & September 2026 Compliance Update. September 1, 2026 This edition confirms Northmore Gordon's accreditation for three new PDRS battery activities, tracks the VEUVictorian Read More » Australian Certificate Markets – August 2026 Update September 1, 2026 Price Summary Certificate Open Close Range Effective cap

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