

Do Carbon Offsets Help to Mitigate Climate Change?

WHAT ARE CARBON OFFSETS?

Carbon offsets are efforts by individuals and businesses to counterbalance their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by reducing or removing GHGs elsewhere. Types of carbon offsets are reforestation and direct air capture of carbon dioxide.

ARE CARBON OFFSETS EFFECTIVE?

Not always. When done responsibly, carbon offsets may marginally help reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. But these projects:

- do not address the initial problem of carbon emissions;
- are often used by companies to “greenwash” or promote the appearance of environmental friendliness;
- often have a delayed impact;
- are vulnerable to cuts and new corporate strategies; and
- often shift responsibility to low-emitting countries and populations.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

1. Support companies that reduce their carbon emissions.
2. Before contributing, evaluate carbon offset projects using the AVID+ framework (**A**dditional, **V**erifiable, **I**mmEDIATE, and **D**urable).
3. Get involved in local carbon offset programs.
4. Reduce your personal carbon footprint.

TO LEARN MORE



SCAN ME

bit.ly/climate-change-short-guides