



FAQ'S ABOUT OFFSETTING YOUR EMISSIONS FOR YOUR CARBON NEUTRAL STATUS

What is Emissions Footprint?

The total set of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual event, organisation, or product expressed as Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e). A more accurate term would be Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions Footprint.

How are GHG emissions broken down for measurement?

The [GHG Protocol](#), established by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), has broken emissions into 3 scopes as defined below:

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions from activities owned or controlled by your organisation. Examples of Scope 1 emissions include emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, and vehicles; and emissions from chemical production in owned or controlled process equipment.
- **Scope 2:** Energy indirect emissions are those released into the atmosphere that are associated with your consumption of purchased electricity, heat, steam, and cooling. These indirect emissions are a consequence of your organisation's energy use but occur at sources you do not own or control.
- **Scope 3:** Other indirect emissions are a consequence of your actions that occur at sources you do not own or control and are not classed as Scope 2 emissions. Examples of Scope 3 emissions are business travel by means not owned or controlled by your organisation, waste disposal, materials or fuels your organisation purchases and emissions as a result of your annual events programme. Deciding if emissions from a vehicle, office, or factory that you use are Scope 1 or Scope 3 may depend on how you define your operational boundaries. Scope 3 emissions can be from activities that are upstream or downstream of your organisation. More information on Scope 3 and other aspects of reporting can be found in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard.

How are GHG emissions measured?



Data is gathered on the relevant areas e.g. for electricity usage the electricity consumption and fuel mix used to create the electricity are gathered. This data, combined with the emissions factor is used to calculate the quantity of GHG emissions are released into the atmosphere. For scope 1; fuel combustion on site e.g. gas for heating, fuel used in fleet vehicles and air conditioning leaks. Emissions factors are calculated annually by DEFRA.

What is an Offset?

An offset is a way to compensate for your GHG emissions by funding an equivalent carbon dioxide (or equivalent gas) saving elsewhere. Our everyday actions, at home and at work, consume energy and produce emissions, such as driving, flying and heating buildings. Offsetting is used to balance out these emissions by helping to pay for emission savings in other parts of the world.

We offer a range of [offset projects](#) to international standards, including the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Gold Standard Voluntary Emission Reductions (VER) and Certified Emission Reductions (CER). All of which meet the [Quality Assurance Standard for Carbon Offsetting](#) and [BSI's PAS 2060](#) specification on carbon neutrality.

Many of the offsetting projects also provide wider benefits in addition to emissions reduction, such as biodiversity, education, jobs, food security and health & well-being in developing countries.

What is a gold standard offset?

Gold Standard was established in 2003 by WWF and other international NGOs to ensure carbon offsetting projects meet the highest levels of environmental integrity. Gold standard is the industry leading certification used for offsetting projects.

Why Offset?

Offsetting funds solutions to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Frequently offsetting reduces emissions much faster than you can as an individual/single organisation. Offsetting projects help to combat global climate change as well as caring for local communities. In many instances providing much needed employment, health



improvement, biodiversity, reforestation and broad social benefits to impoverished communities.

Is offsetting the solution to climate change?

Offsetting provides a mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the most cost-effective and economically efficient manner. Offsetting plays a vital role in combating climate change, however, if done in isolation it is not the solution.

At CAFA, we are strongly aligned with the science. Climate change will only be addressed if associations lead the way for individuals, businesses, and government organisations to all take responsible steps to reduce emissions as much as possible and then offset the remaining unavoidable emissions. Offsetting is recommended as an additional measure and is by no means the sole solution to climate change without a reduction in real emissions.

What does Carbon Neutral mean?

Carbon neutral is the term used to define a company who has measured their scopes 1 & 2 emissions (as a minimum) and offset these emissions using gold standard verified offsetting schemes, thus removing the same amount of GHG emissions that they emit into the atmosphere.

Is Carbon Neutral the end goal?

Carbon Neutrality for a company or organisation is only the start. It is an excellent place to start, and demonstrates motivation and desire to address GHG emissions. However, offsetting emissions does not solve the bigger problem of global emissions overnight.

Are offsets in line with PAS 2060?

Yes, any Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Gold Standard VERs or Kyoto compliant offset credits purchased from us will meet the offsetting part of the PAS 2060 guidance on carbon neutrality, therefore assuring your carbon neutral claims.

How are CAFA's offsets verified?



CAFA use [Carbon Footprint Ltd](#) as agents for offsetting. As mentioned on their website, Carbon Footprint Ltd offer a full range of high-quality carbon offsets for customers to choose from. A strict protocol has been adopted for the management of their offsets and supply chain. Careful due diligence is carried out on all project collaborators and suppliers before any products are offered.

Projects are verified against the international standards such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Gold Standard and Certified Emission Reductions.

Ongoing management of the carbon offset project portfolio is fully traceable and part of Carbon Footprint Ltd.'s ISO 9001 certification. Detailed records are kept on all purchases made, along with a database of all offline sales (most of which are made to businesses). A monitoring system is also in place, which records when tree planting has occurred or offsets have been retired, allowing offsets to be cross referenced to individual customer purchases.

What does Net Zero mean?

Net zero is similar in principle to carbon neutrality. However, with net zero, a company is committed to achieving net zero emissions across all its operations and supply chains (scopes 1, 2 & 3).

To become a net-zero business, all realistically possible emissions have been removed from business operations and only the remaining residue carbon is being offset by a verified scheme.

Net Zero should be the minimum goal for all organisations at the earliest in line with the 1.5° science aligned targets set out by the Paris Agreement.