

Workshop

Domestic Carbon Initiatives in Europe

Experience and Opportunities



Introduction

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Carbon Offsetting

The idea of offsetting emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases is a way forward in climate protection. The idea is as innovative as it is controversial and the challenges of climate change call for a wide range of measures. This article will provide background information on voluntary offsetting.

- ▼ What is voluntary offsetting?
- ▼ How does it work?
- ▼ Certified and verified emission reductions
- ▼ Criticism of voluntary offsetting

What is voluntary offsetting?

Voluntary offsetting is a way of compensating for greenhouse gas emissions from certain emission-intensive activities that cannot be avoided. The party that causes the greenhouse gas emissions by its activities funds activities that lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere. This could be done, for example, by co-funding the erection of a wind power station in a developing country. Alternatively, the polluter could create carbon sinks, e.g. by planting woodland. The growing trees will absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) and bind it – usually for several decades.

Some highlights of the German market for voluntary offsetting

- **The German market is stable and growing**
- **Sound standards dominate the market**
- **There is still a big potential in Germany**
- **Offsetting doesn't replace activities to protect the climate**
- **Nearly 50 % of the buyers in Germany want domestic projects**

Voluntary Offsetting by government in Germany

- **2007 Cabinet decision**
Carbon offset for official trips made by Federal Government members
- **2010 Budget Committee**
End of compensation from 2010 on
- **2015 Cabinet Decision**
Restart carbon offset for official trips made by Federal Government members
- **2014 Decision of the Federal Environment Agency's management**
Compensation of all events of the Federal Environment Agency

Limited domestic offsetting

- The Kyoto protocol reduces the range for national projects close to zero, because of the double claiming
Currently only rewetting of peatlands is eligible
- Today we will identify opportunities and discuss how to solve the problem
- To reach the 2°C target all possible efforts – voluntary and mandatory – are needed



Advantages of domestic projects

- **Achieve achieve emission reductions in sectors and by entities not addressed by the EU ETS**
- **Foster innovation**
- **Deliver co-benefits for the region**
- **Bring forward voluntary methods as blueprint for compliance markets**



Thank you for your attention!

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