

The Federal Government is offsetting the climate impact of its employees' business trips for the current legislature (2014-2017). These emissions are compensated for elsewhere by acquiring and surrendering emission reduction credits from high-quality climate protection projects. Credits are obtained from projects that are certified according to UN rules under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).



The German Emissions Trading Authority (DEHSt) at the German Environment Agency supports the Federal Government by calculating emissions, selecting climate protection projects, and acquiring and surrendering CDM certificates (also known as Certified Emission Reductions, CERs). The compensation of the greenhouse gas emissions from the Federal Government's business trips is an important climate policy signal and is an example to be followed by private stakeholders.

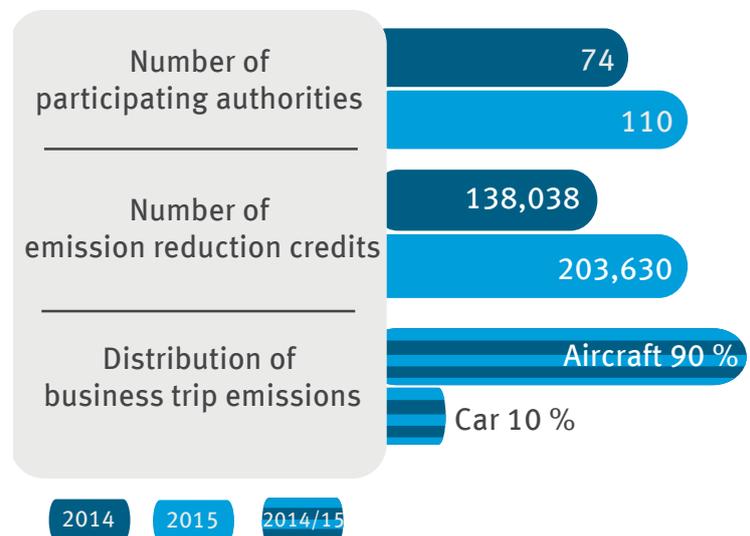
Avoid – Reduce – Offset Travel

The Federal Government follows the climate policy principle: **avoid – reduce – offset**. Business trips are avoided by the increased use of video and telephone conferences. In general, the number of business trips is reduced when it is decided whether the trip is necessary at all. Furthermore, rail travel is preferred. The Government acquires so-called „green tickets“ for which there is no compensation, however. The remaining, unavoidable emissions caused by car journeys or air travel must then be offset.

Emissions from business trips by cars are determined from the fuel consumption and fuel-specific emission factors.

A key element is the inclusion of additional climate-relevant, non-CO₂ impacts (such as water vapour, nitrogen oxide and soot particle emissions) in aviation. The climate-relevant total emissions caused by air travel can be determined from this data pool.

The first years of compensation in figures



Project Examples

Project type:

Household biogas from biomass

How a biogas plant works:

Instead of the widespread disposal of animal and other faecal matter in open manure pits, biogas plants treat excrement in closed tanks in the absence of air and provide the farms with the biogas, i.e. methane produced for cooking. In addition, a high-quality fertiliser remains after fermentation that can replace chemical fertilisers.



Image source: UPM

Project type:

Power generation from crop residues

How a biomass power station works:

Small-scale farmers can supply such a power plant with their crop residues and sell the formerly useless waste to the plant operator. Large storage facilities ensure sufficient supply of crop residues even outside the harvest period to generate electricity all year round.

The crop residues are burnt and heat a steam boiler to generate steam. This steam drives a turbine and a generator to generate electricity which is fed into the regional electricity grid.



Image source: atmosfair

High-quality and Plausible Climate Protection Projects are More Than Just Emission Reduction!

Only projects from the CDM are used. This ensures a certification of emission reductions under the umbrella of the applicable UN rules. Project assessments in the CDM in particular include the confirmation of additionality: whether emission reductions would not have been achieved without the CDM project considered.

The primary objective of compensation is off-setting by using emission savings elsewhere. Therefore, all projects meet the requirements of a proven emission reduction. In doing so, we are focusing on projects that go beyond pure CO₂ reduction and have additional, sustainable added value for the countries participating in the project (called co-benefits).

Co-benefit examples include:

- ▶ Increasing jobs in the area
- ▶ Local training and environmental education
- ▶ Support for local utilities
- ▶ Increasing a decentralised rural electrification rate
- ▶ Preservation of biodiversity
- ▶ Protection of natural resources, e.g. reducing deforestation rate
- ▶ Health protection, e.g. by eliminating smoke-intensive burning

GENERAL PROCESS FOR BUSINESS TRAVEL COMPENSATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

National and international providers may offer us certificates from one or more CDM projects within stipulated deadlines when an intended certificate acquisition is publicly announced. We then evaluate the offers based on the existing criteria and make a selection. The selected certificates from the projects are then acquired and irrevocably deleted in the German Kyoto registry.



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status: May 2017