

A Carbon Offsets Fact Sheet

Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill

June, 2019

An Invitation to you

Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill, a collaboration between Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue and Seattle First Baptist Church, has for the past four years facilitated SFBC's purchase of carbon credits. Those credits offset the greenhouse gas emissions from the natural gas used to heat the building complex used by the two congregations and other tenants.

This year, we're offering individuals the opportunity to offset all or part of their personal carbon emissions by buying carbon credits. Those independently verified credits are generated by actions elsewhere that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

What is a carbon credit?

A carbon credit is generated from a specific project activity that destroys, sequesters or avoids greenhouse gas emissions. One credit is equivalent to 1 metric ton of avoided emissions.

How much do credits cost?

Carbon credits vary widely in cost. Local projects may cost more, as may projects that have multiple benefits, such as providing jobs and protecting wildlife. We are offering credits for \$6 each. If you chose to offset 10 tons of emissions, your cost would be \$60. These independently verified credits will purchased through Evergreen Carbon (<https://evergreencarbon.com>).

How many credits should I buy?

You can buy whatever amount feels appropriate. You might consider offsetting all of your greenhouse gas emissions, or only part of them.

How do I know how much greenhouse gas I'm responsible for?

Estimates of U.S. per-capita carbon emissions vary widely, based on what is included in the count. A widely used estimate is 20 tons per person. One person's emissions will differ from another's, based on factors such as whether you drive a car (and what its gas mileage is), how often you fly, the size of your home and its heat source, and whether you're a heavy meat eater and product purchaser.

You can use the national average to estimate your carbon emissions. Or you can use an online calculator. Here's one of the simplest and best calculators we've found: <https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/calculator>.

If I've decided to offset my carbon emissions, what do I do?

We will accept carbon credit purchases through July 15.

Please email Linda Zaugg thezaugg@icloud.com and tell us how many tons of emissions you wish to offset. The cost will be \$6 times the number of tons.

Make out a check for the total amount, payable to Lightstone Consulting, LLC. Mail before July 15 to Linda Zaugg, 307 18th East, Apt. 1, Seattle, WA 98112. Checks will be cashed only after a bulk purchase of carbon credits is finalized following the July 15 deadline.

What project will my carbon credits support?

Interfaith Climate Action - First Hill has chosen a number of projects over the past several years on behalf of Seattle First Baptist and its tenants: a solar-power project in China, a wind farm in South Dakota, forest-protection projects in Zambia and Peru, and this year a Guatemala rubber-tree plantation on degraded forestland.

Depending on availability of credits at the time of purchase, your funds will purchase credits from the Guatemala project, a reforestation initiative in Zimbabwe, or a similar project. After purchase we will provide you with information about the project your credits are supporting.

Will carbon offsets solve the climate crisis?

No. In order to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals set by the Paris Climate Agreement, we need to reduce worldwide emissions by 45 percent by 2030 and by 100 percent by 2050. So we need to reduce, and then eliminate, carbon emissions from our travel, home heating, diet, and other aspects of our lifestyles.

But until we get to zero emissions, carbon credits offer a way for us to take responsibility for the damage caused by our consumption -- and to minimize its impact on our global neighbors and future generations.

What if I have more questions?

Come to one of these two informational workshops:

Sunday, June 16, at 12:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Friday, June 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Peacemakers Room