

# Counting Carbon Emissions

## Who should I trust?

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Care should be taken when choosing who to trust to offset your emissions. Unfortunately, at this stage, the industry is not regulated and, until this happens, we suggest that you use the following checklist to assist you in making your decision.

The first decision is whether to offset the emissions over time through tree plantings or whether to purchase abatement that has already been created and certified by a government scheme (tradeable abatement).

Assuming that tree planting (forest sinks) are the preferred option, first check if your expenditure to offset your emissions will be tax deductible (For your expenditure to be tax deductible, the organisation must be 'not for profit' and a registered Deductible Gift Recipient).

The following is a checklist of questions about the provider to ensure that the claimed CO<sub>2</sub> offset will occur:

1. In Australia there are two government abatement schemes – Greenhouse Friendly and NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme. Is the organisation an Approved Abatement Provider under either of these schemes? (If so then they will satisfy all criteria listed in (2) below.)
2. If not approved abatement providers:
  - Do they register all of the CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration that has been paid for by clients as acquitted, to ensure that it is not 'double sold'?
  - Do they register legally binding carbon rights and covenant deeds over all plantings to ensure they are protected for a period of at least 70 years?
  - Do they estimate the abatement that will occur using the AGO's NCAS Toolbox and FullCam Software, as is required by both government abatement schemes?
  - Are all plantings conducted and monitored according to the guidelines of one of the above-mentioned schemes?
  - Is the growth of the plantings in the carbon pool measured and independently verified periodically?



5. Do they have a web site showing maps, locations, photographs and summary reports describing the progress of the plantings?
6. Do they have clear product disclosure statements describing the plantings on their website?
7. Do they provide referenced information resources on their website to assist you in reducing you emissions?
8. Are they planting native species that are fire and drought tolerant and that have environmental benefits?
9. Do they have strategies to ensure that failed or under-performing plantings are replaced?

### What is the difference between CN and other carbon offset providers?

Carbon Neutral Ltd is in the process of becoming an Approved Abatement Provider and satisfies all of the other criteria listed in the checklist above. ■



- Does the organisation have a substantial history and expertise in tree planting and the capacity to conduct all of the above?
  - Do they have approved databases recording all plantings, carbon sequestered and CO<sub>2</sub> sold? Are they in the process of becoming Approved Abatement Providers?
3. Do they help you calculate your emissions using verifiable, transparent methods?
  4. Do they help you to make an ethical statement describing how you are offsetting you emissions?



Carbon Neutral devotees do their bit to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere.