

# myclimate – Carbon offset projects



**myclimate offsets greenhouse gas emissions exclusively with high quality carbon offset projects in developing and emerging countries, Europe, New Zealand or in Switzerland. To assure high transparency and emission reductions over the whole project life cycle, myclimate finances and implements together with partners its own carbon offset projects. Because of myclimate’s requirement to support only high quality projects independent, international studies acknowledge myclimate as one of the world’s leading provider of offsetting measures in the voluntary market.**

## High quality requests

### Permanency

By replacing fossil and climate affecting energy sources by environmentally friendly ones, all myclimate carbon offset projects reduce greenhouse gas directly at the source. myclimate exclusively supports projects that apply renewable energy technology, implement energy efficiency measures or reduce methane emissions.

### Sustainable development

Besides the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, all myclimate carbon offset projects are required to make a positive contribution to sustainable development in the respective regions. Some of the positive sustainability effects are, for instance, the reduction of air and water pollution, the improvement of the quality of life of the local population, the transfer of knowledge and technology, and the creation of jobs. The sustainability criteria of the Gold Standard are regarded as guidelines for all myclimate carbon offset projects.

### Additionality

The principle of additionality states that emission reductions have to be additional to every reduction which would happen without the Kyoto Protocol. In other words: A project would not have been implemented without the funds raised by the purchase of emission reductions through myclimate. Projects that would have been implemented anyway, or which would only have earned extra profits through myclimate contributions are not supported.

## Project standards

myclimate finances and supports CER and VER projects abroad. In Switzerland only VER projects exist.

### CER – Certified Emission Reductions

CER projects are official projects of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), which is regulated according to the Kyoto Protocol. These bigger projects are implemented in developing and emerging countries and are registered with the United Nations. CER projects generate Certified Emission Reductions (CERs). These emission reduction certificates can be traded within the European emission trading system and bought by companies or countries to help them achieve their reduction targets. The certificates are also suitable for voluntary offsetting.

### VER – Verified Emission Reductions

The acronym VER stands for «Verified Emission Reduction» and describes the kinds of certificates that may only be used for voluntary greenhouse gas offsetting. In contrast to the CDM projects, to which a single and internationally recognised regulation applies, such unified standards do not exist for VER projects. However, myclimate also develops and controls the voluntary projects according to the strict CDM guidelines. All myclimate VER projects fulfill the tight guidelines of the Gold Standard or are on their way to Gold Standard registration.

### Swiss carbon offset projects

All VER carbon offset projects in Switzerland are developed according to the myclimate guidelines which are valid in general. But after current law, Swiss carbon offset projects only make a contribution toward the achievement of the climate protection targets the Swiss government has set anyway. Also these projects are controlled by an approved, independent authority.



## Gold Standard

The Gold Standard criteria have been developed to supplement existing standards under the leadership of the WWF. The motivation for this was to make the contribution of carbon offset projects to the effective reduction of greenhouse gases more transparent and to emphasise the contribution to sustainable development in developing countries. Today, the Gold Standard is an independent organisation with headquarters in Basel. The standard portfolio of myclimate (myclimate Portfolio Gold Standard) only contains Gold Standard CERs and Gold Standard VERs.

### myclimate focuses on quality

- **For the project implementation, myclimate cooperates tightly with experienced partners in the particular countries. These partners make sure that the local projects are implemented professionally and that the achievements are documented regularly. Moreover, international acknowledged institutions validate, register and verify regularly the myclimate carbon offset projects.**
- **myclimate supports projects for the voluntary market as well as projects with which Kyoto protocol engagements can be fulfilled. For all carbon offset projects the same high conditions apply.**

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