

## 15<sup>th</sup> Economic and Environmental Forum

### Carbon neutral event - Information sheet

#### Why offset CO<sup>2</sup>?

Each time we heat our homes or conference halls, take a flight or drive the car, CO<sub>2</sub> is added into the atmosphere. CO<sub>2</sub> is a gas that is released when fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal are burnt. CO<sub>2</sub> is considered a 'greenhouse gas' - which are components in the atmosphere that contribute to the greenhouse effect, largely thought to be responsible for global warming.

Carbon offsets are the process of reducing a ton of carbon dioxide emissions in another location for the emissions one causes at home, office, commute, travel or other activities that use energy and cause emissions. The term "carbon neutral" means that the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with an organisational unit, product, service or process are zero, through a combination of direct (internal) emission reducing actions and indirect (external) offsetting actions.

#### What is a carbon neutral event?

An event is carbon neutral if:

- The event organiser has quantified the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with the event
- All significant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions associated with the event have been offset
- The event organiser has published the estimate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the offset portfolio, and relevant verification statements.

#### How much CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted because of the 15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum?

The final amount of CO<sub>2</sub> as a result of the 15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum can only be calculated once the event has finished.

However, in order to get an estimate, OCEEA provided The CarbonNeutral Company with the following data from last year:

- Number of delegates: 374 (with anonymous travel-route and hotel information)
- During the event, which lasts three days, we use: 54 PCs, 1 Server, 11 Printers, 4 Copiers, 2 Projectors, 1 TV and other electricity for lighting
- We use 160 871 pieces of paper (A4)  
⇒ ***This results in ca. 375 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>***



OSCE

Presidencia española 2007

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### **How is the emitted CO<sup>2</sup> being offset this year?**

Thanks to funding from the Spanish Chairmanship the 15<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum is being offset through The Carbon Neutral Company, which through investment into two projects in developing countries:

#### Energy Efficient Lighting, Jamaica

This project reduces demand for energy in the tourism sector in Jamaica. Tourism is the biggest employer on the island and its on-going viability is critical to the local economy. By driving the take-up of energy efficient light bulbs in hotels, the amount of fossil fuel burned to generate electricity for the national grid is reduced. The project will offset 40,000 tCO<sup>2</sup> between 2002 and 2013.

#### Indian Wind Power Generation

This project sees the construction of ten new wind turbines in India. By providing renewable energy, the project helps to reduce India's reliance on fossil fuels for electricity generation. The project aims to generate emission reductions of 84,000 tCO<sup>2</sup> between 2006 and 2012.

### **What else can I do?**

Reduce your home heating and electricity use. A more energy-efficient home will lower your utility bills and reduce the emissions that cause climate change. Choose energy-efficient appliances. Walk, bike, carpool or take transit to get to one of your regular destinations each week. Install lighting controls to turn lights on only when needed and to provide the required amount of light. Reduce your staff's environmental impacts from air travel by using video-conferences for meetings. Encourage your local government to move towards energy efficient communities. Inform yourself. Take action.