

Carbon Credits, Renewable Energy Credits, and Carbon Offsets

Carbon credits provide a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on an industrial scale by capping total annual emissions and letting the market assign a monetary value to any shortfall through trading. Carbon credits can be sold to customers interested in lowering their carbon footprint on a voluntary basis.

The Cincinnati Reds are purchasing carbon credits to offset estimated fossil fuel emissions.

Renewable Energy Certificates, Green Tags, Renewable Energy Credits or Tradable Renewable Certificates are environmental commodities that represent power generated from renewable energy resources. These certificates can be sold or traded to represent the use of renewable energy. The green energy is fed into the power grid to be used by those who purchased certificates.

The Tampa Bay Rays have purchased Green Tags to offset the carbon dioxide produced by fans, the energy consumed on opening day, and greenhouse gases produced by employees traveling to and from work throughout the year and the six additional game nights. This Green Tag purchase supports the development of renewable energy on power grids, solar power systems for schools and public buildings, wind power systems for farms, ranches and communities, and watershed restoration to improve water quality and native fish habitat.

The Philadelphia Phillies have purchased enough Renewable Energy Certificates to equal planting 100,000 trees.

The St. Louis Rams have purchased enough Renewable Energy Credits to equal energy use for ten home games per year at Edward Jones Dome and to power year round operation of Russell Training Center.

A carbon offset is a financial instrument that represents a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Carbon offsets can be purchased and one represents the reduction of one metric ton of carbon dioxide, or its equivalent in greenhouse gases. Individuals, companies, or governments can purchase carbon offsets to compensate for their own greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, electricity use, and other sources.

The goal of the Seattle Mariners is to have carbon-neutral games by purchasing carbon offsets and green power credits. This could prevent 230 tons of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere.

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