



Voluntary Carbon Offsets Market Outlook

Detailed update of the study for buyers, sellers, and investors in carbon offsets that features latest developments of the market.

The voluntary carbon market has recently been in the spotlight attracting attention from the media, US Congress, major multinational corporations and individuals. Critics have noted the lack of quality of certain projects from which offsets are sought and the concern offsetting is "an easy way out" from taking real action. Notwithstanding the controversies, the voluntary carbon market saw more companies going carbon neutral, more carbon free products offered, and more service providers created, especially in the US and the UK. Many new labels, standards, and greenhouse gas registries were launched in 2007. This resulted in an increased diversification of carbon offset prices as the relationship between the compliance and voluntary carbon market becomes more complex. This update includes our proprietary analysis of market fundamentals and lessons learned from consulting experiences with carbon offset buyers and sellers. It sheds light on what is driving this market, its key players, and the barriers standing in the way of its continued growth.

Hot Issues Addressed

How big is the voluntary carbon offset market and how is it likely to grow?

We update our estimate of the current and future size of the market and analyze the varied drivers that will affect demand up to 2012.

Which standards and registries are likely to be mostly used?

We evaluate the potential future development of main offset standards and registries.

How to choose between developing a project as CDM versus a voluntary offset project?

We review the factors to be analyzed by project developers when determining whether to generate CERs or VERs.

What lessons can be learned from organizations going carbon neutral?

We explore choices made in developing carbon neutrality strategies.

What role for the US?

We expect the US to remain the leader in voluntary offset trading.

How commoditized will the market be?

We evaluate the role of registries and the potential for a secondary market in VERs.

How to handle the criticisms leveled at the offset market?

We consider how the market should mitigate or confront common criticisms.

About ICF International

ICF International (NASDAQ: ICFI) partners with government and commercial clients to deliver consulting services and technology solutions in the energy, climate change, environment, transportation, social programs, health, defense, and emergency management markets. The firm combines passion for its work with industry expertise and innovative analytics to produce compelling results throughout the entire program life cycle, from analysis and design through implementation and improvement. Since 1969, ICF has been serving government at all levels, major corporations, and multilateral institutions. More than 3,000 employees serve these clients worldwide of which some 230 have extensive experience in the carbon and energy markets. ICF's has advised over 60 of the world's largest companies by market capitalization on aspects of their carbon strategy and providing climate change policy to dozens of governments around of the world.

For further information, contact

Craig Ebert, +1.818.325.3140, cebert@icfi.com

Kunal Sharma, +44 (0)20 7092 3000, ksharma@icfi.com

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More and more high-profile companies are voluntarily offsetting their greenhouse gas (carbon) emissions, upping the ante for corporate action on climate change.

This rising demand for voluntary offsets is supporting explosive but highly fragmented growth in the supply of carbon offsets.

Offset buyers and sellers face a complex, unregulated, and non-transparent market rife with risks and uncertainties.

In this updated study, ICF International offers an in-depth analysis of the opportunities, players, trends, and barriers characterizing the voluntary carbon offset market up to 2012.

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