

ISVEE 16

Carbon Emission Offsets

We sincerely hope you are planning on coming to ISVEE in person to enjoy all that ISVEE 16 has to offer. However, one of the unfortunate consequences of holding a major international conference is the amount of CO2 emissions generated bringing people from all over the world to one location. The vast majority of people attending ISVEE 16 in Halifax will have one or more airplane flights to get there.

There is currently nothing you can do to prevent those emissions from occurring, so your only option is to compensate for those emissions by purchasing carbon offset. There has been a lot of controversy over the value of carbon offsets and there is tremendous variation in their efficacy. At the very least, they should be purchased from an organization that is internationally certified. Gold Standard (<https://www.goldstandard.org/>) is one of the prominent certification bodies. At best, they should come from one of the leading providers. (See links below)

There are 3 ways to purchase offsets

1. Purchase your flights from an organization that buys offsets on your behalf (eg FlyGRN (<https://flygrn.com/>))
2. Purchase offsets directly from the airline that you fly with. Airline programs range from very good to a total con-job. Again, make sure their offset program is certified.
3. Both of the above routes are simple but the companies involved have an incentive to keep your emission estimates as low as possible and you have no control over this. The ultimate solution is to buy offsets directly from an independent organization. Start by getting a valid estimate of your emissions (link below) and then purchase the offsets from one of the highly rated providers. (links below).

Purchasing offsets directly allows you to direct your funds to projects which you feel are most beneficial. Many offset programs have additional benefits above and beyond that of offsetting carbon emissions. For example, investing in biogas generators for small scale African farms (generating methane for use in home cooking from animal manure) has the added benefits of reducing deforestation, greatly improving the indoor air quality in cook houses, and thereby improving women's health and producing a very high quality compost as a by-product.

Review of best On-line calculators:

<https://footprinthero.com/best-carbon-footprint-calculators>

Review of best offset programs:

<https://www.ecowatch.com/best-carbon-offset-programs-2650926204.html>

or

<https://www.investopedia.com/best-carbon-offset-programs-5114611>

If you don't want to wade through some detailed reviews, one source of calculation and offsets that appears to be highly rated by a number of groups is Native Eco. (Note the ISVEE LOC has no connection with this organization)

<https://native.eco/for-individuals/help-slow-climate-change/>

We would love to see you in Halifax and will be very happy if you use offsets to reduce the impact of your flights.

ISVEE 16
Local Organizing Committee