

# CARBON OFFSET FACTSHEET

## EASYJET'S IMPACT

All companies have the challenge of minimising their environmental footprint and their contribution to global warming and easyJet takes this responsibility seriously.

easyJet's primary environmental impact is via greenhouse gas emissions created through its flight operations, with the vast majority of emissions created through the use of jet fuel during flight.

The main greenhouse gas created is carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), though other gases such as nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), also contribute to global warming. As carbon is the key global warming influence, these additional gases are often referred to as a "carbon equivalent".

easyJet calculates its emissions by recording the amount of jet fuel used for each and every flight. The amount of fuel used is added up and then multiplied by 3.157 to obtain the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted (this number is a chemical property of aviation fuel – 1 kilogram of aviation fuel when burnt always creates 3.157 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> as it burns in air). For instance, if an airline uses 1 million tonnes of fuel per year for aircraft operation, it emits 3.157 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> that year. This is the same method employed by aviation regulatory standards ETS and CORSIA. On top of this, we add in an account of the effect of NO<sub>x</sub>, which is the other key greenhouse gas created when using kerosene as a fuel for flights, accounting for another 1-1.5% in addition to the base CO<sub>2</sub> calculation.

Whilst easyJet is constantly working to reduce its fuel consumption and emissions alongside investing in the development of new technology in the future such as hybrid electric aircraft, the technology simply does not exist currently to reduce its emissions down to zero which is why we are focussing much of our effort on carbon offsetting today.

## CARBON OFFSETTING

easyJet is offsetting the carbon emissions from the fuel used for all of its flights on behalf of all of its customers.

**WHAT IS CARBON OFFSETTING?** – Carbon offsetting provides revenues to projects that reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the atmosphere or take CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. This means compensating for every tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by ensuring there is one tonne less in the atmosphere – by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> by preventing its release or physically removing it from the air (e.g., by planting more trees).

**DOES IT WORK?** - Offsetting works because one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> has the same climate impact wherever it is emitted. So a tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> released by an easyJet aircraft can genuinely be "offset" by contributing to such projects.

## EASYJET'S CARBON OFFSETTING SELECTION PROCESS

We have used criteria from both the Gold Standard and the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) along with our own criteria which include ensuring that we can measure and report on the impacts. Both Gold Standard and VCS are globally recognised and respected standards for offsetting.

We have partnered with Climate Focus, a pioneering international advisory company which has been supporting governments, organisations and companies on climate change policy and projects for 15 years. Climate Focus has acted as our advisor on selecting projects and partners, and has helped to develop our offset project portfolio. They are also advising us on our ongoing offset management process and how we will set up our own bespoke offsetting projects in the future. Climate Focus has its headquarters in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and additional offices in Rotterdam, Berlin, Washington DC and Bogotá.

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

A variety of projects are available for offsetting, and each provides a different method of removing carbon from the atmosphere or reducing carbon emissions.

These projects can be split into nature-based, renewable energy and, community projects.

**Forestry/nature based projects** typically concern forestry and land use. These projects can be divided into two main groups: reforestation/afforestation and prevention of deforestation. Reforestation and afforestation projects remove carbon from the atmosphere by planting trees and nurturing them to full maturity. In the process of growing, trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> from the air and convert it to bark. Conversely, projects focused on prevention of deforestation (also called "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation" or "REDD" projects) provide incentives to protect forests from being cut down. In addition, projects aim to foster more sustainable practises for land use for the longevity of the projects and carbon reductions.

**Renewable energy projects** fund renewable energy sources to displace the use of fossil fuels for energy generation, lowering the emissions involved. Renewables projects implement a range of energy sources, including solar, wind, hydrothermal and geothermal.

**Community and Water projects** are centred on working with local communities to foster emissions reductions in their way of life. For example, distributing cleaner-burning cookstoves or installing water wells. Cleaner-burning cookstoves require less wood or use alternative, cleaner fuels, therefore reducing total carbon produced for the same activity. Water wells provide access to clean water eliminating the need to boil water using fuel. Community projects also provide a wide range of co-benefits to the communities they work in.

**Examples of offsetting projects include;**

### **Forest conservation – South America and Africa**

Forests in South America and Africa are of invaluable importance, both as a habitat for flora and fauna, and as a carbon sink and a regulative for global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Poverty levels among communities in the region are high which has driven the exploitation of the forest for firewood and agricultural expansion. The consequences of this have been rapid deforestation and forest degradation. These projects help local users and government to manage the responsibility and benefits of the forest together to halt deforestation aiming to make standing trees valuable to local people by creating job opportunities and strengthening sustainable land-use practices which help protect the forest.

### **Renewable energy – Solar in India**

Fossil fuels constitute the primary source of energy in India and coal accounts for 75% of the country's total energy consumption. The heavy reliance on fossil fuels results in the emission of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrogen into the atmosphere. This project helps to diversify the Indian energy mix, lessen the reliance on coal, and reduce the carbon intensity of the grid. The project is part of a large solar installation in Tamil Nadu and operates more than 820,000 solar panels. The project has an installed capacity of 217 MW, eliminating the need to produce power using fossil fuels for the project area and avoiding around 350 kt of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.

### **Community based – Improved kitchen regimes (boreholes rehabilitation) in Uganda and Eritrea**

In Uganda and Eritrea access to clean water is not always available outside of cities. This means people collect water from rivers and lakes, risking water-borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid – and boil water by burning firewood to make it safer to drink. This project rehabilitates broken boreholes to provide clean water to communities while providing a funding mechanism to ensure long term maintenance. As a result, families no longer have to boil water, saving firewood and preventing carbon emissions. A fully functioning borehole providing clean water leads to better health and fewer visits to health centers. The time saved in wood collection means women and children have more time for work and education.