



National Carbon Offset Coalition, Inc. (NCOC)

Who and What is NCOC?

In 1996, several Montana conservation, and economic development organizations became interested in the potential environmental and economic opportunities presented by addressing global climate change through a market based carbon sequestration initiative. The groups ultimately organized an incorporated coalition known as the National Carbon Offset Coalition (www.ncoc.us).

The NCOC is designed to assist landowners in planning carbon sequestration activities and documenting the resulting Carbon Sequestration Unit (CSU) in a manner that adheres to national standards and protocols, and meets the needs of potential buyers. The term "Carbon Sequestration Unit" is used to represent an amount of organic carbon sequestered in the wood or soil that is equivalent to the removal of one metric ton of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

In order for the widespread application of terrestrial carbon offsets from agricultural and forests lands in a voluntary market, all components of the trading infrastructure need to be developed and tested. These components include: planning protocols and procedures, contracting considerations for emitters and landowners, securing offsets against loss, monitoring, measuring, and verification of the offsets, and strategies to aggregate carbon credits from discontinuous land areas to lower transaction costs and spread risk while meeting the national criteria for measurement being established in the 1605 (b) National Greenhouse Gas Registry.

NCOC Partnership

The Big Sky Department of Energy (DOE) Regional Partnership (www.bigskyco2.org) is organizing to field-test a proposed trading system developed during the last two years by partnership members. In addition to the National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC), the partnership includes five universities, two Department of Energy (DOE) research laboratories, the states of, Idaho, Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming, three tribal organizations, and numerous private sectors for profit and nonprofit corporations.

What Needs to be Accomplished?

The NCOC will independently solicit project proposals and market listing agreements with farmers, foresters, tribal and state governments across the Big Sky Partnership region. The projects will be actively marketed on the Chicago Climate Exchange, and other emerging markets by Natsource, New York, an international brokerage firm and exclusive broker for the NCOC. Researchers at Montana State University (MSU), and the University of Wyoming (UW) will compare different methods of estimating C sequestration on selected projects with in the NCOC portfolio.

Types of Land Use Categories Needed

The following projects types will be solicited across the Big Sky Partnership region on private, state, and tribal lands. Researchers at MSU and UW will conduct intensive research on potential carbon monitoring, measurement, and verification techniques, and technologies for facilitating a market trading of carbon credits on some of the participating project sites.

- Reforestation: Lands previously forested, but recent natural and/or artificial reforestation efforts have failed
- Afforestation: Establishing trees on sites not naturally forested but capable of supporting forest stands
- Agroforestry: Field and Farmstead windbreaks, Riparian Forest Buffers, Hybrid Polar Plantations
- Fire Rehabilitation: Forested lands destroyed by wildfire.
- Cropland: Minimum till to no-till and reseeding of grass on marginal croplands



The cropland pilot will have three key inter-related dimensions, resulting in geographically constrained field tests in north central Montana and broad market exploration activity across the four-state region.

Additionally, MSU researchers are linked informally to a Canadian cropland pilot trade in the upper half of the northern great plains agroecozone. The Canadian project is tracking parallel timelines, management changes, and carbon credit market pries, affording the Big Sky Partnership the opportunity to compare Kyoto Protocol and non-Kyoto Protocol market approaches to cropland C sequestration within the same agroecozone. Importantly, this collaboration will provide access to carbon sequestration coefficients derived from a robust combination of field research and modeling within this agroecozone.

Interested in Participating?

NCOC's website (www.ncoc.us) contains a Carbon Sequestration Project Planning Handbook designed to assist project planners in understanding offset project requirements. In addition to the handbook, NCOC has Initial Proposal (IP) forms for submission of the project to the portfolio. The IP's forms include Agroforestry, Afforestation, and Reforestation.

Email links for direct project planning assistance from NCOC technical advisors is also available.

In order to obtain the necessary documents, you will need to register your name, affiliation and other pertinent information.

NCOC's Benefits to Emitters

- Industry may find that purchasing CSU's as an offset for their emissions is an economical way to meet their emission reduction needs.
- Enhances the health and sustainability of the ecosystem.
- Offers participating corporations a cost-effective way to produce enough CSU's to achieve their carbon dioxide emission reduction goals.
- NCOC provides the buyer with a Certificate of Assurance containing final measurements, conditions, commitments, etc., meeting buyer demands.
- Companies can take voluntary steps now to establish their own emissions credit programs for greenhouse gases, in anticipation of "some type" of GHG market-based initiative, which seems likely, at some point, either on a national or international scale. By doing so, they can demonstrate their commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions and best position themselves to have their reductions recognized whenever a formalized program is introduced.
- Creates positive public relations.

NCOC's Benefits to Landowners

- Landowners gain the practical experience in producing carbon credits for future markets.
- Flexible contractual agreements – ranging from five (5) years to long-term 80+ years.
- Carbon sequestration credits offer landowners a new potential source of revenue.
- Enhances the health and sustainability of the ecosystem.

Need More Information?

For more information about participating in the NCOC's pilot carbon sequestration portfolios contact:

Please visit our website: www.ncoc.us

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