

The Good Traveler: Frequently Asked Questions

What is The Good Traveler?

The Good Traveler offers a convenient, affordable, and meaningful step that travelers can take to address climate change. Since its inception, The Good Traveler has offset over 600 million miles of travel.

How does The Good Traveler work?

The Good Traveler brings together leading airports to offer a simple carbon offsetting option for their passengers who can offset their flight through The Good Traveler's website www.thegoodtraveler.org or, in some cases, right in the airport terminal. Funds from offset sales support emissions-reducing projects in communities across the country. Every offset sold through The Good Traveler is third-party verified to be of the highest quality.

What is a carbon offset?

A carbon offset is an official recognition of the reduction of one metric ton of carbon dioxide emissions. Many industrial, commercial, and agricultural activities produce carbon dioxide emissions. When a project developer implements a project that reduces the amount of emissions stemming from an activity, or undertakes a reforestation project that removes CO₂ from the atmosphere, these projects can generate carbon offsets.

For example, many landfills emit methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. This methane can be captured and sold to power generation companies to produce electricity, instead of being emitted into the atmosphere. However, in many places the price that the landfill operator could sell the methane for is not high enough to pay for the landfill gas capture. By selling carbon offsets as well, the landfill can implement the project. In this case, the greenhouse gas impact of methane is converted to the impact of carbon dioxide before it is sold as a carbon offset.

What projects does The Good Traveler support?

You can learn more about the projects supported by The Good Traveler on the "Portfolio" page on The Good Traveler's website. The current portfolio includes carbon capture projects and greenhouse gas abatement projects from forest management. When selecting projects, The Good Traveler looks for sound climate science, robust third-party verification, and benefits to communities.

Am I able to select a specific project to purchase offsets from on The Good Traveler website?

Currently, no.

Why should I offset my travel?

By purchasing carbon offsets, you can mitigate the environmental impact of your travel. The transportation sector, including airplanes and cars, contribute to 16% of total global greenhouse gas emissions. On an individual basis, a single business-class round-trip flight between New York and Los Angeles is responsible for the same global warming impact as

operating the average car for 3 months! Purchasing carbon offsets empowers individual travelers to reduce their contribution to climate change.

How is The Good Traveler different from other offset providers?

The Good Traveler is the first airport-based offset provider. By partnering with airports and their local communities, The Good Traveler is able to provide a simple and sustainable solution for airport customers. It is also the only offset program dedicated to accelerating the decarbonization of the aviation industry. The program achieves this by combining regional, place-based, climate mitigation projects with long-term “in-sector” travel emission reductions.

How can I contact The Good Traveler?

Email questions or comments at info@thegoodtraveler.org.

How do I know how much to buy?

The Good Traveler calculates the amount of offsets for your trip based on the estimate of 344 lbs. of CO₂ for 1,000 miles of air travel. The exact amount of emissions for your flight will depend on your seat class, how full the flight is, the weather, what type of airplane you are using, and a number of other factors. If you are interested in exploring more about flight emissions, a good resource is the International Civil Aviation Organization’s Carbon Emissions Calculator, available here: <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CarbonOffset/Pages/default.aspx>.

Can I use The Good Traveler if I live outside the United States?

Yes. Anybody can offset their travel through The Good Traveler, even if your home airport is not one of current airport partners. Simply visit www.thegoodtraveler.org.

Can I deduct my offset purchase from my taxes?

The purchase of carbon offsets is not tax deductible. Although The Good Traveler is a not-for-profit company, offset purchases are recognized commodity and not a charitable donation. The Good Traveler uses the funds from offset sales to retire the commodity from the carbon reduction projects and cover operational costs.