

AN OVERVIEW OF **CARBON OFFSETS & CREDITS**

Reduce emissions, increase resilience to climate change, and increase forest productivity.



A CARBON OFFSET

is a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or an increase in carbon storage meant to compensate for emissions occurring elsewhere

In a **regulatory** market, regulated entities are given an emissions cap. In a **voluntary** market, entities purchase credits to meet internal emission reduction targets.

AN OFFSET CREDIT

is a tool certified by governments or independent certification bodies



it represents a reduced emission of

1 metric ton

of CO₂ or another greenhouse gas



KEY PLAYERS & THEIR MOTIVATIONS

Offset buyers: need or want to reduce emissions, regulatory vs voluntary

Forest landowners: use the opportunity to earn extra money

Project developers: help landowners participate in the market, a new business opportunity

Registries: bring buyers and sellers together, set the rules/protocols for creating credits



A CLIMATE-SMART FOREST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

is a federally-funded, state-administered forest certification program. It requires the voluntary participants to work with certified foresters to follow best practices in order to receive subsidies for "climate-smart" practices and potential annual payments.

OFFSET PROJECT TYPES INCLUDE:

- afforestation
- avoided deforestation
- improved forest management



CHECK OUT THIS RESOURCE:

[Sightline: Forests, Climate, and a Changing Marketplace](#)