

# Voluntary Carbon Offset Sector

## Industry & Environmental Alliance Communiqué

29 October 2008

### Introduction

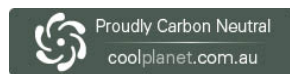
The undersigned carbon reduction and offset service providers, in alliance with the Total Environment Centre (TEC), call on the Australian Government to recognise and act on:

- The importance of retaining an active and viable voluntary carbon market that supports Australian project-based emission reductions
- The value of the voluntary market and its participants in driving innovation in the origination of emission reductions, and their marketing, and
- The established capacity of the voluntary market to reduce emissions, in the order of millions of tonnes per annum, by appealing to individuals, businesses and other organisations to pay for emission reductions where they are not required to do so by law.

The signatories are agreed that the Australian Government should take steps as part of its policy development on climate change action, including the design of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS), with respect to:

### Australian Voluntary Carbon Projects and GreenPower

- Ensure that voluntary carbon offsets originated from Australian projects are additional to Australia's mandatory targets under Kyoto (national cap) and the CPRS.
  - This could be achieved by the cancelling of Assigned Amount Units (and Australian Emission Units for those in covered sectors)<sup>1</sup> equivalent to the carbon saved through voluntary purchases of Australian offsets. This is the most straight forward method of ensuring additionality. This would need to occur as soon as possible to maintain consumer confidence in their voluntary purchases, prior to the implementation of the CPRS.
- Clarify the status of Greenhouse Friendly and Green Power for 2009 and beyond
  - Including Greenhouse Friendly's role in product certification versus abatement project accreditation.



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### Voluntary carbon markets

- Establish a set of principles to recognise credible standards for voluntary carbon offsets.
- Introduce a list of approved standards for voluntary carbon offsets by early 2009 beginning with adopting existing standards, including international standards like the Gold Standard and Voluntary Carbon Standard.

### Ongoing industry liaison

- Appoint a Government representative to liaise with the voluntary carbon offset industry and other relevant stakeholders
- Develop an engagement process to consult and work with the voluntary carbon offset industry and other relevant stakeholders on key policy issues

## SIGNATORIES

AFG-TreeSmart  
The Ark Climate Group  
Balance Carbon  
Carbon Balance Consulting  
Carbon Conservation  
Carbon Neutral  
The Carbon Reduction Institute  
Cleaner Climate  
Climate Friendly  
Cool Planet

Easy Being Green  
Fieldforce Environmental  
Green Energy Trading  
Greenfleet  
Greenpig  
My Clean Sky  
Origin Energy  
Southern Metropolitan Regional Council  
Total Environment Centre

<sup>i</sup> Assigned Amount Units (AAUs) are the instruments used under the Kyoto Protocol to allocate allowed emissions at a national level. Australian Emissions Units (AEUs) will be the name for carbon pollution units issued to Australian liable parties by the Commonwealth Government under the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

