

Climate Neutrality - Frequently Asked Questions

Here we have summarized some of the most frequently asked questions. If you happen to have further uncertainties please feel free to contact us. We're happy to answer them.

WHY CLIMATE NEUTRALITY?

Earth's atmosphere forms a marvellous part of nature. It contains so called greenhouse gases, which surround and protect earth's surface. These gases contain the warmth of the earth to prevent it from cooling down tremendously. Today, however, the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is too high - especially those of carbon dioxides (CO₂), which are produced by industries, households and traffic. Hence, the atmosphere is heating in an unnatural tempo. This has serious consequences for our planet, such as, melting polar caps, rising sea levels und an increasing number of extreme nature phenomena - with far-reaching negative effects on climate, humans and the environment all over the globe. Therefore, it is important to cut down on CO₂ emissions and protect climate.

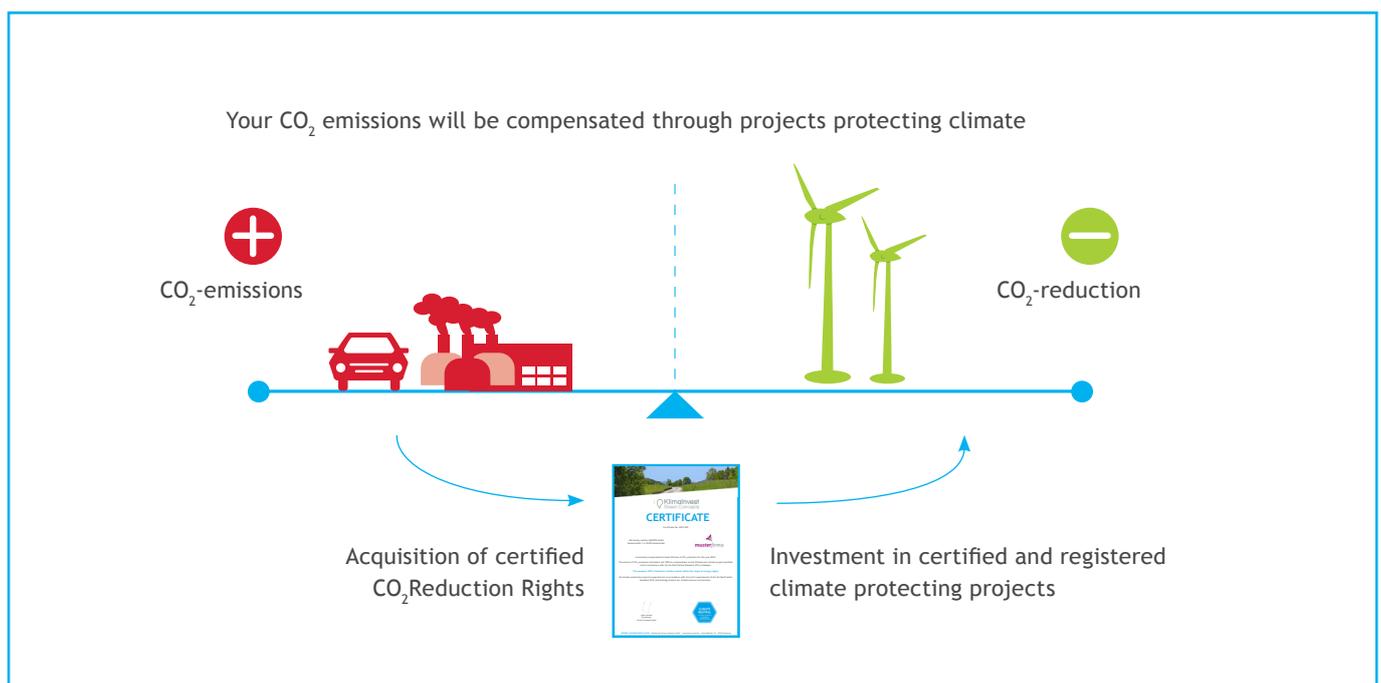
WHAT IS CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂)?

Carbon Dioxide is a chemical bond of carbon and oxygen. The chemical formula of carbon dioxide is CO₂. Carbon dioxide is the most significant long-lived greenhouse gas in earth's atmosphere. Since Industrial Revolution anthropogenic emissions - primarily induced by use of fossil fuels and deforestation - have rapidly increased its concentration in the atmosphere, leading to global warming. Carbon dioxide also causes ocean acidification because it dissolves in water forming carbonic acid.

HOW DOES CLIMATE NEUTRALITY WORK?

The principle of climate neutrality is based on the idea of a global balance of climate: The negative effects of greenhouse gases have a global impact - thus it is irrelevant, where emissions are produced. Climate is global. Consequently, this results in the opportunity to compensate emission by taking measures with additional positive climate effects anywhere on the globe. Climate neutrality can be reached if our emissions are identified and compensated with an equivalent climate impact.

CLIMATE-EFFECTIVE COMPENSATION



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CO₂ COMPENSATION - HOW DOES IT WORK?

In cooperation with the sustainability agency KlimalInvest Green Concepts, located in Hamburg, Germany, we identify our CO₂ emissions, which result from heating, production processes and our travel activities. By investing in certified climate protecting projects, these CO₂ emissions will be effectively compensated. We do guarantee 100% climate neutrality as a result.

HOW DOES A CLIMATE PROTECTING PROJECT WORK?

Because, for atmosphere, it is irrelevant where CO₂ is emitted and where emissions are compensated, the compensation does not need to take place at the point of emission. Often, there are economic incentives to compensate our emissions at a different place on globe. This compensation could be building or running a wind park instead of a coal-fired power station. Conventional electricity production is based on burning fossil fuels such as coal and gas, emitting CO₂ into atmosphere. Through feeding renewable energies into the power grid, conventional electricity will be replaced and therefore CO₂ emissions will be reduced. This reduction is documented as CO₂ Reduction Rights, in which case one CO₂ Reduction Right equals one ton of saved Greenhouse gas emissions. It is essential that the project will be realised just because of the additional financial resources through the sale of CO₂ Reduction Rights. The money made by selling those rights assures economic feasibility.

WHICH CLIMATE PROTECTION PROJECTS WILL BE SUPPORTED?

We support climate protecting projects all over the globe, such as methane reduction projects. Methane is one of the biggest threats to our climate. One ton of methane produces as much harm to our atmosphere as approximately 21 tons of CO₂. Our projects effectively contribute to the protection of our climate and a sustainable development in the region. You'll find further information about our projects in our project presentation sheets.

WHY ARE MOST PROJECTS LOCATED ABROAD?

Climate protecting projects are often located in emerging or developing countries - for two major reasons. Firstly, the costs of executing of climate protecting projects in these countries are often much lower than the costs for such projects in industrial countries like Germany. Secondly, results happen to be bigger in emerging and developing countries at the same time. In these countries, it is possible to create a bigger impact with less money. Our climate protecting projects are audited, certified

and comply with the requirements of the United Nations. Further, the projects have a social benefit and improve the living conditions of people living in the area. For example, the projects provide reliable and ecological energy sources, create jobs, improve infrastructure and transfer technical know-how to most rural regions. Thus, a sustainable development is being supported - the environment being protected.

WHAT CRITERIA DO CLIMATE PROTECTING PROJECTS FULFILL?

Our sustainability agency, KlimalInvest Green Concepts, provides us with certified projects, approved by independent organisations like TÜV. Those projects correspond to one of the world's most ambitious standards, the Verified Carbon Standard (www.v-c-s.org), which is based on the criteria of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and/or the Gold Standard (www.goldstandard.org). Besides, this standard ensures that no projects will be funded which would have been realised without our support. This so-called add-on is certified and applies for all our climate protecting projects.

HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH CO₂ IS EMITTED?

Our consumption of gas and electricity is identified in cooperation with our partner KlimalInvest. Additionally, our business travels are recorded. The identified sources of our carbon footprint are multiplied by emission factors published by recognized German climate institutes. These institutes are "Öko-Institute" (Institut für angewandte Ökologie e. V., www.oeko.de) and "Umweltbundesamt" (www.klimaktiv.de).