



Photo of turbines ©Richard Hamilton Smith.

Carbon Offset Credits

Making your attendance carbon neutral.

By partnering with NativeEnergy, Minnesota Green Communities has offset the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions associated with your participation in the Green by Design annual conference in order to address global climate change.

How did we do it?

First, we estimated the total CO₂ emissions resulting from the venue energy use, accommodations, and air travel and ground transportation for attendees, speakers, and Minnesota Green Communities staff.

Next, we acquired the Green Tags and CO₂ offsets to mitigate the estimated 25 tons of CO₂ emissions generated by the conference.

This purchase will help pay for the installation of a farmer-owned wind turbine through NativeEnergy's partnership with Next Generation Power Systems, dedicated to bringing small, distributed wind turbines to family farms in the Midwest. Next Generation installs German designed 40kW Aeroman wind turbines that are remanufactured and customized for Midwest conditions. Through our offset purchase, we are helping to reduce turbine costs to an acceptable level for these farmers, helping them reduce their long-term electricity costs and stabilize the electricity grid with distributed small-scale power generation. To learn more about the project, visit www.nativeenergy.com/projects.html#4.

Why did we do it?

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are accumulating in the atmosphere like a thickening blanket, trapping the sun's heat and causing the planet to warm. This build up of gases threatens to disrupt the Earth's climate system, including the potential for sea level rise, severe storms, greater temperature extremes, and changes in ocean currents.

Our donation demonstrates Minnesota Green Communities' commitment to educating our stakeholders about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the role that voluntary reductions of greenhouse gases have in addressing this critical environmental issue.

Looking beyond the conference.

We encourage you to continue to promote a "carbon-neutral" lifestyle. We have begun by offsetting your energy and transportation costs for the Green by Design conference.

For more information on offsetting CO₂ emissions and reducing your environmental footprint, visit <http://www.nativeenergy.com/travel/>

**25 tons minus 25 tons
= Carbon Neutral**