

UK Government Quality Assurance Scheme for Carbon Offsets

ICAO Carbon Markets Workshop
19 June 2008

Danny Jowers

What is offsetting?

1. Who has heard of offsetting?
2. Who has purchased offsets?
3. Who believes they understand offsetting fully?



??

This is offsetting

“Use of carbon credits to balance an equivalent quantity of CO₂, calculated to have been emitted as a result of a defined activity”

What is the role of offsetting?

- Part of hierarchy of actions by individuals:

1. Calculate

2. Avoid

3. Reduce

Then

4. Offset



Need for Quality Assurance

- Address consumer confusion
- Inform consumers about role of offsetting
- Enable consumers to make choices
- Increase consumer confidence

Scheme Requirements

Department for
Transport

Kyoto
Compliant
Credits

Accurate
Marketing

Approved
Emissions
Factors

Consumer
Information

Clear &
Transparent
Pricing

Approved
Offset

Phased Approach

- Scheme could recognise credits under different standard, if satisfied:
 - Additionality
 - Transparency
 - Independent Verification
 - Permanence
 - Leakage

Next Phase

- Challenge to industry
- Facilitate common industry standard
- Industry Panel

Summary

- Offsetting has important role
- Credibility fundamental
- Independent assurance essential

Danny Jowers
UK Department for Transport
daniel.jowers@dft.gsi.gov.uk