

## Arkansas ranks first as CAR offset project host

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Arkansas generates the most carbon credits issued by a major US voluntary offset standard.

The southern US state ranks number one for greenhouse gases removed through projects registered with the Climate Action Reserve (CAR), the offset standard body and registry said today.

Offsets generated by CAR have traditionally been viewed as the carbon credits that will most likely be fungible in mandatory federal and state cap-and-trade schemes.

Projects registered by CAR in Arkansas have so far reduced nearly 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), according to a CAR release.

California ranks second with 1.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduced, followed by New York (718,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e), Texas (479,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e) and Alabama (228,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e).

The offsets generated in Arkansas are from only five projects started either in 2009 or 2010 that all reduce highly potent greenhouse gases, known as ozone depleting substances (ODS), commonly found in refrigerants and air conditioners.

Developers for the projects are Coolgas, Inc., EOS Climate and Reclamation Technologies.

Offsets generated in California, by comparison, are predominantly from forest management, landfill gas capture and livestock gas projects. Some of those projects began in 2005.

Jennifer Weiss, a spokeswoman at CAR, said ODS projects generate so many offsets because of their high global warming potential.

"Because of the high ozone destruction powers of ODS, these projects tend to generate much higher volumes than other project types," said Weiss.

CAR approved in February this year a protocol for ODS projects that it expects has the potential to generate millions of offsets.

Offsets generated from ODS projects will be eligible for compliance with California's state cap-and-trade programme, known as AB 32.

The California Air Resources Board, the state environmental regulator that is drafting guidelines for the use of offsets in the programme, estimates 30 million carbon credits can be generated through out-of-state ODS projects registered by the Reserve between 2012 and 2014.

This represents by far the largest volume of offsets that the regulator estimates can be generated by the four CAR project types it is allowing into its programme.

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