

<b>“Compliance” carbon offset programs (run by governmental bodies)</b>	<b>Geographic Coverage</b>	<b>Label used for offset credits</b>
Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) <sup>1</sup>	Developing countries	Certified Emission Reduction (CER)
California Compliance Offset Program (CA COP)	United States	Air Resources Board Offset Credit (ARBOC)
Joint Implementation* (JI) <sup>2</sup>	Developed countries	Emission Reduction Unit (ERU)
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)	Northeast United States	RGGI CO <sub>2</sub> Offset Allowance (ROA)
Alberta Emission Offset Program (AEOP)	Alberta, Canada	Alberta Emissions Offset Credit (AEOC)

<b>“Voluntary” carbon offset programs (run by NGOs)</b>	<b>Geographic Coverage</b>	<b>Label used for offset credits</b>
American Carbon Registry (ACR)	United States, some international	Emission Reduction Tonne (ERT)
Climate Action Reserve (CAR)	United States, Mexico	Climate Reserve Tonne (CRT)
The Gold Standard	International	Verified Emission Reduction (VER)
Plan Vivo	International	Plan Vivo Certificate (PVC)
The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)	International	Verified Carbon Unit (VCU)

<sup>1</sup> Although the CDM has functioned primarily as a regulatory program under the Kyoto Protocol, it now [also caters to voluntary purchasers](#).

<sup>2</sup> Like the CDM, “Joint Implementation” is a separate offset program established under the Kyoto Protocol; the CDM applies only to developing countries, while JI is used in developed countries.

