



CARBON+ CREDITS AND THE TRAVIS COUNTY FLOODPLAIN REFORESTATION PROGRAM

What is a carbon credit?

A single carbon credit represents one metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Some carbon credits decrease existing greenhouse gas emissions, as in when a chemical plant implements a CO₂ cutback program. This is called emissions reductions. Some carbon credits pull CO₂ out of the atmosphere and store it, as in a carbon planting project like the TCFRP. This is referred to as carbon sequestration because CO₂ is sequestered into the living tissues of trees. Our projects resulting in sequestration of carbon are verified by City Forest Credits which then issues Carbon+ Credits to TreeFolks.

Why were carbon credits developed in the first place?

Some companies, cities, and organizations have wanted to reduce their carbon footprint. To do that, they may choose to buy carbon credits that will offset their own carbon emissions. That's why carbon credits are often referred to as offsets, or offset credits. In this situation, the City of Austin has reduced their carbon footprint as much as possible and plan to cover the rest of their emissions with carbon offsets in order to become carbon neutral by 2020.

Why are Carbon+ Credits better than regular carbon credits?

Carbon credits have been developed for hundreds of different types of projects, from landfills to industrial plants to forests. City Forest Credits has now added urban forests to this list.

Carbon+ Credits include quantified co-benefits associated with increased tree cover based on published data. By showing that this particular metric ton of CO₂ sequestered has also provided a certain dollar amount of accompanying benefits, project operators are able to supply a more enticing product to the carbon buyers looking to reduce their footprint. Carbon+ Credit generating projects are more fundable than regular carbon credit projects.

What types of co-benefits are measured in the Carbon+ Credit?

City Forest Credits quantifies rainfall interception, several types of atmospheric pollutant reduction, CO₂ emission avoidance, and energy savings in heating and cooling for local residents. These metrics are all expressed in a dollar amount in an easy to understand table in our credit calculation tools.

For more information, contact TreeFolks' reforestation team at reforestation@treefolks.org