

UoY Carbon Offsetting Policy Statement

1. UoY view on carbon offsetting

Sustainability is a guiding principle of the new University Strategy, with action on Climate Change and achieving carbon neutrality being set as a strategic goal.

The University shall take proactive steps to reduce its carbon emissions (CO₂e) to absolute zero wherever possible (especially for its direct emissions) to avoid the need for carbon offsetting, but carbon offsetting will be viewed as a strategic option for minimising the University's impact on climate change, especially where the emissions are further outside of the Universities control.

2. Reducing emissions prioritised

Before any activities are undertaken that would create carbon emissions, consideration is to be taken on whether the activity needs to be undertaken at all, or whether an alternative lower carbon emitting option is available. An example of this being whether video-conferencing, or travelling by train, could be used rather than flying to an international meeting.

3. What offsetting projects are to be used

The University is aware that there are rational concerns with the practice of carbon offsetting and therefore the University is to be transparent and accountable for all of its carbon offsetting.

Where carbon offsetting is to be undertaken this is to be done through a carbon offset provider that ensures the projects used are independently verified, certified and traceable to guarantee that the carbon offset has been achieved, ensuring additionality (project would not have happened otherwise), and is not being double counted.

Projects chosen through the credible offset provider should also be considered on the additional social and biodiversity co-benefits that they provide, as well as carbon emissions.

4. Preferred offset providers

The Universities preferred carbon offset provider is the [EAUC Carbon Coalition](#).

5. Guidance on offsetting for staff

University staff can measure their predicted carbon emissions associated with their research / business travel by using the [University of York Travel Carbon Calculator](#).

Further guidance for staff on how to measure and offset their carbon emissions are to be found on the staff webpages.

This policy and the guidance shall be updated as the mechanisms are developed further and to reflect best practices.

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Approved by the UoY Sustainability Strategy Steering Group