

# National Carbon Offset Coalition, Inc. (NCOC)



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## Afforestation

The National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) is currently accepting applications for Afforestation (tree planting) to be placed on the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) market.

NCOC is an aggregating member of CCX. The Chicago Climate Exchange is the only active voluntary, legally binding integrated trading system to reduce emissions of all six greenhouse gases (GHGs). Exchange Forest Offsets (XFOs) Exchange Forestry Offsets are issued at a rate based on the annual increase in the carbon stocks in the live tree and soil organic carbon portion of the carbon pool forest during the CCX program years (2003-2010).

Afforestation projects undertaken in the continental United States may quantify forest carbon sequestration through the use of CCX carbon accumulation tables. Project proponents may also use detailed forestry growth-and-yield models subject to the approval of the CCX Forestry Committee. Specific rules vary slightly between CCX identified zones, but in general include:

- Forestry projects remove a significant amount of greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.
- Forestation is widely recognized greenhouse gas mitigation method.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported in its fourth assessment that 10-30% of human-induced global GHG emissions are due to Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry.
- The IPCC concluded that globally, changes in forest management could induce future carbon sequestration adequate to offset an additional 15-20% of CO2 emissions.
- Eligible afforestation projects must have been initiated after January 1, 1990, on land that was not previously forested, or where forests had been naturally destroyed and were unable to regenerate.
- Upon registration of the afforestation project with CCX, the landowner must present to CCX an attestation that the carbon stocks in forest parcels included in a project will be subject to long-term maintenance. This includes a contractual agreement between the aggregator and each participating landowner to maintain the enrolled land as forest for at least 15 years from enrolled date and a signed letter of intent from each registered landowner.

NCOC has developed simple application forms for agricultural and forestry carbon offsets.

Additional eligible projects include:

- Rangeland (degraded & non-degraded)
- Conservation Tillage (cropland)
- Methane (agricultural, coal-mine, landfill)
- Grassland planting/CRP
- Reforestation on land where forests were destroyed by natural events (usually wildfires) and are unable to regenerate naturally
- Urban forests planted since January 1, 1990
- Sustainable forest management (long-term wood products & existing forest land).
- Energy Fuel Switching

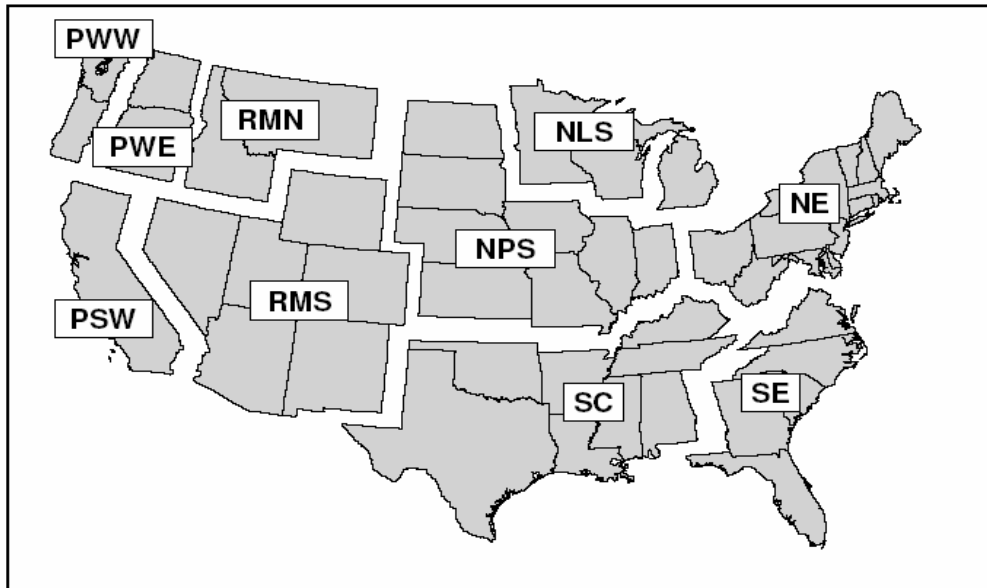


Figure 1.1—Definition of regions: Pacific Northwest, West (PWW); Pacific Northwest, East (PWE); Pacific Southwest (PSW); Rocky Mountain, North (RMN); Rocky Mountain, South (RMS); Northern Prairie States (NPS); Northern Lake States (NLS); Northeast (NE); South Central (SC); and Southeast (SE). Note that regions are merged for some tables, these combinations include: NLS and NPS as North Central; PWW, PWE, and PSW as Pacific Coast; RMN and RMS as Rocky Mountain; SC and SE as South; and RMN, RMS, PWE, and PSW as West (except where stated otherwise).

## ***The NCOC Application Process***

NCOC has defined an initial process for assembling individual projects into a group of projects (pool) that contains the necessary amount of offset credits to meet buyer or trading system requirements of the CCX. Under this process, the following outline the steps for afforestation.

Landowner prepares and submits the Afforestation Application Form available on line at <http://www.ncoc.us> (Forestland). The form requires the following information:

1. Description of afforestation activity;
2. Evidence that planting occurred after December 31, 1989;
3. Description of pre-project condition of included lands;
4. Legal description of land included in the forest project;
5. Identity of the land owner(s);
6. Legal evidence that the Project land is owned by the Project Owner, or, in instances where the Project owner is not the landowner, evidence that the CCX Forestry offsets to be generated by the Project are legally owned by the Project Owner;
7. Documentary contractual evidence between the aggregator and landowner that Project lands will remain as forest stock for at least 15 years;
8. Letter of intent from landowner to maintain forests beyond length of the CCX market period.

**NOTE:** All projects put 20 percent of the carbon credits into a reserve pool. If at the end of the market period the project has not been lost or compromised, the 20 percent is returned to the project owner. (A.K.A. Reserve Pool)

## ***Technical Assistance***

The NCOC has Affiliate Members who specialize in forest lands and that may be available to provide technical assistance in project planning with the landowner. The cost of project planning is between the landowner and the Affiliate Member. Contact NCOC for list of Affiliates who specialize in forest lands.

Visit Our Website: <http://www.ncoc.us>