



New 2013 offset data omits origin of carbon credits

Today, the European Commission released data on the number of international offsets used in 2013 by companies in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). Unlike previous years, the European Commission only released aggregate information which means it is no longer possible to check the origin of the 133 million offsets that entered the EU ETS in 2013. Carbon Market Watch, Sandbag Climate Campaign and the Climate Market & Investment Association (CMIA) strongly condemn this lack in transparency as it significantly reduces civil society's ability to scrutinize the carbon offset projects that were used. Read more...

Although the EU has adopted restrictions that only allow carbon credits from projects in Least Developed Countries starting in 2013, this restriction only applies to the registration of *new* projects after 2012 and thereby keeps doors open for carbon credits from projects registered in countries such as China and India before 2012. There is no way of checking, but it is likely that business-as-usual projects from China constitute the majority of international credits used, further undermining EU's climate legislation. It is impossible to give estimations on the scale because of the before mentioned lack of transparency in offset data. For more information, see the European Commission press release [here](#) and the media statement by Carbon Market Watch, Sandbag Climate Campaign and the Climate Market & Investment Association (CMIA) [here](#).

Below is a short overview of offset data used so far, including the new data published today:

How much offsets have been used in the EU ETS so far?

The data released today shows that in the year 2013, an additional 133 million offsets has entered the EU ETS.

In the 2008-2012 period, 1.058 billion international credits were used in EU's carbon market. In total, 1191 million international credits have been used in the EU ETS between 2008-2013.

How many offsets can still be used in the EU ETS up to 2020?

According to the European Commission, around 400 million offsets can still be used from now to 2020.

In the third phase of the EU ETS (2013-2020) around 550 million offsets are allowed, but 133 million international credits were already used in 2013.

Are offsets allowed after 2020?

Under current rules, offsets cannot be used for compliance in the EU ETS after 2020.