



Carbon offsets are voluntary payments to third-party organizations to compensate for harmful greenhouse gas emissions that result from your activities. To mitigate these emissions, you can purchase carbon offsets that help fund projects that either remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere or prevent greenhouse gases from entering the atmosphere. These projects are often nature-based (e.g., tree planting) or technology-based (e.g., direct air capture or clean energy infrastructure). Carbon offsets are measured in tonnes of CO₂-equivalent (or tCO₂e).

Nearly every aspect of your event—from travel to catering to energy use—can generate greenhouse gas emissions in our atmosphere. The McGill Sustainable Events program focuses on greenhouse gas emissions from travel. Find out more about the environmental impacts of travel and why it is important to reduce travel-related emissions on the [McGill Sustainable Travel](#) web page.

To estimate travel-related emissions, event planners can use the “Estimated Travel Emissions” tab in the event certification checklist. Talk to your Sustainable Events Ambassador for assistance with the calculator or to inquire about other carbon calculator options.

[Natural Resources Canada](#) offers a greenhouse gas equivalencies calculator in which you can translate your emissions into the approximate equivalent number of litres of gasoline consumed, average homes’ electricity use for one year, number of propane cylinders used for home barbeques, and other metrics. Use the “If You Have Emissions Data” tab and enter the amount of emissions calculated using the appropriate measuring unit.

[McGill Offsetting Program](#) The projects suggested in the McGill Offsetting Program were selected by an Offset Selection Committee composed of