
Firms Complete First Registry-Certified Forest Carbon Offset Deal

Environmental asset firm Natsource and the non-profit Pacific Forest Trust have announced a trade of 60,000 carbon offsets that marks the first such deal for US forest credits under new California state regulations.

The emissions reductions were created through sustainable forestry practices on a permanently conserved property in California, and passed muster with the California Climate Action Registry's new protocols for certifying forest-related credits.

Those are the first governmental accounting standards in the US that quantify emissions reduced through forest management and avoided deforestation. They were approved for compliance with California's carbon caps by a state agency last year.

"Though this was a small trade, the key issue is that it is a first for forestry," said Natsource's Richard Rosenzweig. Forest degradation accounts for roughly 20 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to estimates of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"We are hoping that deals like this will provide policymakers around the world with the confidence they need to ensure that forestry becomes part of the solution to address climate change," said Laurie Wayburn, president of the Pacific Forest Trust.

Natsource CEO Jack Cogen added: "Forestry can and should be an important part of the portfolio of climate change solutions moving forward. This deal illustrates that when rigorous, clear rules are adopted, these investments can reduce costs for our compliance customers and provide what we believe are attractive investment opportunities."

The revenue from the purchase of some of the emissions reductions generated by the project will help finance the ongoing forest stewardship activities, the trust said. These will enable the forest to remove an estimated 500,000 more tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than would otherwise occur over the next 100 years.