

World Cup teams to offset emissions

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Half of the teams playing in the World Cup in South Africa will offset their carbon emissions.

An initiative set up by the UN Environment Programme (Unep) will offset the travel emissions of the football teams, which are expected to emit 6,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent per team, Swiss-based project developer South Pole said in a statement today.

According to a study by Norway and South Africa, around 2.7 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent will be emitted from international air travel to the football tournament – eight times more than during the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

South Pole has developed one of the five carbon-cutting projects that are part of the Unep initiative.

The project, a composting programme near Cape Town, reduces the amount of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from being emitted by ensuring organic waste is composted separately from normal waste.

The project will avoid 60,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year and so far has generated 12,000 carbon credits, Max Zeckau with South Pole told Point Carbon News on Friday.

He said another 100,000 credits will be issued within the next few weeks.

Other project types that will offset travelers' emissions for the World Cup include solar cookers, energy efficient lighting and wind energy.

By Jeff Coelho – jc@pointcarbon.com

London