

BOURSE DU CARBONE SCOL'ERE

EDUCATIONAL CARBON CREDITS

PROJECT TYPE

Avoided emissions from climate education & action

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project aims to educate young people and their families in Québec about climate change and GHG emissions arising from daily choices. The GHG emissions avoided from participants' commitments to adopt new habits are quantified as Educational Carbon Credits (ECCs).

TO PURCHASE

<https://boursescolere.com/McGill/>

PRICE

\$30.57 CAD per tCO₂e avoided

NOTES

When purchasing offsets you can enter a pre-calculated emissions total (e.g. from the [McGill Carbon Calculator](#) or from support provided by McGill's [Climate Officer](#)), choose from set transport options (e.g. 10,000 km by car), or use their carbon calculator.

PROJECT LOCATION

Quebec, Canada



PREREQUISITE CRITERIA

Dedicated applied student research teams in the School of Environment and the Faculty of Management defined prerequisite criteria that offset projects had to meet to be considered by the McGill Offset Selection Committee.

Do No Harm

This program is voluntary, takes place only in interested schools, and is educational and does not involve any land, infrastructure or property. Between 70-85% of offset funds are used directly for the educational program. From that amount, 5%-15% is returned to participating schools to help them realize "eco-responsible" projects. Surveys to assess students and other participants are conducted by knowledgeable researchers.

Additionality

The baseline scenario assumes no standardized program for student & family carbon reductions, and that personal commitments to climate action occur at a rate aligned with the average awareness in the region. In the project scenario, students take a series of educational workshops at school focused on climate science, understanding the impacts that our actions have on emissions, and identifying solutions to reduce these impacts. In the process of choosing challenges to reduce GHG's, students assess their current habits in order to select new behaviours. This provides a baseline to ensure that there is a change in habits and a reduction of GHG's.

Leakage

There is no leakage anticipated with project implementation.

Unique Ownership

The Scol'ERE Carbon Exchange has a protected, online management system that tracks all purchased educational carbon credits.

3rd Party Verification

The accounting firm Lemieux Nolet verifies the application of the Rules & Procedures and the traceability of ECCs to ensure compliance with the program charter.

Accounting Standard

CIRAIG graduate students use best-practice life cycle assessment methodologies to calculate avoided emissions. This methodology is recognized and certified by an advisory committee led by the Québec Industrial Research Center (CRIQ).

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ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

The Offset Selection Committee—composed of students, faculty and staff—developed additional criteria for the offsets. These additional criteria helped the Offset Selection Committee recommend offset projects that fit McGill's mission and would help contribute to the overall sustainability goals of the University.

Review Process & Frequency

The degree and longevity of behavioural changes are central to the program, and are measured and reported for each cohort via follow-up survey & interview. The quantification of avoided emissions is reviewed every two years or as needed. Annual reports are publicly available on the program website.

Accuracy & Ease of Measure

The project design requires a large amount of modelling by CIRAIG to calculate avoided emissions, and relies on data extrapolation from survey results for some Scol'ERE model inputs and comparison to average, modelled regional data. Ease of measure is therefore moderate to difficult.

Scalability

Micro to average scale. There are two limiting factors in project design: a) resource capacity (especially program educators) and b) carbon reduction possible by each participant. As of January 2020, the program has produced an estimated 63,373 tCO₂e avoided emissions from 748 participating classes of students.

Permanence

Project success depends on the long-term maintenance of sustainable habits gained through program workshops & engagement. There are multiple factors that could affect permanence, including moving within or outside of Québec, change in socio-economic status, employment and educational opportunities, and other life stressors or events. The project has so far demonstrated a high rate (94% for 2016/2017 cohort) of continued commitment.

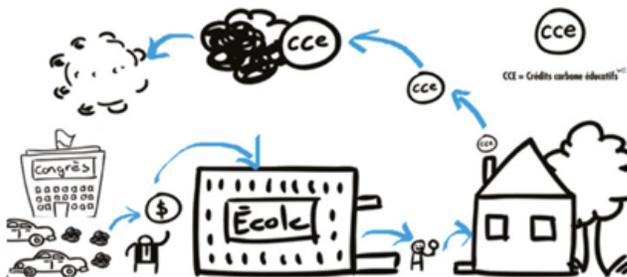
Co-Benefits

The project helps to empower and educate the generations – schoolchildren – who will face worsening impacts from climate change. Students challenge their parents to adapt their chosen behavioural changes as well, and are encouraged to influence behavioural changes in other family and friends, inviting them to register as supporters on the platform. Between 5 – 15% of funds are returned to participating schools to support “eco-responsible” projects, and there are opportunities for regional & national recognition from participating. Skill transfer is available for teachers from training workshops, and the project is integrated with the Programme de formation de l'école québécoise.

Alignment with McGill Community

The program was created and is centered in Québec, and is focused on the education of students to empower their development of sustainable habits. The project emphasizes the “three pillars” of sustainability – environmental, social and economic – in its design. It provides research opportunities for post-secondary students in the province.

LE MÉCANISME DE LA BOURSE DU CARBONE SCOL'ERE



Have questions? Email McGill's Climate Officer at aileen.rivers@mcgill.ca