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Project Management Institute
Melbourne Chapter

PMI Melbourne Chapter Carbon Neutrality Policy

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Document History and Version Control

Version	Date	Remarks
1.0	10-Nov-08	Initial policy

1. Carbon Neutrality Policy

There is substantial evidence that the world's climate is changing significantly in recent decades. For example, in Melbourne we have permanent water restrictions. More generally, average seasonal temperatures are increasing, and glaciers and polar ice caps are diminishing.

These phenomena are coincident with large increases of 'greenhouse gas' emissions in the atmosphere especially carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. These increases are principally caused by human activities such as power generation, transportation, farming and other industries.

The observed climatic changes are consistent with predictions based on quantitative models of the environmental effects of increased 'greenhouse gas' emissions in the atmosphere. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a scientific body, concluded in 2007 that climate change is most likely caused by human activity [1].

This conclusion is not fully accepted by scientists and others. Independently of this question, as a matter of risk management and environmental protection, some organizations and individuals seek means to neutralise their carbon emissions.

The aim of this policy is for the Board-related activities of the PMI Melbourne Chapter to be carbon neutral where practical.

2. Carbon Offsets

Principle 1. The Board should use resources sparingly, e.g. water, paper, petroleum-based products. This can be done by minimizing computer print-outs, traveling less and using teleconference facilities more frequently.

Some Board-related activities that produce carbon emissions cannot be easily minimized. Carbon emissions from them can be offset. This involves making donations to organizations that reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by planting trees, reducing methane emissions from landfills by using it to generate electricity or other means.

Probably the Board-related activity whose carbon emissions could be offset with largest effect is air travel to conferences. The following table gives an indication of effective tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted for one-way flights between various destinations, and the approximate number of trees that would need to be planted to offset these emissions [2].

From	To	Distance (km)	CO ₂ (Tonnes)	Number of Trees
Melbourne	Sydney	705	0.24	2
Melbourne	Brisbane	1,380	0.47	3
Melbourne	Perth	2,700	0.92	6
Sydney	Los Angeles	12,100	4.11	25
Los Angeles	Denver	1,380	0.47	2
Los Angeles	New York	3,980	1.35	9
Melbourne	Kuala Lumpur	6,360	2.16	13
Melbourne	Singapore	6,040	2.05	13

Currently, the cost is approximately \$18 to offset a tonne of carbon dioxide or about \$3 per tree, and it can be fully tax deductible in Australia [3]. The price to offset carbon emissions is unrelated to the price of carbon in a 'cap and trade' market.

Principle 2. The Board shall endeavour to offset all carbon dioxide emissions as a result of Board-related activities. This is mandatory for air travel and should occur as flights are booked.

Online calculators can be used to estimate carbon dioxide emissions from other forms of transport, electricity usage and other activities [3]. A periodic assessment should be made of total emissions and then offset.

3. References

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [Fourth Assessment Report](#), 2007.
2. Carbon Dioxide calculator at <http://www.carbonneutral.com.au/calculator.htm>
3. See, for example, Carbon Neutral: <http://www.carbonneutral.com.au/>