

Our investments in carbon offsets

Achieving carbon neutral certification involves measuring your carbon emissions, setting plans and targets to reduce those emissions and buying offsets for the remainder.

Uniting Communities has been offsetting its remaining carbon emissions since it became certified carbon neutral in 2015. Since that time, we have offset over 20,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions – that’s the equivalent of planting out 31 Adelaide Ovals!

In consideration of environmental, social and economic outcomes, our policy to date has been to purchase fifty percent of our offsets from Australia and fifty percent from overseas. However, since the price of offsets has increased dramatically in recent years, our policy has been revised to twenty percent from Australia and eighty percent from overseas.

Our investments to date have been in:

- local native biodiverse revegetation projects along the Murray-Darling between the Coorong, Murray Mouth and Riverland
- biodiversity offsets at Mount Sandy, South Australia
- the Yarra Yarra biodiverse revegetation project in Western Australia
- forest protection in Tasmania
- wind farms in India and Taiwan.

The revegetation projects sequester carbon through biodiverse native vegetation plantings. Effectively, we offset our emissions through the removal of carbon from the atmosphere.

The benefits of these reforestation projects are that they restore and protect many thousands of hectares of otherwise degraded farmland into a healthy landscape of native vegetation and wildlife in important biodiverse hotspots. Some of these projects also consult with the traditional owners and employ local First Nations people, while engaging with many local businesses to create new economic opportunities.

The overseas offsets are largely from wind-power generation projects that replace the use of fossil fuels thereby eliminating those carbon emissions. Wind-power is zero carbon. These projects also contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals including Climate Action, Clean Water and Sanitation, Decent Work and Economic Growth and Good Health and Wellbeing.

Where we can, we also engage suppliers who can provide 100% certified carbon neutral products such as carbon neutral certified copy paper. A demonstration of businesses working together to combat climate change.