

WHY ARE WE A CLIMATE NEUTRAL COMPANY?

Climate change represents the greatest challenge facing mankind since the end of the Ice Age and is the defining task of our time. The consequences of global warming are becoming more and more noticeable and the pressure on politics and companies is growing - not least due to the Fridays for Future movement. There is now worldwide agreement that we urgently need to counteract man-made climate change.



Success in reducing emissions depends to a large extent on the voluntary and consistent action of the economy in the industrialized countries. We at Carl Stahl Kromer GmbH are also ready to take responsibility for the world that we leave to our children and grandchildren. For this reason, we have had the greenhouse gas emissions caused by the activities of our company recorded and offset them by purchasing a total of 400 climate protection certificates for the years 2021 to 2022. With these certificates, we support a forest reforestation project in Uruguay that has been certified under the authority of the Verified Carbon Standard and the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance. We are aware of the special responsibility as a company towards future generations and have acted accordingly.

The Fokus Zukunft GmbH & Co. KG has determined the climate impact of our company for us: Our CO2 footprint is approx. 200 tons of CO2-equivalent pollutants per year. To illustrate: On average, a person in Germany causes around 11.6 tons of CO2 per year through their lifestyle.

Greenhouse gases are evenly distributed in the atmosphere. That is why it makes sense to avoid emissions where the costs are lowest. In addition, projects in emerging and developing countries help improve the economic, social and ecological situation and support the implementation of the United Nations' sustainability goals. For emerging and developing countries, emissions trading is a key driver for the transfer of clean technologies and sustainable economic development.



The present greenhouse gas balance gives a transparent overview of the greenhouse gas emissions of our company. The report thus forms an important component in our commitment to climate protection. On the basis of the determined values and by purchasing a corresponding amount of climate certificates, our company was made climate neutral.

We have received the “climate-neutral company” award for offsetting our greenhouse gases.



Why is our company committed to global climate protection?

The global community has agreed that global warming must be limited to below 2 degrees Celsius - better still to 1.5 degrees - in order to prevent catastrophic consequences. But the current commitments by the individual states are only sufficient to limit warming to a maximum of 4 degrees. In order to close this ambition gap, additional and considerable commitment from

companies and citizens is required. We have recognized that voluntary reductions in emissions and the compensation of unavoidable emissions are essential in order to be able to counteract climate change effectively. That is why we have decided to neutralize our CO₂ emissions and want to make a contribution to a future worth living in. Because we don't just want to analyze the problems, we also want to tackle and solve them.

What is a CO₂ footprint or a carbon footprint?

The CO₂ footprint is the measure of the amount of greenhouse gases (measured in CO₂ equivalents) that are created directly and indirectly through an activity of an individual, a company, an organization or a product. It includes emissions from raw materials, production, transport, trade, use, recycling and disposal. The basic idea of the CO₂ footprint or carbon footprint is therefore to create a basis on which the influences on the climate can be measured, evaluated and compared. This enables necessary reduction potentials to be identified, measures to be developed and their effectiveness to be assessed.

The corporate carbon footprint is the company's CO₂ footprint and the product carbon footprint is the CO₂ footprint of a product.

What does climate neutrality mean?

According to the principle of the "Clean Development Mechanism" described in the Kyoto Protocol, greenhouse gases that arise in one place on earth and cannot be avoided are to be saved in another place through climate protection projects. To finance this, companies buy certificates for corresponding climate protection projects from the six available project sectors (biomass, cooking stoves, solar energy, forest protection, hydropower and wind energy). Each certificate stands for 1 ton of CO₂ that is saved by the respective project. There are numerous climate protection projects around the world, most of which support renewable energy projects. The initiators of these projects receive emission credits for their commitment, which can be traded in the form of climate protection certificates. The amount is measured, for example, by comparison with the emissions that would have resulted from the construction of a coal-fired power plant.

How was the amount of CO₂ emissions calculated by our company?

We commissioned the external sustainability consultancy Focus Future to calculate our company's footprint. The emissions balance was calculated using the official guidelines of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

What is reported under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol?

The emissions are broken down within the Greenhouse Gas Protocol according to Scopes 1, 2 and 3, each of which comprises different types of greenhouse gas emissions. Scope 1 includes direct emissions from our own energy systems. Scope 2 covers emissions that arise indirectly when the company is provided with energy. Scope 3 emissions are additional indirect emissions that arise along the entire value chain.

Which greenhouse gases are included in the calculation?

The seven main greenhouse gases defined by the IPCC and the Kyoto Protocol, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), fluorocarbons (PFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃) and sulfur hexafluoride are used in the calculation of greenhouse gas emissions. SF₆ included.

What are CO₂ equivalents?

Not all of the seven main greenhouse gases are equally effective. Methane is z. B. 21 times as harmful to the climate as CO₂, nitrous oxide 310 times and sulfur hexafluoride even 14,000 times. In order to compare the emissions with each other, all greenhouse gases are converted to CO₂. One then speaks of CO₂ equivalents.

How are the consumption data collected converted into greenhouse gas emissions?

The consumption data collected (such as electricity consumption or fuel consumption) is converted using emission factors that specify the emissions per unit (e.g. per kilowatt hour of electricity or liter of petrol). The emission factors come mainly from DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), but also from the GEMIS database (Global Emissions Model of Integrated Systems, IINAS) and from the Ecoinvent database and are updated regularly.

How are emission certificates generated?

The initiators of the climate protection projects - mainly renewable energy projects - receive emission credits for their commitment, which can be traded in the form of climate protection certificates. The amount of the carbon offsetting is measured e.g. B. by comparison with the emissions that would have resulted from the construction of a coal-fired power plant instead of generating renewable electricity.

Which quality criteria do the climate protection projects meet?

The climate protection projects we buy are each accredited, approved and controlled according to one of the three internationally recognized certification standards - VCS (Verified Carbon Standard), UN CER (Certified Emission Reduction of the United Nations) or the Gold Standard developed by WWF. The validation of the project results in terms of the CO₂ savings achieved is certified by independent testing bodies, such as the TÜV.

What happens to the CO₂ certificates after they are purchased?

The number of CO₂ certificates acquired have been withdrawn. This is important because this shutdown is a prerequisite for the design and marketing of CO₂-neutral companies and / or products. Without a shutdown, a CO₂ certificate could possibly continue to be traded in the voluntary market, which would not result in any additional emissions reductions.

Which project is funded by the certificates purchased?

With a total of 400 certificates, we support a forest reforestation project in Uruguay that has been certified under the authority of the Verified Carbon Standard and the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance. The exact project description can be found at:

<https://www.fokus-zukunft.com/klimaschutzprojekte.html>

Why are international projects supported?



Climate change is global, so it doesn't matter where CO₂ emissions are emitted or saved, in the end the sum of the greenhouse gases is decisive. In Germany, reducing or offsetting CO₂ is very expensive, but offsetting is cheaper in emerging and developing countries. In the Kyoto Protocol, which is binding under international law, it was therefore stipulated that so-called climate protection projects that avoid or save greenhouse gas emissions should take place where they are most economical.

Accordingly, there are many projects in emerging and developing countries, as the potential for savings through new technologies is still very high and these can be used much more cheaply. In addition, the conditions for renewable energy systems (sun, wind, water and biomass) are often much more favorable there. In addition, the projects in emerging and developing countries help improve the economic, social and ecological situation and support the implementation of the United Nations' sustainability goals. For emerging and developing countries, emissions trading is a key driver for the transfer of clean technologies and sustainable economic development.



Benefits of climate neutrality and green business...

1. Contribution to the goals of the government, the European Union and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations.
2. Raising awareness among employees, suppliers and customers regarding the use of finite resources. This positively changes the way energy and other resources are used in the company and in people's everyday lives.
3. Entry into the growth market "sustainable companies". We can distinguish ourselves in our market segment thanks to our "climate neutral" status.
4. This currently enables a pioneering role and thus positions our company as progressive, innovative, cooperative and future-oriented.
5. Promotes awareness of the energy transition.
6. Due to the status as a climate-neutral company and the offer, the company becomes a partner of its customers in the above-mentioned topics.

Our new certificates:



CO2 neutral company



Verified Carbon Standard