



## CARBON OFFSETS FOR PARTICIPANT TRAVEL

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) recognizes that travel to our meetings constitutes a significant climate impact, contributing to CSHL's overall carbon footprint, as well as our attendees' personal footprints. As one measure to mitigate climate effects of our meetings, we will be purchasing carbon offsets for travel to/from our campus, as outlined below.

We do not intend to implement this measure to avoid hard conversations, or diminish the importance of making long-term changes to reduce emissions. We feel this is a realistic, immediate action we can take to reduce the overall carbon footprint of our meetings without losing critical elements that make these convenings impactful (e.g. face-to-face engagement).

### What are Carbon Offsets?

[Information from the Natural Resources Defense Council: Miller, P. (2019, September 30). *Carbon Offsets 101*. Retrieved from [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org)]

- *Carbon offsets are credits purchased from projects that are designed to reduce emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases. Offset projects do this by implementing actions to increase the sequestration of climate-warming carbon dioxide into long-lived reservoirs of carbon like trees, soils, and wetlands, or by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases from such sources as landfills, farms, and coal mines.*
- *Each carbon offset credit is associated with the emission reduction from a specific project. In order to provide a benefit to the climate, a carbon offset project has to actually reduce emissions to the atmosphere beyond what would occur without the project. ["additionality"]*
- *Depending on the project type, offsets can also provide important co-benefits like protection of endangered ecosystems, green jobs, and improvements to local air quality and public health.*
- *Key criteria to look for in evaluating carbon offset programs are:*
  1. *A clearly defined standardized set of requirements...that determine which types of projects are eligible and how emission reductions are to be measured;*
  2. *Verification of compliance with these requirements by an independent third party;*
  3. *Registration of the offsets in an offset registry, which tracks each credit with a unique serial number to ensure it can only be used once; and*
  4. *Full transparency on project implementation and reporting.*

**Beginning in January 2020, the Banbury Center will purchase carbon offsets for all meeting participants** based on estimated tonnes of carbon produced from roundtrip travel via air, rail, or car. Offsets will be purchased from Cool Effect ([www.cooleffect.org](http://www.cooleffect.org)), a registered 501(c)3, which meets the four criteria outlined above. The funds will be directed to support the *Mirador Clean Cookstoves* project.

Please direct enquiries about this initiative to: [Banbury@cshl.edu](mailto:Banbury@cshl.edu) or +1 516 367 8398