

# Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team Goes Carbon Neutral

**Beckley, WV**-- Climate change has become a pressing issue and people around the world are trying to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. To make these reductions and contribute to a cleaner environment the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team has just gone carbon neutral.

This move was made in early November when the Watershed Team purchased offsets from Carbonfund.org-- these will neutralize all of the team's carbon dioxide emissions.

"We want to do our part," said Team Coordinator Allan Comp after emphasizing the necessity of addressing climate change.

Carbon emissions are created by burning fossil fuels which provide the Watershed Team-- and the rest of the nation-- with energy for employee commutes, powering offices, shipping packages, and traveling to and from trainings. Carbon credits balance out these carbon emissions by funding projects like tree plantings, increased energy efficiency, and the installation of renewable energy.

In the past the Watershed Team has worked on reducing their carbon output by requiring carpooling to its central training locations. In the month of October alone, offsets from these trainings amounted to nearly 140 Tons of carbon dioxide. Now, carbon emissions from these training events as well as all day-to-day office use of energy will be offset

with carbon credits going directly towards projects within the country.

The efforts of the Watershed Team to act as an environmental leader have been recognized by the Department of the Interior with a national Environment Achievement Award and by Patagonia, the outdoor apparel company. Patagonia supports the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team with funding and features them in their current annual Environmental Initiatives booklet.

The ACCWT is a coalition of change-minded grassroots-level watershed improvement groups determined to repair the environmental degradation left from historic coal mining while creating economic stability needed in our rural communities. The ACCWT is a partnership between the Office of Surface Mining, AmeriCorps VISTA, and local watershed/community improvement groups, sponsoring 49 OSM/VISTAs throughout seven states in the Appalachian Region, headquartered in Beckley, WV. For more information, visit [www.accwt.org](http://www.accwt.org).

