

# Carbon Neutral System Dynamics Conferences PROCLAMATION

Whereas the System Dynamics Society (SDS) is a leader in both system dynamics and systems thinking, which capture the implications and potential drawbacks of short-term fixes against long-term solutions, we acknowledge that:

*There is strong evidence to indicate that most of the global warming observed since the mid 20th century is very likely caused by anthropogenic emissions of green house gases (GHG);<sup>i</sup>*

*There is strong evidence that global warming will cause a wide range of serious problems in countries around the world;<sup>ii</sup>*

*The economic costs of dealing with these problems have been estimated to be several times higher than the costs of curtailing anthropogenic GHG emissions.<sup>iii</sup>*

Whereas the SDS recognizes that, although climate change is a symptom of population growth, land-use changes, and increased fossil-fuel-based industrialization; the SDS also recognizes that:

*Even with zero-emission fuel sources, projected temperature increases can, in part, be mitigated by sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>;*

*More research, education and outreach are necessary to solve the problems of population growth, unsustainable land-use changes and fossil-fuel-based industrialization;*

*Conferences are a beneficial tool for the progress of research, education and outreach, and such conferences normally require members to travel significant distances;*

*And, currently, vehicle and airline travel are an important sources of anthropogenic emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>iv</sup>*

Therefore, the SDS should make every effort to minimize the carbon emissions associated with its operations and conferences, in the spirit of corporate social responsibility and, thus, chooses to internalize the negative impacts of its actions.

*The SDS recognizes that although carbon-offsetting markets have limitations and the practice of carbon offsetting can produce unintended consequences; this mechanism is a useful approach to reduce anthropogenic emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>.<sup>v</sup>*

Whereas Carbonfund.org is a carbon offset organization that is non-profit,<sup>vi</sup> durable and third party verified,<sup>vii</sup> used by reputable academic institutions,<sup>viii</sup> NGOs,<sup>ix</sup> and is endorsed by the Environmental Defense Fund,<sup>x</sup> offering investment opportunities in non-carbon energy-generation projects, in the pursuit of energy efficiency, and in the prevention of forest losses, as well as reforestation.<sup>xi</sup>

*Therefore, in consideration of the preceding, the SDS will use Carbonfund.org as a method to mitigate the carbon production of its conferences, until such time that other offsetting solutions are preferred, virtual conferences are held in lieu of face-to-face conferences, or non-carbon sources of energy are used for participant travel and any conference-related energy-consuming activities in general.*

Furthermore, **the SDS will include in the registration fee the individualized cost of the carbon-equivalent offsets, corresponding to the estimated overall conference-related carbon emissions divided by the number of expected attendees, allowing registrants to opt “out” if they so wish.** The fee will be sufficient to also cover the Society Office costs for collecting the moneys and making the offsetting investments.

# Carbon Neutral System Dynamics Conferences PROCLAMATION

## References:

---

i Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change AR4 2007 Report

ii *Id*

iii *Id*

iv *Id*

v *Id*

vi [http://www.carbonfund.org/site/pages/faq/carbonfundorg\\_financial\\_statements](http://www.carbonfund.org/site/pages/faq/carbonfundorg_financial_statements)

vii [http://www.carbonfund.org/site/pages/our\\_projects/category/Project\\_Selection](http://www.carbonfund.org/site/pages/our_projects/category/Project_Selection)

viii Schools and Universities (partial list):

Carnegie Institution Department of Global Ecology - Stanford University

Catawba College - Center for the Environment

Columbia University

Environmental Law Advocates - Fordham University

Erb Institute for Global Sustainable Enterprise - University of Michigan

Illinois Institute of Technology

IMD

John F. Kennedy University

London School of Economics and Political Science

North Carolina State University

Oberlin College

Rush University Medical Center

University of California - Berkeley

Yale School of Management

ix NGOs (partial list):

Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors

Ecological Society of America

Environmental Resources Trust

Garden Club of America

Globe Aware

Groundspring - Environmental Defense

National Audubon Society

National Business Travel Association

National Wildlife Federation

Oxfam America

Truckee Climate Action Network

World Wildlife Fund

x <http://innovation.edf.org/page.cfm?tagID=23994>

xi <http://www.carbonfund.org/projects>