



CRS Report for Congress: The Role of Offsets in a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Cap-and-Trade Program: Potential Benefits and Concerns

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By Jonathan L. Ramseur

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 38 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. If Congress establishes a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction program (e. g. , cap-and-trade system), the treatment of GHG emission offsets would likely be a critical design element. If allowed as part of an emissions program, offsets could provide cost savings and other benefits. However, offsets have generated concern. An offset is a measurable reduction, avoidance, or sequestration of GHG emissions from a source not covered by an emission reduction program. If allowed, offset projects could generate emission credits, which could be used by a regulated entity (e. g. , power plant) to comply with its reduction requirement. Offsets could include various activities: agriculture or forestry projects: e. g. , conservation tillage or planting trees on previously non-forested lands; renewable energy projects: e. g. , wind farms; energy efficiency projects: e. g. , equipment upgrades; non-CO₂ emissions reduction projects: e. g. , methane from landfills. Including offsets would likely make an emissions program more cost-effective by (1) providing an incentive for non-regulated sources to generate emission reductions and (2) expanding emission compliance opportunities for regulated entities. Some offset projects may provide...



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