

Climate Ticket

| Tatabánya, Hungary |



CONVERGE

OVERVIEW

The idea of the “climate ticket” is to raise the awareness of the general public (including individuals and businesses) that their lifestyle has an impact on their environment. The carbon-calculator that has been created within the project allows users to calculate their CO₂ emissions. Once they know the amount of CO₂ emissions their lifestyle is responsible for, they can voluntarily offer to offset these emissions by contributing financially to a local sustainability project. To offset 100 kg of CO₂ emissions would cost one climate ticket with a value of 1000 HUF (about 4 EUR). Contributions may be offered to any of 100 local projects, including tree-planting, composting, building bicycle paths, selective waste collection, environmental projects at educational institutions, etc. It is also possible to support green investment in residential buildings (acceptance of these projects is considered upon presenting appropriate documentation). The contribution should be paid at the municipality offices. When the investment is ready the contributors receive a certificate.



CONTEXT: THE PERCEIVED PROBLEM

The climate ticket project was initiated in order to raise awareness of climate change issues in the city and region of Tatabánya in Hungary for all stakeholders (general population, enterprises and companies, educational institutions, public authorities, etc.), to establish links between climate change and everyday (and organizational) activities and to create a sense of responsibility for emissions through offering offsetting opportunities that at the same time have a positive impact on the standard of living in the region.

INITIATIVE SOLUTION AND PROCESS

In 2008 the Municipality of Tatabánya and the First Hungarian Carbon Offsetting Institute Ltd. decided to set up a consortium and a system that helped people and organizations to offset their emissions at the local level through green investments. The project received support from the Environment and Energy Operational Programme of the EU. Carbon offsetting exists as a means to enable actors to do something about residual carbon footprints. The climate-ticket system works by helping businesses and individuals to assess the size of their carbon footprints and to pay for them as by providing investment into projects in the Tatabánya Region. All of the proposed investment projects have numerous co-benefits such as improving the quality of life and well-being of local communities.

CONTRACTION AND CONVERGENCE ELEMENTS

CONTRACTION

The project builds on the notion that CO₂ emissions are currently above acceptable limits. In addition, promotional materials used by the initiative highlight the need to go further than reducing carbon emissions and make sure that other environmental impacts are reduced, too.

Individuals and businesses that recognize their carbon emission-related responsibilities are encouraged to specifically invest in green projects within the local and regional community. To facilitate this process, projects to be invested in are offered throughout the region, and their offset value is calculated.

CONVERGENCE

In terms of awareness raising about carbon footprints and facilitating offsetting this initiative is a clear attempt at burden sharing at the individual, local and regional levels. At the same time, the core documents of the initiative do not mention equity or justice.

CURRENT STATUS AND IMPACT

The climate ticket initiative was supported by EU funds in 2008-2010. The initiative could easily be repeated elsewhere with some investment of resources. There have been plans to replicate it in other cities and regions in Hungary. However, there is no proof of this happening so far.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:

1. Initiative website: <http://www.noco2.hu/>
2. Greenfo/MTI. 2010. Klímajegy Tatabányán [Climate ticket in Tatabánya]. Available at: http://www.greenfo.hu/hirek/hirek_item.php?hir=23345/. Date 14 January 2010. (Last accessed 31st July 2011)
3. Video message from Ethan Berkowitz governor candidate in Alaska to the Tatabánya Climate Ticket initiative: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WiQc17kB1io>

