



CARBON NEUTRAL EVENTS: OUTLOOK AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

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Events or gatherings have become a part of social life. Any event, small or big accounts for the emissions of Green House Gas (GHG) associated with activities like transportation, electricity, food, event arrangements, etc. The emitted carbon emission has to be balanced/compensated by carbon offsetting. Such events where carbon emission is balanced by carbon offsetting are called carbon neutral events. Carbon neutral events can be achieved by carbon offsetting and reducing emissions.

Many events such as FIFA, IUCN, World Resource Forum, Moving for Climate Now, Forum Suisse sur les Ressources, Indian Dance Festival and Global Negotiation Conference have taken the step forward to become carbon neutral. Many countries and corporate around the globe are taking initiatives in organizing carbon neutral events.

Organizing a carbon neutral event requires a good planning well in advance. For organizing carbon neutral events, renewable energy for electricity such as solar or wind energy can be used. To reduce carbon emissions from transportation, carpooling, public transportation and electric vehicles could be used.



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In case of food, using low carbon food like organic and seasonal vegetables and fruits, groceries from local market, using eco-friendly spoons, straws and plates or use of banana leaves are some ways to reduce carbon foot-print. Invitations can be made from recycled paper and fabric. Plantable/seed paper can be used for making invitations. Food waste generated from the event can be used to generate biogas and other organic waste can be composted.

Carbon neutral events should use only eco-friendly products that are biodegradable and avoid using non-biodegradable products such as plastics. If carbon emissions are not possible to be reduced in some cases, then equivalent number of trees can be planted and contributed in afforestation. Carbon neutral events should account for both direct and indirect sources of carbon emission and take actions to reduce or offset it. All aspects of the event should be carbon neutral.

Climate Neutral was launched by UN Climate Change in 2015, encouraging all stakeholders to achieve climate neutral by mid-century in accordance with the Paris Agreement. It proposes a set of actions; measure, reduce and offset with carbon credits.

Organizing and conducting more of carbon neutral events will help in reducing global warming and mitigating the impacts of climate change. Individuals, communities and organizations while organizing an event or gathering can work together in conducting a carbon neutral event. Such initiatives will encourage others to indulge themselves in organizing carbon-neutral events. Let us contribute to mitigate climate change by organizing carbon-neutral events