



Date of Adoption: August 21, 2015

Date of Expiry: August 21, 2018

Air Travel Policy

1.0 Preamble

Air travel is one of the most energy and resource intensive activities undertaken by the Kwantlen Student Association (KSA). While the KSA has much to gain from conferences and professional development experiences, the emissions from the required air travel are harmful to the environment. Flying is the most carbon intensive of all travel modes and should be considered as a last resort after carpools, trains, and buses.

In recent years many organizations have adopted Carbon Offset policies to demonstrate their commitment to the environment while also recognizing the need for air travel. These policies entail making a financial contribution to a carbon reduction project every time they travel by air equivalent to the amount of carbon emitted from the flight.

Carbon offset projects occur all around the world. Different offset providers and standards permit certain types of projects to be counted for carbon offsetting. Often these projects include reducing or preventing the amount of carbon emitted through changes like biomass convertors, energy efficiency projects, renewable energy projects, and efficient cook stove projects, depending on the location and type of project, a certifying organization quantifies and values the offsets. Carbon offsets are somewhat like shares in the project though the benefit to the purchaser is the reduction in carbon emissions not a financial.

To reduce the impact of air travel, in addition to offsetting the flight, the following list should be followed as often as possible:

1. Choose direct flights whenever possible; landing and taking off uses the most energy
2. Choose daytime flights; contrails are most impactful during overnight flights
3. Fly economy; more people on the plane reduces each individual's carbon footprint
4. Pack light; lighter planes use less energy

2.0 Definitions

Carbon Offset - A carbon offset occurs when an individual or organization emits a given amount of GHG emissions but invests in measures that remove the equivalent volume of GHG emissions from the atmosphere or prevents the emissions from taking place at all. (Offsetters.ca)



3.0 Policy

Whereas the KSA undertakes air travel for professional development and conference activities;

And Whereas the KSA has a sustainability policy and organizational focus on environmental health.

4.0 Resolution

Therefore be it Resolved that the KSA select less impactful modes of travel wherever possible and where flights are not avoidable, that the least impactful flights options are selected.

And be it Further Resolved that the KSA commit to off-setting air travel by purchasing carbon off-sets from a reputable provider at the time of purchasing the flight.

And be it Further Resolved that KSA clubs using KSA funds for travel will choose the least impactful modes of travel whenever possible, and where flights cannot be avoided, select the least impactful flight options.

And be it Further Resolved that KSA clubs using KSA funds to purchase flights will purchase reputable off-sets for their air travel at the time of purchase and report this to the KSA.

And be it Further Resolved that the KSA annually report on its air travel activities and related carbon offsets.

And be it Further Resolved that the KSA encourages KPU to create a similar policy and offset their flight activities