



The Green Communities Offset Fund™

Offsetting Our Environmental Impact by Creating Green Affordable Homes

Many of our daily activities result in the burning of fossil fuels, which generates carbon dioxide emissions, a primary cause of global warming. More of us are taking steps to live and work more sustainably – by recycling, by reducing our energy consumption and by walking or taking mass transit more often. Another way to be more environmentally responsible is to support projects undertaken by others that result in lower emissions of carbon dioxide.

Supporting these projects enables us to “offset” the amount of carbon dioxide that we generate at home and work. By voluntarily funding “carbon offsets,” we can also help reduce pollution and encourage innovation in the fight against global climate change.

Energy use from residential buildings accounts for 20 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S., so projects that result in more energy efficient homes are an opportunity for carbon offsets. The homes where millions of low-income Americans live are highly inefficient, severely straining family budgets. Improving their energy efficiency can deliver substantial benefits to families as well as the environment.

About the Green Communities Offset Fund

The Enterprise Green Communities Offset Fund offers an opportunity for organizations, individuals and events to offset their carbon emissions by helping create carbon-reducing homes for low-income families.¹

Through the Fund, Enterprise Community Partners, a national nonprofit, raises and deploys contributions to enable community-based groups to create homes for low-income people that generate lower carbon emissions by being more energy efficient and using renewable energy. All contributions to the Fund are also tax deductible.

¹ Green homes are designed and built to use resources more efficiently than new homes built to the current building code. As a result, green homes are typically healthier and more energy efficient, comfortable and environmentally responsible than conventional code-built homes.

How the Green Communities Offset Fund Works

The Fund raises and pools contributions from organizations, individuals and events to purchase carbon offsets from green affordable housing developments participating in the Green Communities initiative, the largest green affordable housing program in the United States. (www.greencommunitiesonline.org)

Fully 100 percent of all contributions go to community-based organizations for activities that increase energy efficiency in homes for low-income people and result in additional and verified carbon emissions reductions. All Fund proceeds support activities that directly reduce carbon emissions below the level that otherwise would be achievable by funding specific energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements.

The Fund utilizes rigorous accounting and monitoring procedures to determine and verify offsets that are aligned with international best practices. The Fund “retires” the offsets it purchases, meaning the reductions cannot be “double counted” or sold again.

Enterprise Community Partners’ Role

Enterprise Community Partners www.enterprisecommunity.org is a 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity whose mission is to see that all low-income people have the opportunity for fit and affordable housing and to move up and out of poverty into the mainstream of American life. Enterprise provides financial and technical support to community-based organizations to create environmentally sustainable homes throughout the U.S.

Enterprise deploys 100 percent of contributions to the Fund to support specified energy efficiency measures that reduce carbon emissions in qualified projects. Enterprise takes no fee for its role as Fund Manager. In its role as Fund Manager, Enterprise:

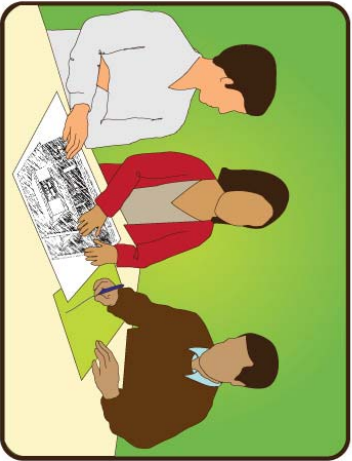
- ! Raises charitable contributions to capitalize the Fund;
- ! Assists Fund contributors in determining their carbon emissions;
- ! Identifies qualified projects;
- ! Deploys 100 percent of contributions to purchase carbon offsets
- ! Retires purchased carbon offsets;
- ! Verifies offsets through independent third party review; and
- ! Monitors projects to ensure emission reductions have been achieved for ten years;

In addition, Enterprise may provide additional financial and technical support to qualified projects through its Green Communities initiative.

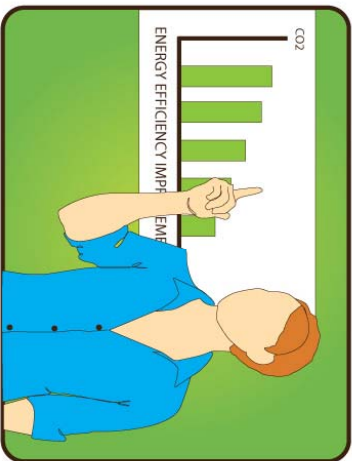
ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INC.

American City Building ■ 10227 Wincopin Circle ■ Columbia, MD 21044 ■ 410.964.1230 ■
www.enterprisecommunity.org ■ www.greencommunitiesonline.org ■ www.offsetfund.org

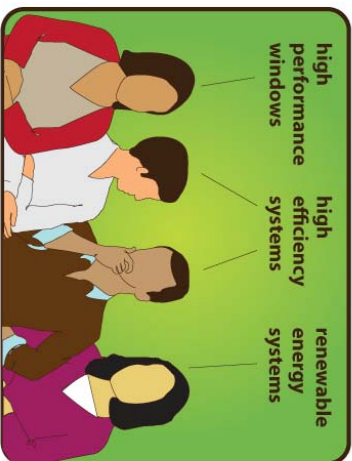
The Green Communities Offset Fund



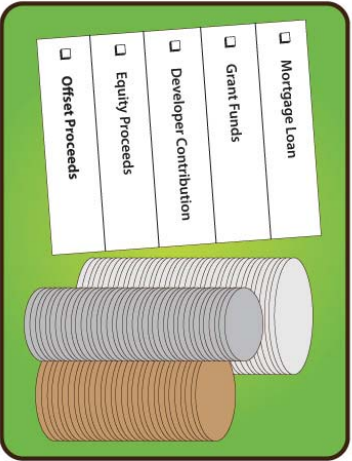
Developer designs green affordable homes to provide health, economic and environmental benefits to low-income people.



Enterprise educates the developer on options for an even greener project by tapping the carbon market.



Developer revises the project to be more energy efficient or use renewable energy – leading to lower carbon emissions.



Enterprise's Green Communities Offset Fund pays for the projected additional emissions reductions ("offsets"). Payment helps make the carbon reducing project improvements.



Developer commits not to sell the offsets to anyone else for ten years.



Enterprise certifies actual levels of emissions reductions in projects after they are built annually for ten years.

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INC.

American City Building ■ 10227 Wincopin Circle ■ Columbia, MD 21044 ■ 410.964.1230 ■
www.enterprisecommunity.org ■ www.greencommunitiesonline.org ■ www.offsetfund.org

Ensuring Program Integrity

Enterprise takes ultimate responsibility for the integrity of the Green Communities Offset Fund™, ensuring that offsets are:

- ! Real – resulting in the expected carbon emission reductions
- ! Permanent – not a temporary reduction in carbon emissions
- ! Additional – above and beyond “business as usual”

The last point is critical. Most affordable housing is not nearly as energy efficient as it could and should be because affordable housing developers often lack the necessary resources and expertise. Renewable energy sources can also be difficult to incorporate. The Green Communities Offset Fund™ provides needed resources to help fill this gap. The eligible uses of Fund proceeds are restricted to specified measures that directly increase energy efficiency or lower use of fossil fuels and reduce CO₂ emissions in projects beyond what would have been achievable in their absence.

A Unique Offset Opportunity

A number of worthwhile activities can offset carbon emissions, including planting trees, supporting renewable energy projects and capturing carbon emissions in forests and agricultural soils. The Green Communities Offset Fund offers a unique opportunity to cut carbon emissions *and* help low-income families experience the benefits of greener homes: lower energy bills, a healthier living environment and better performing properties – right here in our communities in the U.S.

In other words, contributions to the Green Communities Offset Fund generate true “double bottom line” benefits: They’re investments in environmental protection and environmental justice.

For More Information

Please go to www.offsetfund.org or email offsetfund@enterprisecommunity.org.

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INC.

American City Building ■ 10227 Wincopin Circle ■ Columbia, MD 21044 ■ 410.964.1230 ■
www.enterprisecommunity.org ■ www.greencommunitiesonline.org ■ www.offsetfund.org