

## **New kiosks at SFO first to sell carbon offsets**

By Michael Cabanatuan, staff writer  
S.F. Chronicle, Friday, September 18, 2009

Travelers flying out of San Francisco International Airport can be the first in the nation to wipe away some of the damage their flights wreak on the planet by swiping their credit cards.

On Thursday, the Bay Area's largest airport unveiled three Climate Passport kiosks with touch screens that determine how many pounds of carbon dioxide a trip will produce, calculate the sum an environmentally conscious traveler should contribute to projects in San Francisco and California that help reduce greenhouse gases, then allow fliers to purchase certified carbon offsets.

"We realize people are going to fly," said Steve McDougal, executive vice president of 3Degrees, a San Francisco company that helped SFO develop the program. "This gives them something they can do to reduce their impact. This is just one of many small things people need to do."

The kiosks are located near the entrances to Terminal 3 and international terminals A and G - behind security checkpoints and perched in front of large signs reading, "Keep our skies blue. Purchase your air travel carbon offset here."

Setting up the Climate Passport program cost \$190,000 in airport funds, said Kandace Bender, deputy airport director.

Judging from the reaction of the first two travelers to take a test spin of the touch screens, it's not clear whether the program will fly.

Soon after a press conference to unveil the kiosk in Terminal 3 concluded, Shane Johnson, 39, a traveling salesman from Vancouver, B.C., strolled up to take a look.

"What is it?" he asked.

Johnson punched in his starting airport and his destination - Vancouver to SFO and back - entered the number of passengers in his party - one - and hit the "add flight" button and the "calculate my flights" button.

His round trip would produce 1,186 pounds of carbon dioxide, which could be offset with a contribution of \$7.26, the computer said. Johnson chose not to tap the "purchase now" button and slide his credit card into the kiosk.

"I don't live here, so I prefer to make my donations at home," he said.

A few minutes later, Bostonian Ari Peskoe, catching a flight home after a job interview, stopped by the machine and became the first person to purchase a carbon offset at SFO.

"My flight was free, so I thought buying some greenhouse gas reduction was the least I could do," he said.

His one-way trip home, the computer concluded, would produce 1,999 pounds of carbon dioxide, which could be offset for \$12.24.

Despite his purchase, Peskoe said he's a bit skeptical about the concept of carbon offsets. Some critics question whether some of the programs that receive money are effective in reducing carbon dioxide.

McDougal said he understands such doubts, but that the projects funded by SFO fliers have been approved by an independent third party.

Climate Passport contributions fund the Garcia River Forest, a reforestation project in Mendocino County where redwood and Douglas fir trees are being added to a forest that had been heavily logged.

They also go to the SFCarbon Fund, which is steering the money to Dogpatch Biofuels, a bio-diesel fueling station in southeastern San Francisco.

### **SFO sets up fee to help offset carbon emissions**

The Associated Press

In the Merced Sun-Star, Friday, Sept. 18, 2009

SAN FRANCISCO -- Air travelers departing from San Francisco International Airport have a chance to fork over a few more greenbacks if they're feeling blue about carbon emissions.

As part of a program unveiled Thursday, airport officials say outbound airline passengers can stop at new "Climate Passport" kiosks and pay a voluntary fee.

The idea behind the program is to offset emissions from departing flights.

A passenger flying round-trip to New York City will have the opportunity to pay a little more than \$23, while the fee for a one-way trip to Los Angeles would be about \$1.50.

Officials say for every \$16.50 collected, \$15 will go to reforestation efforts at the Garcia River Forest in Mendocino County. The remaining money will go to a San Francisco green program.

### **Judge will not block Yellowstone snowmobile plan**

By Associated Press

In the S.F. Chronicle and other papers, Thursday, September 17, 2009

Cheyenne, Wyo. (AP) -- A judge in Wyoming says he has no authority to block a federal plan to reduce snowmobile traffic in Yellowstone National Park this winter.

Wednesday's ruling by U.S. District Judge Clarence Brimmer may mean no more than 318 snowmobiles will be allowed in the park each day this winter. Last year, the park allowed 720 snowmobiles.

The number that should be allowed in the world's first national park has been the subject of a long, convoluted legal battle.

Snowmobile proponents, including the state of Wyoming, say the activity is important to the economies of communities around the park during the winter. Environmentalists contend the machines cause noise and air pollution in the park.