# Carbon Program Overview & Update AML Annual Conference



Presented by Trevor Fulton, Carbon Offset Manager Office of Project Management & Permitting Alaska Department of Natural Resources December 6, 2023









## Overview



#### 1. Carbon offset basics

- Compliance vs. voluntary markets
- Nature-based carbon projects
- Demand
- Benefits to Alaska

#### 2. Program details

- Current status
- Draft regulations/public comment
- 3. Project selection
- 4. Future opportunities
- 5. Underground carbon storage



## Carbon offsets

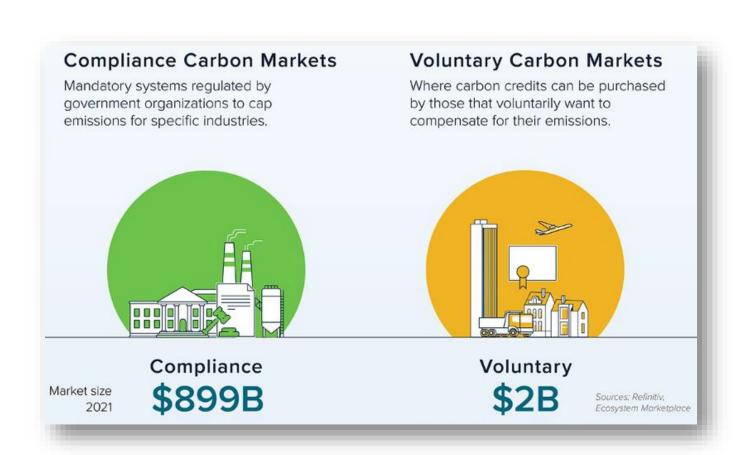


#### Compliance vs. voluntary markets

- Compliance market = government mandated
- Voluntary market = voluntary targets set by companies

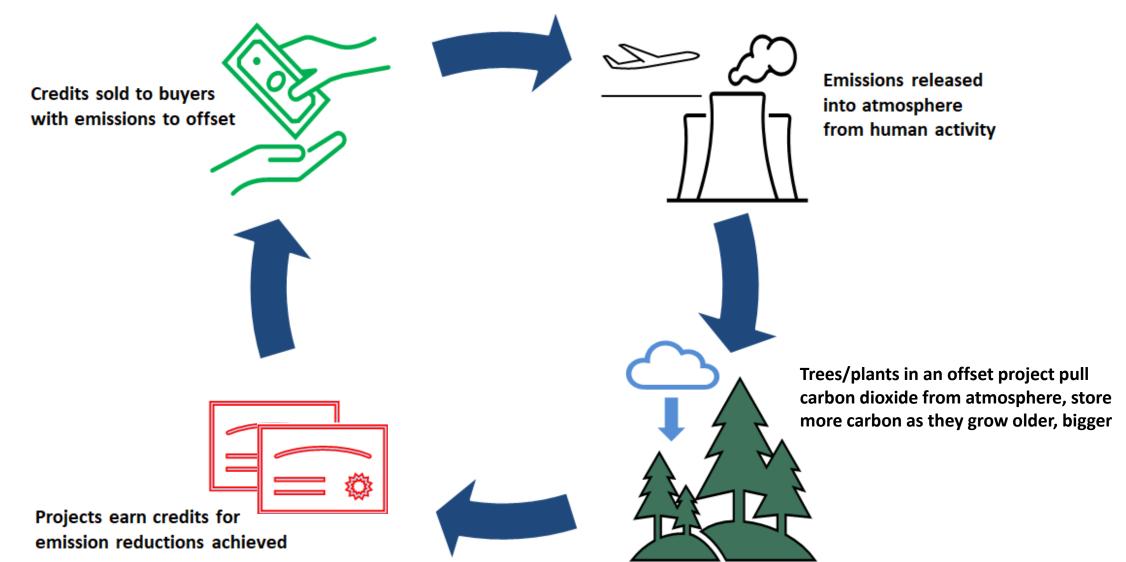
#### State carbon program

- Voluntary/market-based
- Nature-based projects
- Remove CO<sup>2</sup> from atmosphere



## Nature-based carbon offsets





## Carbon offsets – project requirements

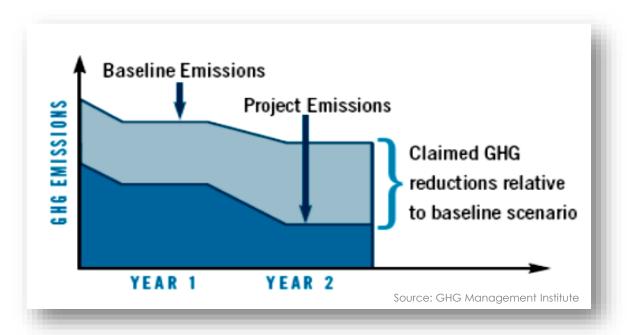


#### Baseline

- Carbon emissions that would have occurred without the project
- The "business-as-usual" scenario

#### Additionality

- The carbon benefit created by a project, above the baseline scenario
- Requires a change in how the resource is managed: either increase carbon removal or decrease carbon emissions
- Not "doing what we would have done"



## Carbon offsets – demand



# **Citibank Vows to Reach Net Zero Goals With Purchase of Carbon Credits**

Nasdaq.com, March 8, 2023

# Amtrak pledges net-zero greenhouse gas

emissions by 2045

Washington Post, Sept 22, 2022

Flying with purpose: Alaska sets new climate goals, including net-zero carbon emissions by 2040

Alaska Airlines, April 21, 2021

## T-Mobile Sets Industry-Leading 2040 Net-Zero Commitment

Forbes, Feb 3, 2022

Ford breaks down how it plans to reach its zero emissions commitment

## Carbon offsets – benefits



- New source of state revenue
- 'Maximum use' per Alaska Constitution
- Compatible with existing land and resource use
- Positive environmental impact
- Incentivizes active forest management and rebuilding timber stock
- Does not 'lock up' land



# SB48 – Carbon Offset Program



- Created two paths for carbon projects
  - 1. State Carbon Offset Projects
  - 2. Carbon Management Leases
- Limits project terms to 55 years
- Keeps project areas open to public, resource development
- Provides project evaluation criteria
- Caps commission for contracted services
- Requires annual report to the legislature
- 20% of revenue to renewable energy grant fund



Governor Mike Dunleavy signs SB 48 into law at the Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, May 23, 2023

# Carbon Offset Program



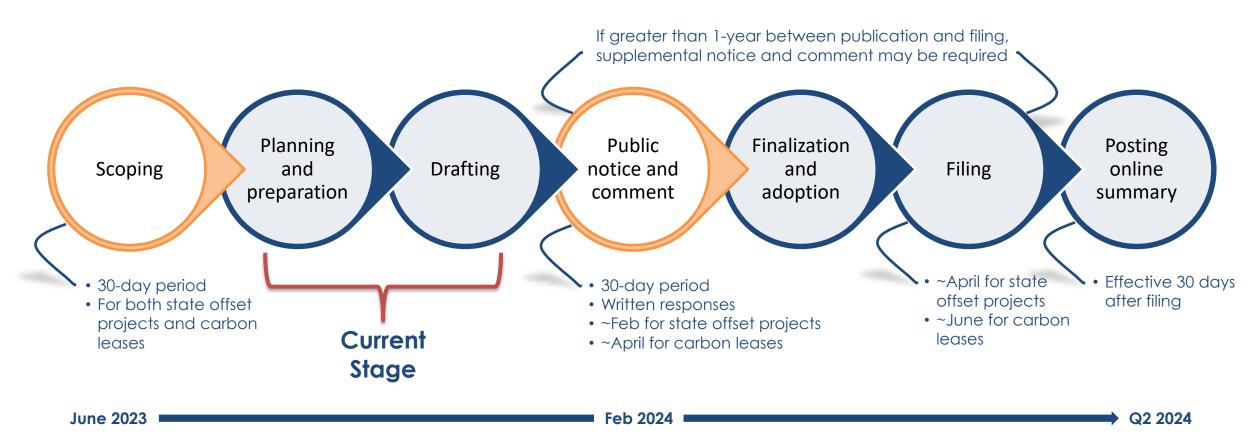
- Hiring program staff
  - Office of Project Management & Permitting
  - Division of Forestry & Fire Protection
  - Division of Mining, Land & Water
- Developing regulations
- Public/agency comment
- Next steps
  - Identify state-led projects
  - Review lease applications



# Carbon Offset Program



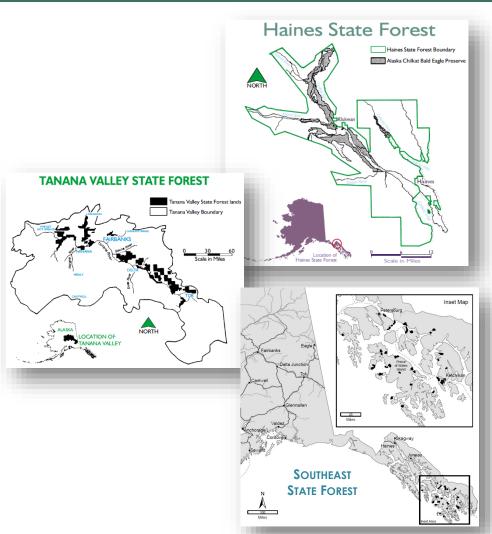
## Regulation Process



# Carbon offset projects



- State land broadly available, but projects in state forests benefit from existing data/information
- Location depends on land classification, developer interest, and project type
- Project size will vary, depending on the area and on forest characteristics/stocking potential
- Projects should complement existing sectors (i.e. 'grow the pie')



# Carbon offsets – future opportunities



#### Blue Carbon

 Nature-based use of ocean and coastal. ecosystems to absorb/store carbon

#### Wildland Fire

 Carbon offsets based on reducing wildfire severity/emissions through prescribed burning, thinning, and planned firebreaks

#### Biochar

 Converts waste wood and other biosolids into a carbon product with a range of uses







# Carbon offsets – municipalities



### Municipal projects

- Similar opportunities/benefits
- Muni → carbon registry
- Dependent upon
  - Protocol availability
  - Resource/acreage
  - Land use compatibility

#### Project examples

- Forestry-based
- Waste management
- Wildland fire reduction

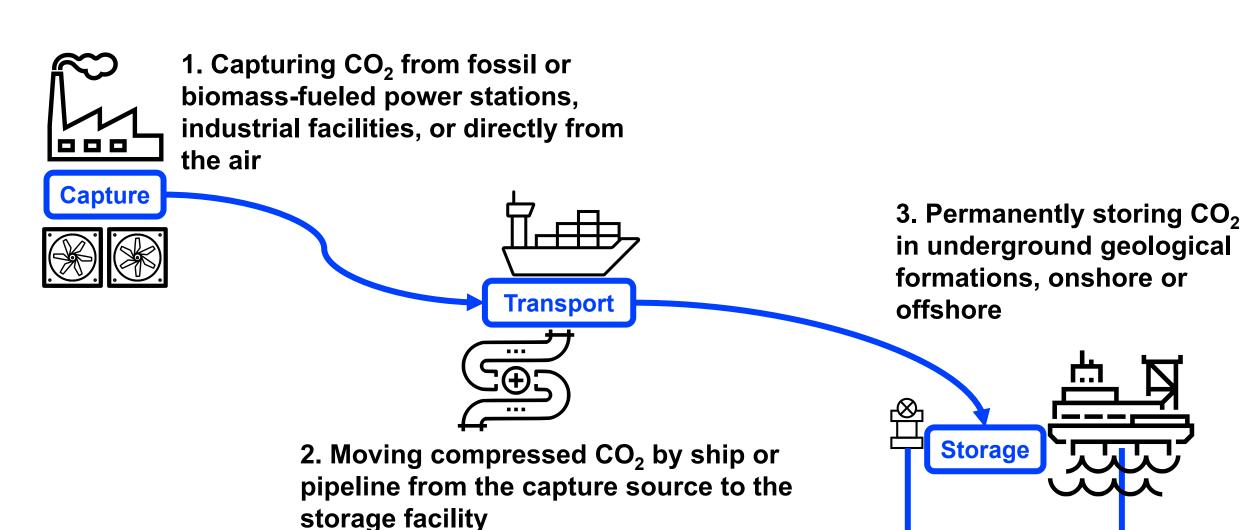
## Project aggregation

- Partner with state
- Share costs, increase benefits



# Underground carbon storage (CCUS)





## Contact





Trevor Fulton
Carbon Offset Manager
Department of Natural Resources

trevor.fulton@alaska.gov | (907) 269-8755 dnr.alaska.gov/carbon