



## **BRC 2018**

### **Black Rock Labs/Ideate Carbon Offset Program**

For the BRC 2018 event, Black Rock Labs (BRL) and Ideate are deploying & promoting the C-Quest carbon offset platform established and executed in consultation with BRL for BRC 2017 participants. The 2017 BRC carbon offset campaign generated 557 tons of carbon offsets from the deployment of clean efficient wood stoves in Africa. The stove GPS locations are mapped in Google Earth as seen on the C-Quest BRC offset webpage:

<https://cquestcapital.com/offsets-index#going-to-burningman>

C-Quest carbon offsets are both strategic and representative of the innovative capacity and global reach of the Burning Man community. In addition to strict requirements that the carbon offsets are real, verifiable, permanent and additional, the carbon credits sourced from C-Quest carbon reduction projects are emblematic of transformational or charismatic carbon projects. These projects focus on technologies with multiple benefits in addition to climate security and are leveraged to catalyze innovation.

Carbon credits for 2018 will originate from the accelerated deployment of clean efficient wood stoves and the construction of ventilated kitchens in rural villages embedded in sustainable regenerative agriculture projects in Zambia. It is widely recognized that replacing traditional wood fires with clean efficient wood stoves coupled with sustainable silviculture practices are cost efficient climate solutions and powerful catalysts for direct health benefits and regenerative agriculture. The specific co-benefits of the 2018 carbon offsets are:

- **Mitigating climate change** through reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from unsustainable harvest of woody biomass, avoided black carbon and methane emissions from inefficient open fires. Reductions of black carbon are important given their role in generating near-term climate benefits (versus the long-term benefits of CO<sub>2</sub> reductions). Methane emission reductions are critical in that their climate change impacts are 28 times greater than CO<sub>2</sub>.

Each stove is expected to reduce the use of 2 tons of unsustainably harvested firewood per year, resulting in 3 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emission reductions per year (or 4.7 Burning Man participants' worth) as compared to an open fire. Over its 5-7 year lifetime, a clean efficient cook stove supplied by C-Quest in rural Africa reduces more CO<sub>2</sub> than taking a car off the road in the USA for a year and lowers overall greenhouse gas emissions by 60-80%. The emission reductions are audited annually in the field by an independent third party carbon auditor using California Climate Action Reserve audit and credit retirement protocols.

- **Reducing deforestation and land degradation and supporting conservation agriculture** by deploying efficient cooking wood stoves that burn small diameter branches and stem-wood from nitrogen fixing trees farmed adjacent to villages. This significantly reduces demand for traditional wood resources. Household expenditures for firewood are lowered 50%-80%. These technologies generate sustainable farmer livelihoods and enhance food security from the production of local produce.
- **Improving maternal and child health and wellbeing** by reducing exposure to toxic substances and particulate matter (PM 2.5) in biomass smoke. Women cooking over an open fire have exposure to pollutants the equivalent of smoking two packs of unfiltered cigarettes per day. Exposure to biomass smoke in poorly ventilated spaces is a leading cause of infant mortality in Africa from childhood pneumonia.
- **Reducing drudgery for women and girls** through reducing or eliminating the need for gathering larger diameter firewood for three-stone fires kilometers from their own villages. This frees up time to use according to their own preferences, including for attending schools, health clinics and small-scale income earning activities.

The cost of the carbon offsets is \$5.00 per ton, a cost significantly lower than carbon offset aggregators because they are purchased directly from the project originator, C-Quest. From GHG emissions calculations by Cooling Man, it is estimated that an average BRC participant emits 0.7 tons of carbon. It costs \$3.50 to offset this carbon footprint.

The carbon offset portal is ready to go.

<https://cquestcapital.com/offsets-index#going-to-burningman>