



Removing barriers to social progress

From RSA Carbon Limited

<http://www.rsacarbonlimited.org/article.aspa?pageid=927>

November 2008

Carbon trading with giants

The EU Emissions Trading Scheme is seen by many as one of the biggest hopes for a significant long-term reduction in the overall volume of emissions in Europe. It allows EU governments to issue emission permits that restrict and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide heavy industry can produce.

[Carbon Retirement](#), a new scheme launched earlier this year enables individuals to influence this market by buying and permanently 'retiring' the emission permits that heavy industry needs. This depletes the supply, which will have the effect of raising the cost of the permits, making energy saving measures more appealing to the industry players and forcing down the total volume of authorised emissions.

With ongoing debate over the effectiveness of project-based offsetting, this scheme offers an arguably more logical and transparent way for individuals and organisations to offset their unavoidable emissions, and wield some power in the crucial EU Emissions Trading Scheme.