Environmental Center
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

University Memorial Center, Room 355
207 UCB
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0207

(303) 492-8308
ecenter@colorado.edu
http://ecenter.colorado.edu

MEMORANDUM

Dec 1, 2020

TO: Ed Von Bleichert

FROM: Dave Newport

RE: 2019 CUSG Carbon Offsets Purchase

Per the amount and distribution described in the table below, CUSG purchased the carbon offsets identified therein and further in subsequent pages for calendar year 2019 emissions from the sources delinieated in the table.

Let me know if you need further detail.

Proposed 2019 Carbon Emissions Sources and Offset Projects to be Funded by ECF				
Beginning ECF balance (ST 12001205)				**$ 340,738.00**
Carbon sources to be offset				
				MTCO2e
CUSG Scopes 1 & 2				4,935.30
Athletics Scopes 1 & 2*				8,579.19
CUSG Travel (S3)				519.99
Research et al travel (S3)				1,132.57
Total				**15,167.05**
** total reduced by 833 tons negated via Athletics' solar PV generation ($3,423 contribution @$4.11/ton)*				
Offset portfolio costs				
		tons	*$/ton*	*total $*
May Ranch		500.00	$ 12.00	$ 6,000.00
Jagrs Ranch		500.00	$ 9.00	$ 4,500.00
Haiti water		500.00	$ 9.00	$ 4,500.00
Honduras water		500.00	$ 9.00	$ 4,500.00
Maharashtra wind		13,167.05	$ 3.25	$ 42,792.92
Average $/ton			$ 4.11	
Total spend				**$ 62,292.92**

Section 1: Carbon Offset Project Options

Project Option 1:

May Ranch Avoided Conversion Project	
Project Overview	The May family has ranched this 14,500-acre parcel of land in southeastern Colorado for four generations, all while leasing the land from a private landowner. The May family recently pooled their funds to purchase the land and bring it under family ownership to keep it as an operating ranch, as they were facing conversion pressures from the potential sale of the land to developers. However, in order to make this financially feasible, the May family needed an alternative source of revenue from the land, in addition to the revenue from ranching operations. The family put a development easement on the 14,500-acre parcel of native prairie and established a long-term avoided conversion project. The project will reduce and estimated 8,000-11,000 metric tonnes of CO2e per year. The carbon program has been a critical source of funding for the ranching family during the downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Carbon funding also supports the Pinhead Institute's youth environmental education program.
Location	Powers County, Colorado
Proximity to CU	The project is located approximately 200 miles southeast of Boulder
Certification	Climate Action Reserve
Educational Opportunity	NativeEnergy can arrange for CU Boulder students and faculty to visit the project site and have the opportunity to see the project activities and benefits, in person.
Social Benefits	The May Ranch project focuses on the most at-risk ranches for conversion. This project enables a family to keep their ranch in operation and continue to steward the land by conserving some of the last remaining native prairie in Colorado.
Community Testimony	Testimony from the May Family and other stakeholders can be provided.
Number of People Impacted	The scope of the project is keeping the May Family and their employees in business and supports the greater ranching communities in this region. There are also revenue dollars from the sale of carbon credits that go to educational programs within the community.
Longevity of Benefits	The project has a 30-year crediting period and time of required activities. However, the land has a permanent easement.
Socioeconomic Information	The project helps to support ranchers and ranching communities that are under increasing pressure to convert their land to development.

Project Option 2:

Jager's Ranch Avoided Conversion Project	
Project Overview	Jagers Ranch in southeastern Colorado faces imminent threat of conversion to cropland, with soils suitable for farming and cropland rental rates for winter wheat, milo, sorghum, alfalfa, and other row crops five times pastureland rates in Bent County, CO. A permanent conservation easement will preserve and avoid conversion of the land to farming or development. This will prevent an estimated 190,000 tonnes of CO_2 from entering the atmosphere over the next 50 years. This is the equivalent of almost 208 million pounds of coal burned. This project will help halt the loss of the remaining 50% of Colorado's shortgrass prairie — an ecosystem being reduced at a higher rate than any other type of ecosystem in the state and linked to the decline of several animal species. With the conservation of Jagers Ranch, bison and black-tailed prairie dogs will help limit shrub and tree encroachment and preserve habitats for native swift fox, ferruginous hawks, burrowing owls, elk, pronghorn antelope, and the mountain plover. The Jagers Ranch will be accessible, through Southern Plains Land Trust, for educational events in collaboration with local public schools and the historical society.
Location	Bent County, Colorado
Proximity to CU	The project is located approximately 200 miles southeast of Boulder
Certification	Climate Action Reserve
Educational Opportunity	NativeEnergy can arrange for CU Boulder students and faculty to visit the project site and have the opportunity to see the project activities and benefits, in person.
Social Benefits	The Jager's Ranch project provides education, volunteer and recreation opportunities to the communities in the broader region.
Community Testimony	Testimony from SPLT and other stakeholders can be provided.
Longevity of Benefits	The project has a 30-year crediting period and time of required activities. However, the land has a permanent easement.
Socioeconomic Information	The project located in a rural and lower socioeconomic region within Colorado.

Project Option 3:

Maharashtra Wind - India	
Project Overview	A 96 MW wind project located in a rural area of Maharashtra, India. The energy produced from the project displaces an equivalent amount of energy from the grid, which is fed mainly by fossil fuel fired power plants and is considered a "dirty grid." The project provides a source of reliable energy without producing any greenhouse gas emissions from its operations. The average greenhouse gas reductions from this project is 135,000 tCO2e per year, or the equivalent of almost 14,000 US homes' energy use for one year. In addition to providing clean energy, the project has instituted programs to improve the lives of the people in the project area, which has historically been underserved. The project has taken on several community development initiatives including: • Road/Infrastructure Development – This effort has helped increase access in rural communities for accessibility to local schools, cultural shrines, and better access to local markets for agricultural crops. • Improved Drainage Development – The area experiences water shortages and these efforts divert water to check dams and retaining pools, which increase water infiltration and availability of water for crops and drinking. • Involvement in Local Schools – Installed water filters to provide access to clean drinking water at village schools, provided scholarships to local students, developed a blood donation program, created a youth development program to support young students and supported local cultural activities.
Location	Satara District, Maharashtra, India
Certification	Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)
Aligned UN SDGs	UN SDG: 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 13
Educational Opportunity	NativeEnergy can arrange to do an on-campus presentation regarding the project and project activities for CU Boulder students and faculty
Social Benefits	The project creates local jobs, builds infrastructure, water resources and supports educational and cultural activities in underserved communities.
Community Testimony	Testimony from the project stakeholders can be provided.
Number of People Impacted	The project enhances the livelihoods of the broader communities in the Satara District of Maharashtra, India.
Longevity of Benefits	The project has an initial 10-year crediting period under the VCS methodology.
Socioeconomic Information	The project is located in the rural, underserved villages of Maharashtra, India.

Project Option 6:

Haiti Clean Water Project	
Project Overview	In January 2010, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the country of Haiti, resulting in an estimated 300,000 deaths and over $8 billion dollars in damage. Since then, millions in Haiti still lack clean water and sanitation. To address the need for clean water, NativeEnergy is using The Gold Standard's established carbon reduction protocol to implement, monitor, and verify a 10-year project that will deliver clean water while reducing carbon dioxide emissions. NativeEnergy, in partnership with Pure Water for the World, is providing clean drinking water to communities in need in Haiti. The Hydraid water filters provide a simple, safe and effective household water filter that will operate for 10 years or longer. It uses centuries-old slow sand technology to remove up to 99% of waterborne pathogens. With safe drinking water, communities reduce time absent from school or work due to illness and save money on medical expenses. This project presents a new solution to the challenges of extreme poverty, poor health, and the increasing carbon dioxide emissions associated with burning wood to boil water for drinking.
Location	Haiti
Certification	The Gold Standard
Aligned UN SDGs	UN SDG: 3, 6, 8 and 14
Educational Opportunity	NativeEnergy can arrange to do an on-campus presentation regarding the project and project activities for CU Boulder students and faculty.
Social Benefits	The project activities provide clean water to rural communities in Haiti, one of the poorest and underserved countries in the world. This source of clean water improves the health and hygiene of project stakeholders. Additionally, it reduces time and money spent on medical bills.
Community Testimony	Testimony from the project stakeholders can be provided.
Number of People Impacted	The project provides clean water to over 2,580 families.
Longevity of Benefits	The project has an initial 10-year crediting period under the Gold Standard methodology.
Socioeconomic Information	The project activities are in some of the most rural and underserved communities of Haiti.

Project Option 7:

Honduras Clean Water Project	
Project Overview	Across four regions of Honduras, NativeEnergy is providing clean drinking water to rural communities. The mission of this project is to promote the sustainable development of communities participating in the coffee production process and improve the human development indexes within the Honduras coffee sector. With large-scale water and sanitation infrastructure too far on the horizon, the solution is a simple, safe and effective household water filter that will operate for 10 years or longer. It uses centuries-old slow sand technology to remove up to 99% of waterborne pathogens with just gravity. With safe drinking water, communities reduce susceptibility to illnesses, reduce time absent from school or work due to illness and save money on medical expenses. This project presents a new solution to the challenges of extreme poverty, poor health and the increasing carbon dioxide emissions associated with burning wood to boil water for drinking. The project combines carbon finance and long-term community benefits with the rigor and accountability of a verified carbon project.
Location	Honduras
Certification	The Gold Standard
Aligned UN SDGs	UN SDG: 3, 6, 8 and 14
Educational Opportunity	NativeEnergy can arrange to do an on-campus presentation regarding the project and project activities for CU Boulder students and faculty.
Social Benefits	The project activities provide clean water to rural coffee farming families in Honduras. This source of clean water improves the health and hygiene of project stakeholders. Additionally, it reduces time and money spent on medical bills and allows these farming families to save and spend more time improving their coffee growing operations.
Community Testimony	Testimony from the project stakeholders can be provided.
Number of People Impacted	The project provides clean water to over 2,200 families.
Longevity of Benefits	The project has an initial 10-year crediting period under the Gold Standard methodology.
Socioeconomic Information	The project activities are in rural coffee farming communities in Honduras.