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Ad'k Council retires 1,000 more tons of greenhouse gas

NEW YORK - The Adirondack Council has purchased another 1,000 tons of carbon dioxide allowances from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auction. The environmental organization's purchase takes the allowances away from power plants in the 10-state region, which need to buy carbon allowances from the RGGI program before they can emit carbon dioxide from their smokestacks.

"There are a limited number of allowances available for 2009, and we just bought another 1,000 of them with the intention that they never be used," said Brian L. Houseal, the group's executive director.

Houseal explained that anyone can participate in the government-mandated greenhouse gas auctions; however, allowances must be purchased in blocks of 1,000 or more. So far, the Adirondack Council has entered winning bids in all three RGGI auctions, dating back to September 2008. The Council also bought 2,000 allowances from a Canadian investment bank in December.

The Council is inviting the public to buy allowances from it, three tons at a time. For every donation of \$25, the Council will retire three tons of carbon dioxide in the name of the donor.

Three tons of carbon dioxide equals about half a year's worth of electricity use by an average American, or about six months' worth of carbon emissions from the average automobile, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Houseal said the Adirondack Council was using the money from the Carbon Retirement Certificate sales to buy additional allowances and to promote the expansion of the RGGI program.

For more information, go to www.adirondackcouncil.org or call the Council toll-free at 1-877-873-2240.