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## For Earth Day, ADK Council drops price of carbon offsets

by Rebecca Melnitsky in Environment

The environmentalist group the Adirondack Council is lowering the price of its carbon reductions just in time for Earth Day. The council competes at government Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative auctions, through which member states limit the greenhouse gas emissions of power plants by auctioning off allowed carbon emissions.

The council goes to these auctions and buys carbon emissions in the hopes of “retiring” them and reducing overall carbon emissions allowed by the government. Executive Director Brian L. Houseal says, “You could bid at the auctions yourself, but the minimum lot size is 1,000 allowances. That just isn’t affordable for most individuals. We have thousands of members, so it was easier for us to get started.”

Normally, the Adirondack council charges \$25 for retiring three tons of carbon, but they dropped the price to \$19.70 in honor of Earth Day’s 42nd birthday. People who buy a carbon reduction will receive an embossed “Carbon Reduction Certificate,” which can be personalized and gifted to others.

The participating states in RGGI are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. New Jersey used to be a member, but dropped out in 2011.

The proceeds from these auctions are used to promote renewable energy, although New York and New Jersey used the proceeds to fill gaps in their state budgets in 2010.

People interesting in buying a “Carbon Reduction Certificate” can call (877) 873-2240 or visit [www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org).