

Population: State of the Earth

- In 2006, the human population pushed past 6.5 billion. Every minute, 153 people are born, leading to deadly consequences.
- In many areas, such as in the Philippines, the slopes above crowded villages are heavily logged. This logging destabilizes the mountainsides.
- On Feb 17, 2006, after 3 months of heavy rain, a mudslide that displaced 26 million cubic yards of mud buried one of these villages and killed over 900 people.
- On June 9, 2006, 4.2 million soccer fans arrive in Germany for the world cup. This event pumps 100,000 tons of carbon dioxide into the air. In order to offset these emissions, organizers of the world cup paid to cut carbon emissions somewhere else on earth; a carbon offset.
- In order to offset carbon emissions from the world cup, the German Soccer Federation contributed to biogas generation in India.
- Over 10 years, biogas generation reduces carbon dioxide emissions by about 30,000 tons, or 1/3 the world cup's total emissions. Biogas generation also reduces the amount of smoke generated by wood burning and requires less trees be cut down in the first place.
- As world population climbs, our rate of consumption goes right with it. Offsets can balance the effects, like a long walk after a big meal.