

Dear WPSA Conference Participants,

As you know, the theme for the 2019 WPSA conference is "The Politics of Climate Change." We look forward to many interesting panels, roundtables, and keynote lectures devoted to this theme.

Since air travel is a significant contributor to the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, we invite those flying to the conference to consider ways of minimizing their carbon impact. This could involve purchasing carbon offsets, taking personal actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or finding other ways to combat climate change and its harms.

Carbon offsets are contributions to projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Several organizations have created websites that enable you to calculate and purchase carbon offsets. One well-regarded organization is [Gold Standard](#), which provides this [carbon calculator](#), and which allows you to choose the [project](#) to receive your contribution. Another well-regarded carbon offset initiative is [Less](#), which is both educational and easy to use.

For background information on flying, climate change, and carbon offsets, you may be interested in reading Tatiana Schlosberg, "[Flying Is Bad for the Planet. You Can Help Make It Better](#)," *New York Times*, July 27, 2017.

For a more critical perspective on carbon offsets, please see Nicholas Kuzlets, "[Carbon Credits Likely Worthless in Reducing Emissions, Study Says](#)," *Inside Climate News*, April 19, 2017.

For a nuanced discussion of the promise and limits of carbon offsets, and of the climate responsibility of travelers, please see this [webpage created by the American Meteorological Society](#).

Some people believe that they can make a more direct positive difference by helping organizations that work to educate the public and elected officials on the threats associated with climate change.

We encourage conference participants to weigh these factors and to choose what they consider the most appropriate course of action.

Sincerely,

Jamie Mayerfeld, Vice-President/Program Chair
Jane Junn, President
Richard Clucas, Executive Director