Environment Agency

eMission2030

It's time to play your part

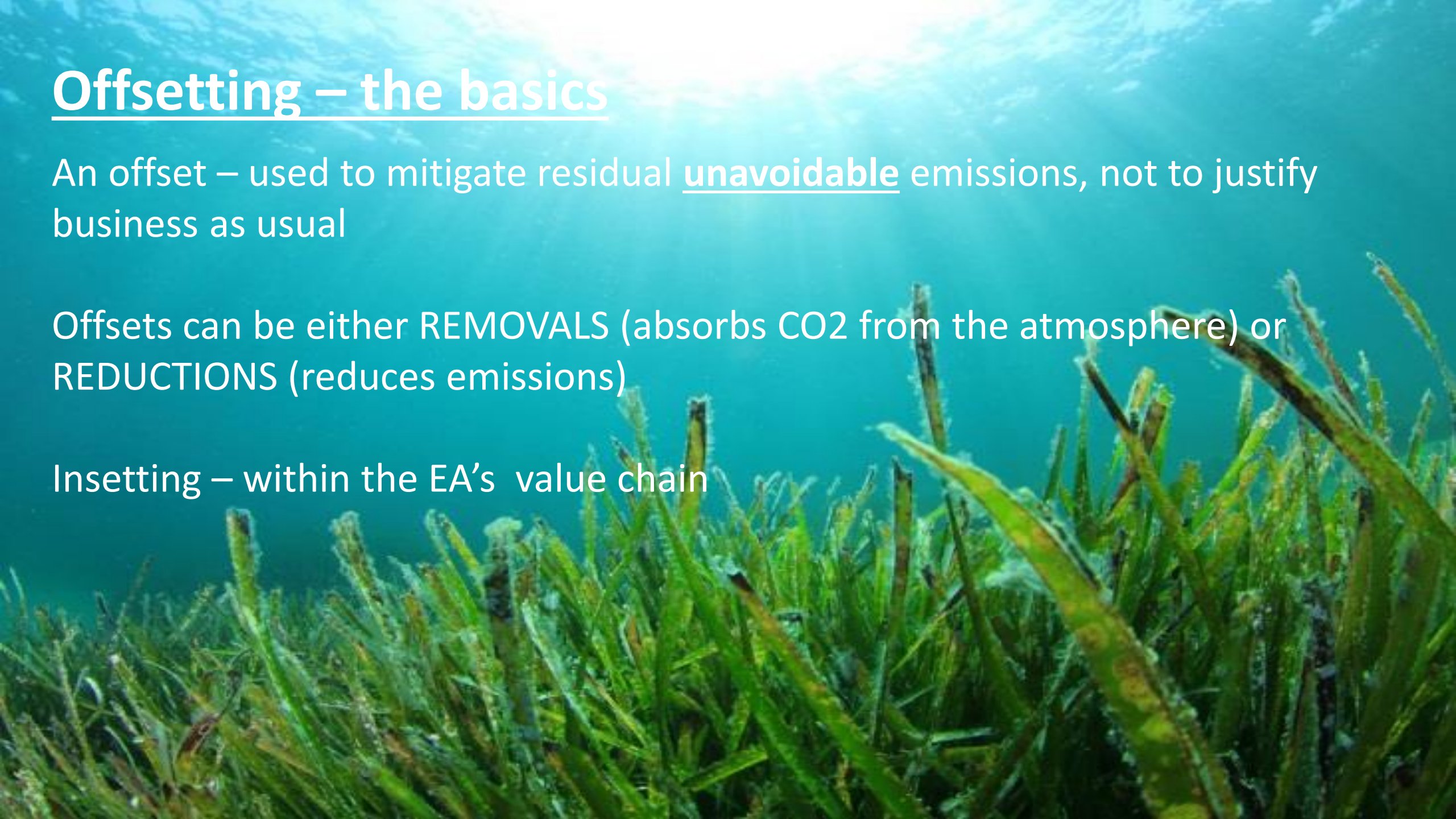
#MYemission

Offsetting – the basics

An offset – used to mitigate residual **unavoidable** emissions, not to justify business as usual

Offsets can be either REMOVALS (absorbs CO2 from the atmosphere) or REDUCTIONS (reduces emissions)

Insetting – within the EA's value chain



What makes a good offset?

- **Additionality** – project would not have happened without carbon finance
- **Permanence** – Project has the longevity required (important for nature based removals when comparing to fossil fuel consumption)
- **Quality** – quality of project design, and accurate reporting of credits
- **Verified** by a suitably qualified third party

- High quality market offsets will meet this criteria

What we have agreed

Offset hierarchy – prioritise insetting (self delivering), buy UK nature based, avoid international offsets

Habitat types – Woodland, Peat, Saltmarsh, Wetland, Agri land

Verification – use existing schemes if available

FCRM and EP benefits – claim the carbon benefits in EA accounts

Selling credits – maybe in the future, we haven't ruled it out

Developing a carbon protocol

Work on FCRM and EP 2015-21 showed significant potential benefits from the capital programmes, up to 25k CO2 sequestration p.a

The protocol (MRV) will:

-Standardise how we assess, report and monitor carbon sequestration

-Be proportionate (e.g. we deliver lots of small sites of habitat)

-Ensure we collect and store the right data for future audit trail purposes

The protocol (MRV) won't:

-Develop new science – we will use existing sources such as WCC (but might adapt it)

-Provide a saleable offset – sequestration via our internal MRV will only be for EA claims

The carbon protocol

Contains various templates, project development records etc

A calculator is being developed

Sets out an approach to additionality

Will be the main place where we keep our audit trail for carbon claims

We will need a plan for business implementation – extra requirements on staff

Habitat type	Cost	Permanence	Strength of the science	Implementation difficulty	Funding prospects (current)	Sequestration potential
Woodland	Low	Good	Good	Low	Good	Good
Wetland	High	Medium	Medium	Low/medium	Medium	Medium
Saltmarsh	High	Medium	Medium	High	Low/medium	Good
Peat	Low	Variable – depends on depth	Good	Low	Good	Good
Agricultural land management	Low	Variable - highly reversible	Low	Low	Good	Low

And….. Things to be aware of…..

- Claiming credits – credits claimed as they sequester carbon, not in advance
- Carbon cost of project delivery
- Defining ‘net zero/carbon neutral - - an in year target?