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NEWS RELEASE

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Verified Carbon Offsets from Model U.S. Forest Project Now Available to the Public

BeGreen Carbon Offsets Partners with the Pacific Forest Trust to Offer Carbon Offsets from California's First State-Backed Emissions Reduction Project

AUSTIN, TX and SAN FRANCISCO – June 3, 2008 – The same carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions reductions that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and other political and business leaders have purchased to help offset their respective carbon footprints are now available to the public.

The Pacific Forest Trust and BeGreen Carbon Offsets, the carbon offset division of Green Mountain Energy Company, are pleased to announce that as of today, individuals everywhere can purchase verified emissions reductions (VERs) sourced exclusively from the *Van Eck Forest Project*. Van Eck is the first emissions reductions project registered and independently verified under the California Forest Protocols – the rigorous accounting standards adopted by the California Air Resources Board to help meet the state's ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Consumers can calculate their carbon footprint and offset their emissions with the purchase of Van Eck VERs online at: <http://www.begreennow.com/store/product.php?productid=16163&cat=265&page=1>.

“BeGreen takes pride in offering consumers and businesses this easy option for reducing their carbon footprints by purchasing verified emissions reductions that meet the most stringent standards in the market today,” says Gillan Taddune, chief environmental officer of Green Mountain Energy Company. “The Van Eck Forest Project will not only help protect our planet from harmful carbon emissions, but will also preserve this magnificent forestland for future generations.”

The 2,200-acre Van Eck Forest in Humboldt County, Calif., is a working redwood forest owned by the Fred M. Van Eck Forest Foundation and managed by the Pacific Forest Trust to permanently reduce more than 500,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions over a 100-year period.

“This is a wonderful partnership for us,” says Connie Best, managing director of the Pacific Forest Trust. “We’ve been contacted by so many people who have worked hard to reduce their carbon footprint and want to offset what remains with Van Eck Forest emissions reductions. They have a lot of confidence in these offsets because of the stringent rules used to produce and verify them. The Forest Protocols govern certification of the *Van Eck Forest Project* to ensure that these reductions have real and lasting climate benefits.”

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BeGreen Makes Van Eck Carbon Offsets Available to the Public — page 2 of 2

By choosing Van Eck VERs, consumers are supporting a working forest managed specifically to offset harmful greenhouse gas emissions by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in its trees, their foilage, trunks and surrounding soil for hundreds of years or longer. These climate benefits are secured by a conservation easement that secures the Van Eck land and guides its sustainable management practices. The California Forest Protocols require that forest management activities deliver carbon gains that are additional to what the forest would normally provide under “business as usual” practices, and that emissions reductions are verified via a third-party certification process.

In addition to reducing emissions and increasing carbon stores, the stewardship forestry conducted by the Pacific Forest Trust on the Van Eck Forest protects water quality, restores biodiversity and provides sustainable timber products.

About BeGreen Carbon Offsets

BeGreen Carbon Offsets is a division of Green Mountain Energy Company, the longest serving green power provider in the U.S. BeGreen provides education about the serious effects of harmful carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and offers businesses and consumers simple and effective ways to reduce their carbon footprint through the purchase of renewable energy, forest sequestration and other project-based offsets. BeGreen’s carbon calculators follow the EPA Climate Leaders methodology, which is based on the World Resources Institute’s Greenhouse Gas Protocol (WRI GHG), a widely accepted industry standard. All purchases and sales of BeGreen’s carbon offset projects are also verified by an independent auditing firm to ensure their quality and effectiveness.

To learn more about BeGreen Carbon Offsets, please visit: www.begreennow.com.

About the Pacific Forest Trust

The Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) is the nation’s leading non-profit organization dedicated to protecting America’s private working forests for their many public benefits, including climate stabilization. In California, PFT has been instrumental in advancing the role of forests in the state’s climate change programs, including the development of the Forest Protocols. Nationally, PFT published two landmark reports: “America’s Private Forests: Status and Stewardship” (Island Press 2001) and “Forest Carbon in the United States.” Through its *Working Forests, Winning Climate* initiative, PFT is advising state governments and federal leaders about the inclusion of forest conservation and sustainable management in climate policies, markets and best-practices.

To learn more about the Pacific Forest Trust, please visit: www.pacificforest.org.

