

2022
Annual Report

From our Executive Director

After a few years of whirlwind growth, last year was an inflection point for the carbon removal field. Our collective focus moved beyond research and development to real-world deployment and the policies needed to make that happen. New projects got up and running, the federal government funneled billions of dollars into direct air capture (DAC), and the private and public sectors both made massive commitments to carbon dioxide removal (CDR). And critically, we began to see Carbon180's emphasis on legacy emissions, equity, and justice reflected field-wide.

It was also an inflection point for us as an organization. With more and more policy organizations launching their own carbon removal efforts, we had the chance to hone the direction of our work.

Last year, we were able to expand our policy ambitions to advocate for the first-ever federal carbon removal procurement bill, push for foundational soil carbon legislation, and create an actionable framework of high-accountability CDR. We also expanded our engagement on frontier solutions, like oceans and mineralization, that have the potential to help us get to gigaton scale.

With this shift in gear, we needed to evolve how we run our team, too. We now have a standalone environmental justice program with our first-ever director of environmental justice to scale our regranting efforts and ensure equity and justice are embedded across our work. We also invested in radical operational excellence to build out Carbon180's strategy and operations team and ensure we're best in class when it comes to pay equity and transparency. And going into 2023, we're poised for even greater evolution.

This report shares more about how we've not just met the moment — but driven it.

Sincerely,



Erin Burns

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MISSION

Design and champion equitable, science-based policies that bring carbon removal solutions to gigaton scale.

VISION

Eliminate legacy carbon emissions and create a livable climate in which current and future generations can thrive.

Values

ONE BOAT

We work hard to ensure that we are rowing in one direction as a team, aligning our work and resources to shared goals.

PENCIL TO PEN

We think critically, do our research, and weigh multiple options. Then, we commit to move to action.

WIN AND LOSE TOGETHER

When one of us succeeds, we all win. When we encounter challenges, we determine how best to redirect the energy and resources of the team to solve them.

PERSON IN THE PROFESSIONAL

Our team is composed of real people with real passions, interests, and needs, within and outside of our work. To be our best and most productive selves at work, we believe we need to care for ourselves and others.

MAKE SPACE, SHARE SPACE

We believe in making space for all voices to be heard, within our team and our broader work — particularly and especially voices historically disenfranchised and disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.

BE A WINDOW, NOT A DOOR

We're committed to transparency and shining light on how and why decisions are made. We are honest with one another, ask for clarity, and operate with integrity to build a culture of trust.

GROW THE BRAINTRUST

We are committed to constantly learning and staying up to speed on the science of our field. We work to grow our knowledge, sharpen our skills, and bring great minds to the field of carbon removal.

Leadership and Team

OUR BOARD

Keely Anson
DIRECTOR

Roxanne D. Brown
DIRECTOR

Gabriel Kra
DIRECTOR

Erin Burns
DIRECTOR

OUR STAFF



Erin Burns
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sifang Chen
MANAGING SCIENCE AND
INNOVATION ADVISOR



Alayna Chuney
MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ADVISOR



Noah Deich *(On leave)*
PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER



Alley Gant
MANAGING OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE



Maya Glicksman
SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR



Brit Groucutt
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS



Courtni Holness
SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR



Dana Jacobs
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS



Anu Khan
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION



Rory Jacobson *(On leave)*
SENIOR MANAGING ADVISOR



Ugbaad Kosar
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



Alyson Lee
MANAGING GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS ADVISOR



Charlotte Levy
MANAGING SCIENCE AND
INNOVATION ADVISOR



Ana Little-Saña
SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE



Maddie Mahoney
SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE



Londyn Marshall
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



Nhu Phung
SENIOR OPERATIONS ASSOCIATE



Emily Reich
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS



Vanessa Suarez
MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE ADVISOR



Shuchi Talati
SENIOR VISITING SCHOLAR



Treshia Thomas
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS



Tracy Yu
MANAGING COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATE



Cristel Zoebisch
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLICY

“Carbon dioxide
removal is key
to restoring
our climate.”

SECRETARY OF ENERGY JENNIFER GRANHOLM

The State of Carbon Removal



If 2021 tipped carbon removal into the mainstream, 2022 brought a surge of attention and resources to the field. Congress doubled down on its support with bills that went beyond exploration and began to lay the foundation for a scalable and lasting industry.

The Chips and Science Act funneled \$1 billion toward carbon removal research and development (R&D) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) secured \$20 billion for land conservation efforts critical to upping soil carbon sequestration. Bipartisan leaders ushered in a comprehensive reforestation strategy through the Save Our Sequoias Act. Meanwhile, the Department of Energy (DOE) rolled out official guidance for the historic \$3.5 billion Regional Direct Air Capture (DAC) Hubs program, setting in motion the US's first-ever large-scale deployment of DAC. To top it all off: bicameral leaders introduced the Federal Carbon Dioxide Removal Leadership Act, an early signal of support for federal procurement.

The private sector matched these strides with massive investments of their own, with a bevy of corporations injecting \$925 million into Frontier, an advance market commitment. And thanks to the IRA's enhancements to the 45Q tax credit, more DAC developers can access an increased credit value now worth \$180 per ton. The number of new CDR projects continued to grow, while established startups crossed new milestones in deployment. Today, the landscape of carbon removal seems to shift and sprawl daily, as new players, innovations, and ambitions sharpen into view.

But the big takeaway for us isn't just "more, more, more." We see an opportunity to scale this field the right way — ensuring that it's just, equitable, and a means to redressing past harms of pollution — by pulling specific policy levers. To fulfill that vision, we spent 2022 convening stakeholders, filling in knowledge gaps, and drafting blueprints for implementation in support of these and other wins from last year.

In the News

All around us, the story of carbon removal is unfolding faster than ever — and our communications team has been focused on keeping Carbon180's message clear and accessible, no matter the day's headline. This past year, we elevated our perspective on environmentally just carbon removal, worked to disentangle carbon removal and carbon capture, and expanded our roster of spokespeople. Together, these efforts have supported us in socializing our vision for the field, helped us highlight the broad expertise on our team, and brought a new level of clarity to the story of carbon removal.

Tech companies are spending big to suck carbon from the atmosphere.
Should the government, too?

GRIST

Shaping direct air capture hubs

AXIOS

Zero, then negative:
Why getting to net-zero isn't enough

THE HILL

Policy Leadership

2022 saw a burst of policy activity for CDR, and Carbon180's fingerprints are on a number of wins. Last year, our policy experts drafted funding and report language requests for more than a dozen CDR-related programs, including DOE's Carbon Dioxide Removal program. And once key carbon removal initiatives — such as the Storing CO₂ and Lowering Emissions (SCALE) Act, the DAC Hubs program, and funding for Class VI wells — passed in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, we provided timely guidance on implementation to federal agencies. Not to mention, we lent support to the design, development, and introduction of the Federal Carbon Dioxide Removal Leadership Act.

Our tech team honed in on DAC hubs last year and published *Setting DAC on Track*, a blueprint for deploying durable, just, gigaton-removing hubs. The white paper included many recommendations that were later reflected in DOE's official funding announcement. We hosted a webinar to socialize the paper to more than 250 attendees and followed up with a closed-door workshop on what it means for DAC hubs to truly succeed. These conversations helped shape our original framework for gauging effective hubs, unveiled in a [white paper](#) in early 2023.

Beyond hubs, we also saw our advocacy efforts realized in the historic IRA, which included enhancements to the 45Q tax credit and investments in federal conservation programs to support climate mitigation. In joint and individual comments to the Department of Agriculture (USDA), we made recommendations on the implementation of IRA funding, with an emphasis on how the agency should use \$300 million to enhance soil carbon monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV).

And as Farm Bill talks ramped up, we published our *Soil Carbon Moonshot (SCM)*, a bold call for a coordinated, interagency program that drives soil carbon research efforts to unlock the full potential of US agricultural lands as carbon sinks. We ultimately met with 20 different Hill offices to delve deeper into the report's ideas. We also launched a comprehensive Farm Bill platform informed by the SCM that includes robust policy proposals to advance soil carbon MRV, scale agroforestry for carbon drawdown, and invest in tree nurseries to meet reforestation needs.

Our braintrust also grew by leaps and bounds last year: we published 20 blogs, sent weekly issues of our Carbon Copy newsletter, kept our policy tracker up-to-date with new bills and endorsements, and debuted a new policy and funding monitor in our policy-focused newsletter, The Deep End. We also convened some of the field's top climate minds in Washington, DC for our first-ever Carbon Removers Summit to set the agenda on what's needed for gigaton-scale removal.

“We must use every tool at our disposal to meet the challenge of the climate crisis, and carbon removal will be a vital part of this comprehensive approach.”

REP. PAUL TONKO

Emerging Focuses

As the carbon removal field expanded last year, new priorities came into focus for Carbon180. Our science and innovation team conducted foundational research into more nascent carbon removal pathways, including ocean CDR and biomass carbon removal and storage (BiCRS). The team also forged a path towards establishing high-accountability MRV in our field, launching a set of principles for designing MRV protocols that maximize public benefit and minimize the risk of fraud.

Last year, we also focused on bridging a connection between innovators and policymakers. Our government affairs team set up over 30 meetings between start-ups and Congressional leaders and coordinated a number of innovation sign-on letters alongside our science and innovation team. We further bolstered Carbon180's presence on the Hill with regular briefings and education efforts. The team also granted our first-ever Member of the Year Awards to Congress's biggest carbon removal champions in recognition of their dedicated leadership and vision. All in all, we've been laser focused on aligning the latest science, industry needs, and strong policy to build a carbon-removing future people can trust.

That extends to creating a CDR field that people want to work in. A core part of our work as carbon removers is advancing the well-being of people and communities who've been harmed by the same oppressive systems driving the climate crisis. To ensure that we live our values day to day, our operations team overhauled the structures that run Carbon180: last year, we updated our job and compensation processes, revamped performance review methods, and reworked how diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are integrated into the framework of our organization.

We also updated our mission and vision statements to best reflect who we are as an organization today and what we're working towards. Specifically, we added that our mission is to champion equitable policy and that our goal is for carbon removal to reach gigaton scale. Our vision was refreshed to specifically call out the removal of legacy emissions and creation of a future where all can thrive. ([See our current mission and vision on page 2.](#))

Environmental Justice

At Carbon180, we believe carbon removal is a means to redress past harms of legacy pollution, especially in communities that have borne most of the burden. That makes environmental justice (EJ) core to every part of carbon removal — across every pathway, every policy, and every stage of a new project.

In recognition of the fact that EJ shapes every part of our work, last year Carbon180 established a standalone EJ team. It's the same names and brains behind our EJ efforts, now with a dedicated team structure and focus to ensure our organization's goals are justice aligned. The team will continue to help craft policy recommendations — while also expanding their focus to field building, community engagement, and education on carbon removal.

Current funding inequities create major barriers for EJ groups to engage in climate policy advocacy. In an effort to begin closing that gap, we regranted funds to three EJ nonprofits interested in exploring carbon removal. Our team created a program where regrantees can ask questions, co-learn, and create their own informed opinions on CDR. With proper funding, EJ groups are better positioned to center the wants and needs of their communities in policymaking conversations and reclaim their power.

In the past year, we also worked to deepen understanding across the field on how to center EJ in the deployment of DAC hubs by socializing our paper *Setting DAC on Track* to fellow ENGOS, EJ advocates, and Hill offices. Additionally, we partnered with XPRIZE to integrate EJ into their \$100 million carbon removal competition. This partnership culminated in a co-authored white paper published in early 2023 on how early-stage startups can integrate EJ into their projects and organizations from day one.

By the Numbers

7 NEW C180 HIRES

4,815 NEW SUBSCRIBERS ACROSS OUR NEWSLETTERS AND TWITTER

623 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS PREPARED AND SUBMITTED

66 REPORTER BRIEFINGS ON CDR AND
90 NEWS STORIES FEATURING CARBON180

3 EVENTS, INCLUDING OUR FIRST-EVER CARBON REMOVERS SUMMIT

150+ ENGAGEMENTS WITH CONGRESS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

\$1 billion AUTHORIZED FOR CARBON REMOVAL IN
THE CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT AND

\$20 billion INCLUDED FOR USDA LAND CONSERVATION
PROGRAMS IN THE IRA

INSIGHTS FROM THE BLOG

- [The case for federal procurement of carbon removal](#)
- [A buyer's guide to high-accountability MRV](#)
- [Funding for environmental justice organizations is essential for carbon removal](#)
- [A pathway to community-centered DAC](#)

Looking Ahead

Carbon removal will continue to face both opportunities and obstacles in 2023, and Carbon180 is ready to meet the moment. We'll continue leading a diverse coalition to deepen the understanding of carbon removal procurement through a series of workshops and further policy development. And as we near the Farm Bill, our land policy team will develop champions on the Hill and build partnerships to advance CDR priorities that could transform our agriculture and forestry sectors and their role in addressing climate change.

2023 is also the year that DAC hub applications will be awarded funding, moving us closer to gigaton-scale removal. Our tech policy team will continue to shape these hubs by working with communities and policymakers to create a shared understanding of success, build connections among stakeholders, and develop new policies in support of hub implementation.

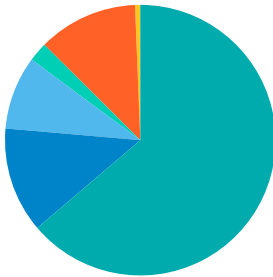
Meanwhile, our science and innovation team will continue to shape field-wide MRV standards. In our view, high-quality MRV is not just a way to count tons removed — it's the connective tissue that makes the carbon removal industry we want possible. In order for the industry to scale, communities, taxpayers, and buyers need to trust that carbon removal projects are generating meaningful climate benefits for them. To that end, we'll build on last year's high-level MRV guidance and turn it into community-informed, detailed recommendations for future policy implementation.

Financial Transparency and Responsibility

The successes outlined in this report would not have been possible without the gracious support of our donors. Carbon180 is committed to fiscal responsibility and integrity, so we work hard to minimize the organization’s operational expenses and maximize the impact of our budget. Accordingly, we aim for transparency in how we put your donations to work.

2022 EXPENDITURES

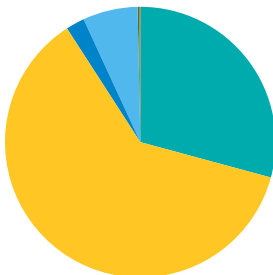
\$7,085,432.⁰⁸



PROGRAMS:	\$6,196,499. ⁷²	88%
POLICY	\$4,518,217. ⁰⁵	64%
COMMUNICATIONS	\$893,258. ⁹²	13%
SCIENCE & INNOVATION	\$622,509. ⁰³	9%
LOBBYING	\$162,514. ⁷²	2%
OVERHEAD	\$844,514. ⁶⁵	12%
FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT	\$44,417. ⁷¹	<1%

2022 REVENUE

\$7,795,927.⁹¹



FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$2,277,619. ⁶²	29%
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$4,807,217. ³⁸	62%
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS	\$174,010. ⁵⁰	2%
CORPORATE DONATIONS	\$512,018. ⁴¹	7%
IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$12,562. ⁰⁰	<1%
CONSULTING INCOME	\$12,500. ⁰⁰	<1%

THESE FIGURES HAVE NOT BEEN AUDITED.
FOR AN AUDITED VERSION OF OUR FINANCIALS,
PLEASE EMAIL HELLO@CARBON180.ORG.