



The Procurement Toolbox

Building Blocks for Carbon Removal
Procurement Policy

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As the world's largest buyer of goods and services, the US federal government can use its purchasing power to supercharge the carbon removal industry. This report is an actionable guide, or a “toolbox,” for policymakers to design an ambitious and effective set of procurement policies — one that can drive down costs, set high standards, and catalyze innovation. To that end, we've proposed 10 key building blocks:

- 1. Set ambitious annual targets**

Federal procurement should aim to procure a certain number of tons of carbon removal annually and incrementally increase its target in a transparent way. Prioritizing a desired amount of carbon removal over costs per ton provides market certainty as the industry scales.
- 2. Focus on innovation and fostering a diverse portfolio**

A publicly purchased portfolio should comprise a range of high-quality carbon removal solutions, with no single technology representing a majority. A small portion should be dedicated to credible pilot stage projects.
- 3. Establish high standards for monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) certainty**

The federal government should set high MRV standards for eligibility to build trust, ensure accountability, and protect against the degradation of a carbon removal credit market.



4. Dedicate funding for complementary “pay-for-practice” cost-share payments

Since MRV looks different in land-based systems, procurement efforts should continually pay producers for adopting and sustaining carbon-removing practices (e.g., agroforestry, biochar) – rather than delivering quantifiable tons of removal.

5. Prohibit projects that increase local pollution or result in adverse environmental or public health impacts

Eligible projects should be required to (1) demonstrate that they will not generate local pollution, (2) establish preemptive mitigation measures for potential harms, and (3) set monitoring plans with transparent, public data-sharing protocols to ensure pollution avoidance.

6. Require life cycle assessments (LCA) to ensure climate benefits

The government should only subsidize projects that remove more carbon than they emit, as measured by a cradle-to-grave LCA.

7. Prohibit projects that use CO₂ in extraction or recovery of oil or gas

Public resources should be invested to address climate pollution, not subsidize it. No project that uses carbon to extract oil should be eligible for a federal procurement program.

8. Require robust and tailored community engagement

The federal government should set standards that maximize public understanding, consequential public input, and community participation in project development and deployment.

9. Give preference to projects that demonstrate direct community benefits

Policymakers should prioritize applicants that demonstrate (1) direct community benefits and (2) concrete plans to enter into legally enforceable agreements with communities, to ensure delivery of mutually aligned benefits.

10. Give preference to projects that offer high-quality jobs

A federal procurement program should prioritize projects that provide family-sustaining wages and utilize union labor throughout the value chain.



To learn more, visit Carbon180.org.