

Alert: 2024 Recap!

Annual Report

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Here's what we got up to ...

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Subject

Hi! Here's what we've been up to ...

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From our *Executive Director*

A lot happened in 2024, for both carbon removal and climate work more broadly. At the beginning of the year, we saw the announcement of the first two megaton direct air capture projects, hundreds of millions of dollars for soil carbon removal from the Department of Agriculture, and growing private sector purchases.

However, with the presidential election in November came less certainty. We are a non-partisan organization and we work in policy. While we do not engage in electoral efforts, and we work across the aisle, major political shifts bring change regardless.

For us, that means that our work, our strategy, they stay the same. **We are committed to scaling just, equitable, and highly accountable carbon removal** — even as some stakeholders appear to decenter “justice” and “equity” right now. These words may be partisan today, but their meaning is not; they are, in fact, essential for building durable coalitions that withstand major political shifts. They give the communities that host carbon removal projects a say in if and how those projects move forward and ensure that benefits flow not just to the companies and investors, but to the people welcoming carbon removal into their towns and neighborhoods.

Actually building those projects will **require federal policy**. Luckily, we’re carbon removal optimists. 2025 marks our 10 year anniversary. We started Carbon180 when very few knew what carbon removal even was, we secured the first \$60 million appropriation for carbon removal in 2019, and **we’ve leapt to billions of federal dollars** in just a few years. Some of those dollars are under threat and, likely, not all of them will flow to the companies and entrepreneurs building this field. But as we enter our 10th year, we’re bringing with us a very valuable lesson: **this is about decades, not months**.

In 2025, we’ll be building our first ever ocean carbon removal team, leveraging our connections with private sector purchasers, working closely with federal policymakers on both sides of the aisle to defend and expand policy wins, and **building the next wave of policy** to support carbon removal across sectors.



Erin Burns
Executive Director

MISSION

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

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

VISION

The State of Carbon Removal Policy



CDR ≠ CCS

Read 10:28 AM

In 2024, many of the policies and investments for carbon removal began to bear fruit. Banner projects like the Regional DAC Hubs program got a running start, with the Department of Energy (DOE) rolling out funds for two megaton facilities. Over at the Department of Agriculture (USDA), funds from the historic Inflation Reduction Act were implemented for climate-smart practices and the improved tracking soil carbon sequestration.

Federal lawmakers also accelerated carbon removal through the introduction of the bipartisan, bicameral PROVE IT Act (bringing DOE into the carbon intensity of industrial goods) and the Carbon Dioxide Removal Leadership Act (urging DOE to click “add to cart” on more carbon removal purchases, especially those that help transition communities from fossil fuels).

The government surged closer to making CDR a public good. DOE launched a \$35 million Carbon Dioxide Removal Purchase Prize and debuted their semifinalists, giving an early indication of how the government may define good carbon removal. Meanwhile, the private sector stepped up to the register, too, with voluntary commitments from corporate giants like Microsoft and Frontier proliferating.

Underscoring it all: federal agencies got serious about codifying the integration of community perspectives in carbon removal — essential for the long-term success of the field. DOE shared an early look at the Community Benefits Plans for the inaugural DAC hubs and devoted resources to being in dialogue with local communities with regionally specific resources.

Carbon removal has always been a bipartisan issue that’s courted support across parties and sectors, who saw the ample potential for climate and communities. In 2024, we laid important groundwork for an industry that can actually deliver on those benefits, on a meaningful scale.

OUR TEAM

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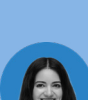
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Angie Sabin
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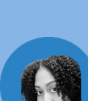
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Tracy Yu
MANAGING COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATE

The story of carbon removal just *keeps growing*.

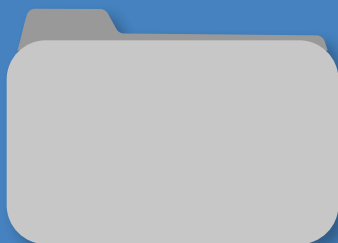
... and Carbon180's stayed at the forefront. Our team's kept a tight grip on the pen, in effort to define what the future of the field can and should be. In the past year, we've articulated that vision through media briefings, newsletters, and a robust blog — to drive visibility, nuance, and needed policy support for carbon removal amid rapid changes.

The controversial machine sending CO₂ to the ocean and making hydrogen (BBC)

In the second Trump term, carbon removal faces its first major test (Latitude Media)

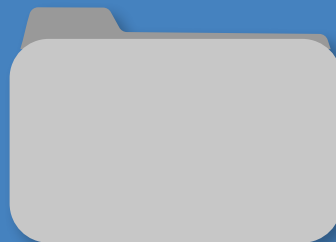
World's Largest Carbon Capture Plant Being Built in Texas (Newsweek)

FROM OUR OWN PEN



Key Blogs

A land CDR roadmap, DAC hubs' progress, CDR ≠ CCS, trade policy as climate policy, and our approach to regranting.



Newsletters

Weekly issues of *The Carbon Copy* and bimonthly issues of *The Deep End*, our in-depth policy newsletter.

“Advancing carbon removal is key for addressing climate change, one of the many opportunities we have in Congress. In order to make progress, we must all work together across party lines to find solutions necessary to scale. Collaboration is key for my colleagues to ensure not just emissions reductions are happening, but also securing energy independence, bolstering the economy, and creating jobs.”

— **Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM)**, a champion for integrating carbon removal into the federal government’s broader climate agenda.



All News Images Videos Carbon180

Carbon180 has long led the field on *developing and advancing policy* to scale technological carbon removal.

As a result, the US has invested more in DAC than any country in the world. but many matters of deployment and demand are still up in the air — and could determine the foundation that the entire industry builds from.

In 2024, our team convened like-minded partners together to champion our vision of how the \$3.5 DAC Hubs program should award projects — and how those projects should be deployed, advanced groundbreaking legislation on procurement, and supported communities who will likely host DAC projects in the next few years.

Here's how our work materialized in the field:

Developed and implemented the CDR Toolkit, a curriculum on carbon removal that encompasses land CDR, technological CDR, infrastructure, and environmental justice.

Shaped the **deployment of the DAC Hubs program** by:

- **Developing a coalition of NGOs** advocating for just, equitable, and highly accountable hubs.
- **Convening with environmental justice communities** to articulate the criteria for “good” hubs.
- **Published thought leadership** throughout the year, including a response to DOE’s Request for Information on midscale DAC, with many of our recommendations appearing in a following Notice of Intent for the DAC Hubs program.

Published The Procurement Toolbox, a white paper on the creation of a federal procurement program for carbon removal.



“ American energy independence is imperative, not only for the economic prosperity of the United States but also for our national security. To meet America’s growing energy needs, we must prioritize domestic energy production and innovation, including investments in clean energy and regulatory reform that encourage production here at home and disincentivize reliance on foreign energy sources. ”

— **Rep Andrew Garbarino (R-NY)**, on the importance of green tax credits and regulatory reform, both of which are bipartisan initiatives for a more resilient future.



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This year, our brain trust grew *bigger than ever*.

We hired our first dedicated forestry staffer, launched farmer and rancher engagement efforts nationwide, convened with agroforestry leaders, and picked the brains of some foremost academics on land-based carbon removal.

In building such a breadth and depth of relationships, we've made ground on some of our tallest goals like:

1. Champion **critical CDR provisions in the upcoming Farm Bill** and appropriations bill
2. Sharpen our understanding of what it means to **truly activate forests and agricultural lands as carbon sinks**, opportunities and challenges alike
3. Begin crafting a **clearer framework for land-based CDR** as a whole.

Big wins:



Hosted an **agroforestry fly-in**, bringing Midwestern practitioners to DC

[Learn More](#)

Established and convened the **Steering Committee of BIPOC Leaders in Agroforestry**

[Learn More](#)

Launched a **series of interviews and engagement sessions** with land stewards, to ensure that our vision is underpinned by the knowledge, lived experiences, and needs of stewards in different regions of the US.



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The environmental justice (EJ) team reflected on the progress made and identified the gaps in our existing work, in order to lay the groundwork for our 2025 goals and beyond, which will be rooted in: ***action.***

A lot of action is already underway. The intersection of carbon removal and environmental justice has gained visibility across stakeholders.

We also have real world examples of engagement between developers and host communities to draw from, as seen by updates from DOE's mandate for community benefits plans and private sector movement across pathways.

Now is the time that our ideas and theories become case studies and tangible examples of what strong community engagement can look like.

[LEARN ABOUT OUR EJ WORK](#)

What we've been up to:

Created an internal **vision of an equity and justice framework**, with detailed guidelines and principles for different CDR pathways.

Launched our **second EJ regranting cohort**, growing the number of EJ organizations that are influencing the carbon removal field.

Re-established our **Environmental Justice Advisory Council** to inform our work around equitable deployment, policy advocacy, and community engagement.





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Carbon removal has *always* been a bipartisan issue.

In 2024, we leveraged that fact to engage with a dynamic blend of Democrat, Republican, and Independent lawmakers — championing carbon removal and unequivocally maintaining our values and goals for the field. As the field expanded in size and visibility, we deepened existing relationships and brought in new allies.

That positioned us to shape CDR funding vehicles like the **FY25 appropriations package and the next Farm Bill**, and secure legislative victories like the introduction of the **Advancing Research on Agricultural Climate Impacts Act (ARACI)**, which included language from our recommendations.

It also opened a lane for us to have direct involvement in critical legislation for scaling tech, land, and ocean-based carbon removal pathways.

MEET OUR MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

What we got up to:

Supported in drafting and reintroduction of the **Carbon Dioxide Removal Leadership Act (CDRLA)**, House (H.R. 7054) and Senate (S.3615), which would create a market for CDR technologies and support innovation across different pathways.

Provided feedback on the **House Science, Space, and Technology Committee’s draft bipartisan marine CDR bill**. Our comments uplifted key ideas in our existing white paper, pushing for an outcome-driven framework for research and development (R&D) and more.

Held more than **120 meetings** with policymakers across political parties

Awarded **Carbon180’s 2024 Member of the Year** award to elevate Congressional leadership on carbon removal.

Team Carbon180

4 new *teammates* across strategy, operations, policy, and government affairs..

Influencing the field

3 events, including our third Carbon Removers Summit

88 reporter briefings on CDR and features in 73 articles

On the Hill

Nearly 200 appropriations requests were drafted and submitted, which resulted in hundred of millions being allotted for CDR in FY2025.

Conducted 8 Hill meetings to discuss our FY2025 appropriations requests.

Led 4 Dear Colleague letters in the House and Senate urging Congress for increased funding for CDR R&D and expansion of soil health practices, as well as leading 3 partner advocacy letters.

EMERGING FOCUSES



The *buzz* around carbon removal has picked up in climate policy talks, but the field still stands apart as its own entity.

As the world continues to fall short on climate targets, both scrutiny and excitement about the necessity of carbon removal have mounted. Encouragingly, new research is aimed at questions about the efficacy of CDR to lower global temperatures, projected CDR capacities under different climate scenarios, and the role that CDR might play. Amid these shifts, the Carbon180 science and innovation team is synthesizing these insights to drive policy designs and lead efforts on integrating CDR into broader climate policies.

In the past year, the team jointly published a paper with leading academics on the environmental impact of enhanced rock weathering, staking out Carbon180's thought leadership with accessible language suited for policymakers. In the same collaborative spirit, we launched a listening session on biomass for carbon removal, which lent clearer insight on the diverse needs and priorities of over 20 frontline communities in managing forest, agricultural, and urban waste.

We also brought our campaign on ocean policy to maturity. Since 2022, Carbon180's been on the forefront of socializing a responsible vision for ocean carbon removal research and development. At the end of the 2024, we put into motion a dedicated ocean policy team, so that Carbon180 can continue to lead in this emerging space.

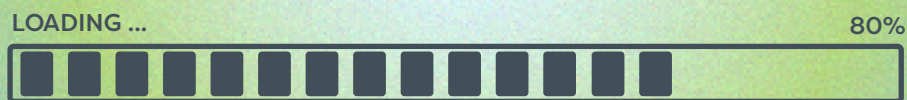
Zooming out, the team's science experts collaborated with leadership to set ambitious goals for Carbon180's north star, translating our scale-up objectives into measurable quantities — in a way that bears just, equitable, and highly accountable carbon removal.

What's Next

We brought home a lot of wins last year, but we've hit a point where the past decade of progress is vulnerable.

As support for climate and carbon removal is pushed to the margins in DC, the road forward is one of **targeted defense**. We're building the necessary coalitions — between friends and strange bedfellows alike — to both defend ten years of progress and capture more mainstream acceptance of carbon removal.

Now is a time to **widen the aperture** for carbon removal. To date, most of what we consider carbon removal policy is designed around direct air capture — while policy for carbon removal on land and oceans ticks quietly in the background. And from the last 10 years, we know that policy can work in cycles. When the mood in Washington favors climate spending, that's our window to pass policy into law. When the mood's chillier, *creativity abounds*. Unlikely political alliances form, we can sit down to actually write the CDR policy of our dreams, and **skeptics can turn into advocates in a blink**.



And carbon removal doesn't begin and end with policy. At Carbon180, we've always operated beyond the next bill, or the next hearing, to fill the gaps in the field. When the well of private capital was dry, we formed the Entrepreneurs in Residence program. When private dollars started flowing, we pivoted, so we could be catalytic elsewhere. We've built relationships with farmers and ranchers, scientists, communities, and more to center their experiences in a fast-growing field.

In the months to come, we're expanding an ocean policy team, exploring a new state and regional initiative to spur deployment, coordinating with partners to drive a field-wide defense of the Regional DAC hubs program (and other key pieces of federal support), presenting a new framework to define exactly what just, equitable, and highly accountable carbon removal is, and much more. **It's a tough moment, but we've been here before** — and we tend to be carbon removal optimists.

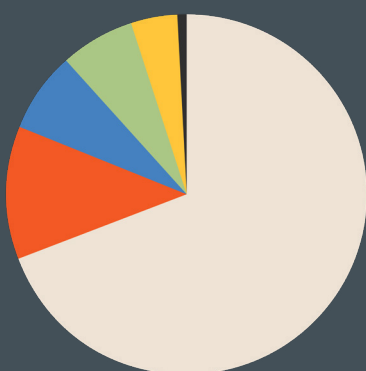
Financials & Transparency

The successes outlined in this report would not have been possible without the gracious support of our funders and 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 grants and donations to work.

EXPENDITURES

\$11,979,828.98



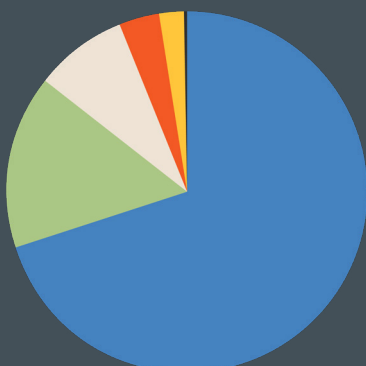
● OVERHEAD	\$875,936.18
● FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT	\$765,966.71

PROGRAMS

● POLICY	\$8,313,239
● COMMUNICATIONS	\$1,425,697.45
● SCIENCE & INNOVATION	\$502,493.29
● LOBBYING	\$96,496.35

REVENUE

\$10,519,391.98



● FOUNDATION GRANTS*	\$7,384,968.52
● INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$1,638,739.37
● INVESTING ACTIVITIES	\$869,038.83
● GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS	\$375,393.38
● CORPORATE DONATIONS	\$245,317.88
● CONSULTING INCOME	\$5,934.00
○ IN-KIND DONATIONS	\$0.00

* TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED, SEVERAL ARE MULTI YEAR