

CORE Framework: *For Developers*

Community-Informed | Open Access | Reviewed | Evaluated

Carbon removal is increasingly moving from research into real-world deployment, where project performance and public trust shape long-term viability. While many projects are beginning to incorporate community engagement and environmental and human safety considerations, clearer guidance is needed to translate these intentions into consistent, implementable practices.

Project developers play a central role in determining how carbon removal is implemented. They make decisions across site selection, design, construction, and long-term operations. Their collaboration with **communities and land and ocean stewards** is core to project durability, permitting success, and long-term social license.

Carbon180 has developed the **CORE Carbon Removal Framework** which offers eleven practices that can be built into the design and distribution of funding opportunities. Our CORE practices are designed to help funders identify high quality interventions and the holistic needs of **communities and stewards** seeking financial support.



Explore some of our practices:

Community Benefits. Project developers must design projects that deliver the benefits **stewards and communities** want to see. These benefits should be defined through iterative, transparent engagement processes. Communities vary in priorities; for example, some may not view job creation or emergency response planning as meaningful benefits. Some groups will require more support, including assistance like transportation and childcare, than others to identify benefits and co-benefits most meaningful to them.

Full System Carbon Accounting. A carbon removal intervention must ensure that its carbon emissions—across its full lifecycle—are measured, disclosed, and updated over time. This includes both direct emissions (from project activities) and indirect emissions (e.g., construction, materials, and transport).



QUICK NAVIGATION

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[Access the CORE tools](#)

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THE CORE PRACTICES

Dig deeper into our foundational practices:

1. [Knowledge Building](#)
2. [Dignified Workforce Development](#)
3. [Community Agency Mechanisms](#)
4. [Community Benefits Mechanisms](#)
5. [Monitoring of Carbon Storage](#)
6. [Full System Carbon Accounting](#)
7. [Design for Additional Impact](#)
8. [Independently Verified](#)
9. [Environmental Health](#)
10. [Human Health and Safety](#)
11. [Enforcement Mechanisms](#)

Explore some of our practices (cont'd):

Human Health and Safety. Project developers must design interventions that protect public health, community wellbeing, and worker safety throughout their lifecycles. Quality of life impacts like air and water quality, food and occupational safety, and noise and light pollution should be identified and addressed with **stewards and communities** local to the intervention.

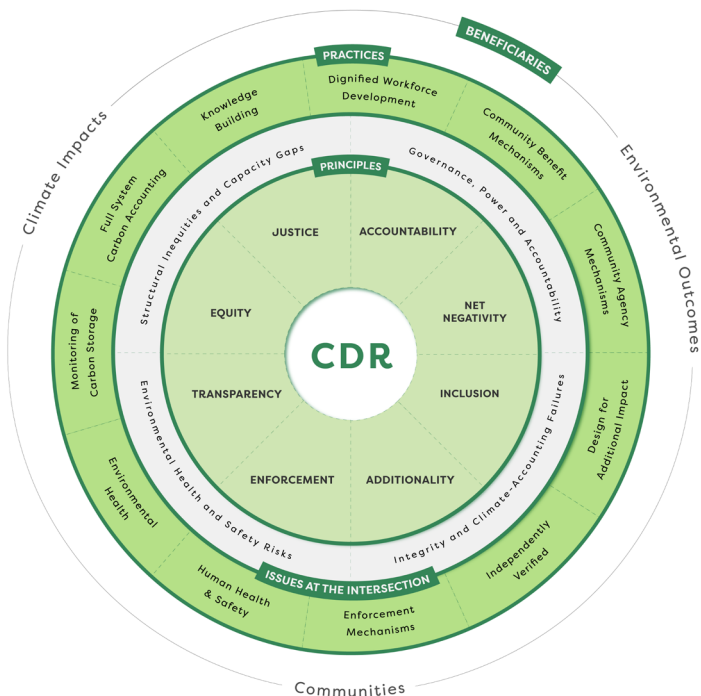
Enforcement Mechanisms. Carbon removal interventions should go beyond the technical, social, and legal requirements imposed by state and federal regulations. In partnership with **communities and stewards**, project developers should incorporate mechanisms like binding contracts, independent oversight, and transparent dispute resolution into their intervention's design to strengthen commitments to outcomes like safe storage, community benefits, and public and environmental health.



Key CORE Tools

The CORE Wheel

The CORE Wheel illustrates how the framework functions as a connected system. CORE's principles sit at the center as the foundation. Surrounding them are practices – the real-world actions that bring those principles to life and where vested parties engage most directly. Between them are the issues that arise where interests, risks, and responsibilities meet, often creating barriers to achieving CORE-aligned carbon removal.



The CORE Resource Hub

The resource hub is an interactive collection of tools, examples, and guidance that help put CORE into action. From real-world case studies to practical templates and best-practice resources, the hub makes it easier to navigate carbon removal with clarity and confidence.

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Title	Author	Practices	Principles
A breakdown of the DAC hubs funding opportunity announcement	NGOs	Community Agency Mechanisms, Community Benefits Mechanisms	Inclusion, Transparency, Justice
A Guide to Community Benefits in Southwestern Pennsylvania	NGOs	Community Benefits Mechanisms	Inclusion, Equity, Justice
A Protocol for Decision-Making with Consent	Government	Community Agency Mechanisms	Justice, Inclusion, Transparency, Accountability
Addressing Grievances from Project-Affected Communities, IFC	NGOs	Environmental Health	Equity, Enforcement, Transparency, Inclusion