

CORE Framework: For Land & Ocean Stewards

Community-Informed | Open Access | Reviewed | Evaluated

Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) is essential to confronting climate change. The carbon removal field is embedding community engagement and human and environmental safety into projects and programs now more than ever, but clearer guidance is needed to set standards for building better, people-centered interventions. **Right now, the field's greatest risk is the loss of public trust.**

Land and ocean stewards are central to doing better carbon removal. Stewards hold the technical, cultural, and regional knowledge critical to an intervention's success. They're also uniquely positioned as both carbon removal practitioners and impacted communities.

Carbon180 has developed the **CORE Carbon Removal Framework** to offer eleven practices that, if built into nature-based interventions across their lifecycles, more thoughtfully serve stewards and the lands and waters they tend. But, carbon removal will only meet the necessary scale when stewards can trust that interventions won't harm local communities, air and water quality, or the health and productivity of the environments they serve and rely on.



Explore some of our practices:

Knowledge Building. Carbon removal should be a collaborative approach where implementers partner with **communities and stewards** to build shared knowledge around how an intervention should be designed and implemented, and what—if any—outcomes constitute benefits and risks. This information should be shared accessibly, maintained long-term, and attributed to the people and groups who've shared their knowledge where possible.

Dignified Workforce Development. If an intervention requires a workforce, local stewards and community members should be prioritized for hiring. Those jobs should pay family-sustaining wages, support upwards mobility, and ensure respect for employees. If an intervention relies on individual stewards, the intervention should incentivize stewards by maximizing their returns on investments and yielding productive co-benefits like increased biodiversity and soil health.

Community Agency Mechanisms. A carbon removal intervention should facilitate stewards' active participation in and influence over aspects of an intervention including design, implementation, outcomes, sources of funding, and monitoring.



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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):

Community Benefits. A carbon removal intervention should offer benefits tailored to the wants and needs of participating or supporting stewards. Those benefits should be **co-identified by implementers with stewards** through iterative conversations about (1) potential co-benefits, (2) sensitive communities and ecosystems, and (3) any risks related to the intervention.

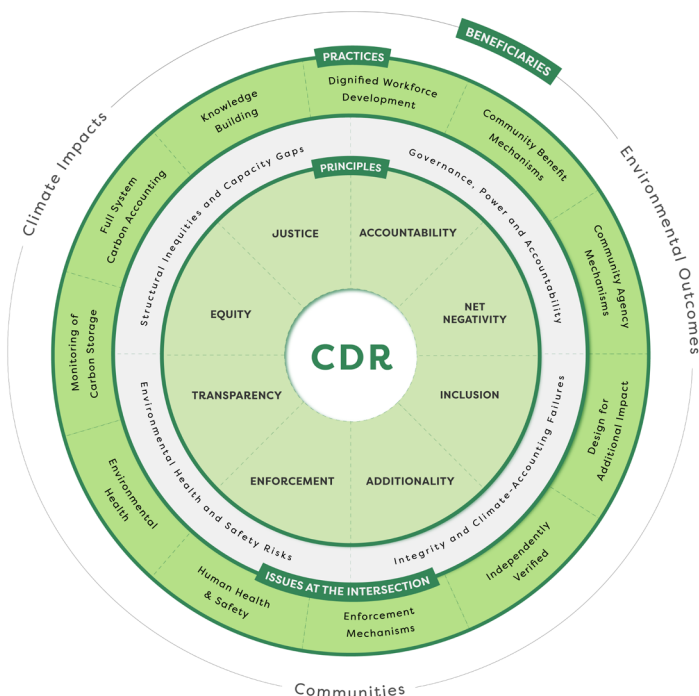
Environmental Health. Land and ocean stewards should be centered in the identification of an intervention’s environmental risks and the work done to mitigate them. Stewards should also be supported to contribute their regional expertise, lived experiences, and Traditional ecological knowledge in an intervention’s long-term environmental monitoring and reporting processes.



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.

Select use case		Select resource type		Select scale	
Search					
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		