

Annual Report



Carbon180

From our *Executive Director*

Ten years ago, virtually no one had heard the words “carbon removal”.

Back when we started Carbon180 (then the Center for Carbon Removal) we were a small team with an ambitious vision that pulling gigatons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere was not science fiction. It was necessary for climate goals and could be a lever for creating a more just and livable world for everyone.

A lot happened in the 10 years that followed. We went from explaining what carbon removal is to shaping how it gets built. We secured **the first \$60 million in federal appropriations** for carbon removal, and drove that number into the **billions** only a few years later. Carbon180 helped write the legislation, draft the standards, and build the coalitions that turned an idea into an industry. We accomplished this by working in ways too many policy organizations do not. We created policies with and for the people who know the most about real-world carbon removal: the land stewards whose work pulls carbon dioxide into our trees and soils, the entrepreneurs building new approaches, and the communities most likely to host these projects as they come to scale.

2025 began with major political shifts that threatened the policy wins we had fought for years to secure. Federal programs faced rollbacks and uncertainty. For a lot of organizations, this signaled a moment of retreat, to soften the message, wait it out, and not get noticed.

We didn’t do that.

Instead, we defended the Direct Air Capture Hubs program, protected more than \$100 million in federal appropriations for research and development, maintained significant bipartisan support for carbon removal, and got new legislation introduced. And, we launched our **first-ever ocean policy team**.

Amidst all of the political challenges, we **maintained our focus on justice and equity**. They are a part of our core values, but they are also more than that. They are key to building durable political coalitions. Carbon removal projects are not theoretical. They are steel in the ground, they are changes to how farmers and ranchers manage lands, they are new approaches to protecting our oceans. As these projects are deployed, they can ensure local participation and local benefits, or they can ignore these. The latter leads

to project delays and long term opposition. The former can foster social license and create the most effective possible champions for the next wave of carbon removal policies—constituents.

We know this because we have been here before.

For ten years, we have been building trust, writing policy, and creating relationships across the aisle. It is how we have won each and every policy victory. The hard work done in tough political environments is what makes the breakthroughs possible later. This is when you have to put your head down. It is not as exciting, but it is more important.

As we enter our second decade, we are bringing all of that experience to bear. We know how to build from scratch. We know how to protect what we have built. And we know that good ideas can and will flourish.

Carbon removal is one of them,



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

10 years of Carbon180

In 2015, carbon removal was mostly theoretical. A handful of people had a vision for a carbon removing world.

Here's what happened when they got to work.

2015

Carbon180 began as the Center for Carbon Removal. A small team with a big dream, that pulling carbon from the atmosphere would become the defining climate challenge of our time.

2016-2017

Designed the first-ever carbon removal policy platform. We began using it right away to start educating Congress on why carbon removal mattered. Most people on the Hill hadn't heard the term.

2018

Launched the world's first-ever carbon removal policy team. Yes, the world. Erin Burns joined as Director of Policy. Our new Entrepreneurs in Residence program began bringing new companies to life, including Heirloom.

2019

Secured the first \$60 million in federal appropriations for carbon removal. Began building our environmental justice work. Started building the CDR coalitions that would later prove essential.

2020-2021

Carbon removal tipped into the mainstream. Congress tripled its investments. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act put \$3.5 billion toward Regional DAC Hubs. The field we'd been building suddenly had serious money behind it.

2022

The Inflation Reduction Act invested \$20 billion in land conservation and enhanced the 45Q tax credit. We advocated for the first-ever federal carbon removal procurement bill. Established our standalone Environmental Justice program. Updated our mission and vision.

2023

DOE awarded the first DAC Hub funding. We published our first ocean carbon removal white paper. Our team grew to 30+ staff across four new programs.

2024

Two megaton-scale DAC projects announced. USDA invested hundreds of millions in soil carbon. Published The Procurement Toolbox. Built a coalition of NGOs pushing for just and accountable hubs. Launched our second EJ regranting cohort.

2025

Defended a decade of policy wins under political uncertainty. Launched our first ocean policy team. Protected carbon removal federal appropriations. Developed the CORE Carbon Removal Framework. Proved that this field is durable, because we built it to be.

The State of Carbon Removal Policy

2025 was a year of *defense*, and Carbon180 ensured those defenses held.

The political landscape saw a *major shift* following the 2024 election.

Under the new administration, federal climate programs faced rollbacks and unwarranted scrutiny. And the longest government shutdown in US history certainly didn't help. The carbon removal field also faced an identity crisis: *what does climate action look like when it's but an afterthought in Washington?*

For carbon removal, the answer lies in the groundwork built over the past decade. The 45Q tax credit (one of the most important policy tools for carbon removal) survived and expanded thanks to strong bipartisan support — the result of years of coalition-building and local community engagement. New legislation kept coming, too. Multiple bills were introduced proposing a role for carbon removal within a broader carbon border adjustment trade framework. Our recent wins on federal appropriations were planned and executed. And across the aisle, lawmakers continued to engage with carbon removal as one of the only climate action policies with bipartisan support — something exceedingly rare these days.

Outside of the federal government, new types of carbon removal gained traction. Enhanced rock weathering (spreading crushed silicate rocks to accelerate natural

carbon storage) had a breakout year, with Mati Carbon, a carbon removal enterprise, winning the XPRIZE. Ocean-based carbon removal attracted growing research funding and policy attention. Simply put, the portfolio of removal approaches is broadening, which is exactly what the field needs to be politically resilient.

The biggest lesson of 2025 is this: The field we've built over the past decade is more durable than the political moment — not a mere coincidence, but by design. Carbon180's investment in diverse pathways to scalable carbon removal, forging and maintaining bipartisan relationships, and focusing on community engagement and local engagement paid off when the political environment got tougher.

Simply put, we are not at square one, but at year ten, where billions in federal investment has been deployed, communities are engaged in local projects, the industry continues to grow, and the policy infrastructure we built proves carbon removal can weather the storm.

Our work ahead is about making all of it *stick*.

OUR TEAM

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Daphne Yin
DIRECTOR OF POLICY

10 years in, and Carbon180's role in shaping the carbon removal story continues to grow.

Our team stayed at the center of the conversation, making the case for responsible carbon removal in a political environment that demanded clarity and courage. In the past year, we've articulated this through media briefings, newsletters, and our robust blog. Together, these drive carbon removal's visibility, nuance, and needed policy support amid the country's new political dynamic.

The US is destroying climate progress. Here's a strategy to win over the right (*The Guardian*)

Carbon180 awards \$300,000 in support for the inclusion of local communities in mCDR plans (*Carbon Herald*)

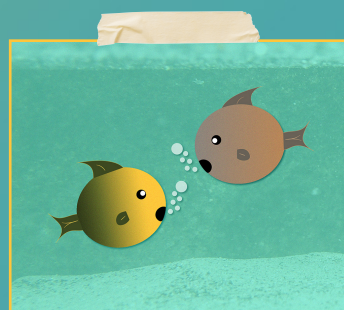
Carbon removal sector sees a growth spurt (*Axios*)

What's next for carbon removal? (*MIT Technology Review*)

FROM OUR OWN PEN



New policy ideas to fund locally-led climate action, creating real standards in defining equitable and just carbon removal, seeing how DAC facilities work in the field, and welcoming Carbon180's first coastal community regranting recipients.



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

FOLLOW ALONG

Tech Policy Leadership

The biggest policy victories for technological carbon removal were under threat in 2025. *We defended every one of them.*

Carbon180 has led the field for over 10 years on developing and advancing policy for technological carbon removal — long before most people could explain what DAC stands for, let alone what carbon removal meant.

In 2025, that experience mattered more than ever. This was supposed to be the year the wheels came off. Major political shifts. A new administration with different priorities. Budget hawks circling. Despite the major headwinds we anticipated in 2025, we were at the forefront of progress on carbon removal. The 45Q tax credit expanded and the two megaton DAC hub projects survived. Federal funding for carbon removal R&D held steady through FY26 appropriations. Carbon180 helped get new bills introduced, including multiple carbon border adjustment proposals.

HERE'S WHAT WE GOT DONE:

Protected the DAC Hubs. When the two megaton-scale DAC hub projects faced real political threat, we coordinated a field-wide defense with partners and the communities that stand to benefit from these facilities. The hubs survived.

Expanded the 45Q tax credit. One of the few clean energy tax credits that maintained — and grew — bipartisan support. That didn't happen on its own. Years of coalition-building in the states and districts where these projects create jobs is what kept 45Q safe.

Got new tech CDR bills introduced. Including multiple carbon border adjustment (CBAM) proposals, which open up entirely new kinds of political coalitions for carbon removal. We've had very few CDR bills introduced in the US to date, and each new one teaches us something about what's politically possible.

Secured CDR R&D funding through FY26 appropriations. The bills passed in January 2026, but all the legwork — the meetings, the language, the requests — happened throughout 2025.

The fate and future of DAC Hubs

What terminated projects could mean for the future of DAC



Land Policy Leadership

Carbon180 spent 2025 listening to the *people who actually manage our land and agriculture*, and we're turning what we heard into actionable policy that benefits both local communities and our climate.

Our land policy team began 2025 by listening and learning. We engaged commodity and specialty crop growers, ranchers, and agroforesters from across the country (and across diverse regions and growing conditions) to hear directly from the people who work the land every day. Successful policy hinges on how our local communities are impacted, and we learned about the real-world challenges they face and what they actually need from federal policy.

Those conversations became impactful resources for policy recommendations rooted in on-the-ground experience, designed to benefit communities, improve conditions for land stewards, and increase opportunities for carbon removal. It's a model that's core to how Carbon180 operates that includes going to the field first, designing policies that are good for both communities and the climate, and working to implement those policies at the federal level.

A note on language: We're working in an environment that's hostile to the word **climate**. So we've kept our emphasis on "soil health" and "forest resilience," knowing that these same policies and programs still deliver carbon removal as a co-benefit. The substance hasn't changed. The framing has adapted.

HERE'S HOW OUR WORK SHOWED UP:

CDR bills reintroduced with bipartisan support.

The Coordination for Soil Carbon Research and Monitoring Act, the Advancing Research for Agricultural Soil Health Act (ARASHA), the Innovative Practices for Soil Health Act, and the Partnerships for Agricultural Climate Action (PACA) Act were all introduced in 2025.

Developed case studies on agroforestry.

We conducted site visits to agroforestry practitioners and created case studies that we're now using directly in meetings with members of Congress.

Secured real money for land-based programs:

- \$2 million for the National Agroforestry Center, which provides technical assistance to those implementing agroforestry practices
- \$37 million for the Urban and Community Forestry Program
- \$32 million for the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program, the primary way we measure and monitor the condition of all US forests
- Drafted appropriations report language directing USDA to develop a standardized soil carbon monitoring methodology across regions, soil types, and production systems.

Ocean Policy Leadership

Carbon180 is *leading the policy conversation* for marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) — the next frontier for carbon removal.

The ocean is one of our greatest — and most underutilized — tools in the fight against climate change. Carbon180 has been laying the groundwork for ocean-based carbon removal since 2022, beginning with our first policy-focused marine CDR white paper, *Depending on the Ocean*. In 2025, we put our early work into action by creating our ocean policy team at Carbon180.

The ocean policy program launched in 2025, and immediately began engaging with local communities and CDR partners to answer the question “how do we get this right”?

There is an enormous opportunity to expand carbon removal processes in the ocean, but anything that might impact ocean ecosystems or coastal communities must be approached carefully and intentionally. We started by spending time with coastal communities and ocean scientists, learning what they actually needed from federal policy before writing a single recommendation.

When it came time to engage lawmakers on marine CDR research and permitting, we had credibility because we’d done the listening first. We also developed guidance for how ocean CDR policy should account for the people and ecosystems it touches.

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2025:

First-ever marine CDR Dear Colleague letter.

Our government affairs team developed it, and Reps. Kevin Mullin (D-CA-15) and Buddy Carter (R-GA-01) led the charge. 15 bipartisan signatures — a strong signal from Congress that ocean-based removal is on the legislative radar.

Shaped a draft marine CDR bill. We provided feedback to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee on their draft bipartisan marine CDR legislation, pushing for an outcome-driven framework for research and development that reflected the priorities we’ve been socializing since our first ocean white paper. This led to the first mCDR-focused bill to be introduced bicamerally in 2026.

Launched the Making Waves coastal regranting program. In partnership with our EJ team, we created opportunities for three new organizations — in Hawai‘i, Puerto Rico, and Alaska — to explore marine CDR on their own terms. The mCDR sector is expanding fast, and early community engagement is going to determine whether deployment goes well or goes sideways.



Government Affairs



Carbon removal is still bipartisan — and in 2025, *we proved it.*

The government affairs team began 2025 with tidal shifts in political dynamics, rollbacks of programs we have spent years building, and a policy environment hostile to anything labeled “climate.”

However, we showed that carbon removal still has friends and supporters on both sides of the aisle, thanks to Carbon180’s lean into innovation, global competitiveness, and resilience alongside climate. Congressional offices were eager to learn about our work and find ways to collaborate. Those conversations bore fruit, with several critically important carbon removal bills introduced throughout the year.

WHAT WE GOT UP TO:

95 congressional meetings with Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate, advocating for carbon removal across pathways.

Featured in 8 member Congressional press releases introducing legislation for tech and land CDR. Carbon180 is a trusted thought partner for offices, and they want us in the room when they announce new bills.

Led 23 funding and report language appropriations requests spanning the Agriculture, Commerce/Justice/Science, Energy & Water, and Interior & Environment appropriations bills. With over 350 member portal submissions to House and Senate offices, and 8 meetings to discuss our requests in detail.

Secured funding and report language wins across all four appropriations bills. In many cases, we held the line on funding levels set by the previous administration.

Led 4 Dear Colleague letters (3 bipartisan) and 3 partner advocacy letters covering soil health, CDR R&D funding, and marine CDR R&D.

Submitted policy recommendations to the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition Institute outlining the most pressing challenges and proposed solutions for CDR across technological, marine, and nature-based pathways.

Equity & Justice

Our ideas and theories became *real field-wide standards* for how carbon removal implementation should look.

One thing that Carbon180 learned working at the nexus of CDR and community outreach: the need to come to a shared understanding of foundational terms. We know carbon removal will only succeed if it delivers real climate benefits while also supporting the communities and ecosystems where it takes place. And we, and our partners, have learned a lot in the past few years about how to implement those goals.

Carbon180 doesn't treat environmental justice as a box to check, but as a foundational component to every aspect of our work. In 2025, we continued to see real world examples of engagement between developers and host communities, creating spaces to raise nuance and advance durable carbon removal policies.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO:

Developed the CORE Carbon Removal Framework. In partnership with our Science & Innovation team, we surveyed community partners, held one-on-one conversations, attended convenings, and used those insights to define terms and applicable practices for what just, equitable, and highly accountable carbon removal actually means. [The full framework is now live.](#)

Launched Making Waves. Our coastal community regranting initiative created space for three organizations in Hawai'i, Puerto Rico, and Alaska to explore marine CDR. As the ocean sector grows,

early community engagement will be critical for responsible deployment.

Took a site visit to a DAC facility with community leaders, labor groups, industry, academia, and tribal organizations. The visit was followed by an afternoon of co-learning on DAC, geologic storage, and equity considerations. It created real inroads — industry and community partners raised nuanced concerns and solutions, expanded their understanding of tech CDR, and built the kind of trust that helps determine whether projects gain social license to operate.

Hosted site visits with regranting partners in Louisville, KY and Tracy, CA. Each included community learning sessions on carbon removal and tours to contextualize the pollution burdens faced by each community.



SITE VISIT WITH REGRANTING PARTNERS IN TRACY, CA

People & Learning

Most of what the People & Learning team

Most of what the People & Learning team builds never shows up in a press release.

It shows up in how we set the **standard** for the field. 2025 was a year of building organizational infrastructure, with the goal of defining how an organization of this size can hire well, hold people accountable fairly, and grow its staff into leaders.

Carbon180 has always put people first, understanding that our impact is in our people. The People & Learning team is at the heart of Carbon180 making sure these beliefs hold true.

WHAT GOT BUILT:

A new impact evaluation process. This new process — tested and revised based on staff feedback — gives Carbon180 regular opportunities to assess performance in a way that our staff can actually understand and trust. Getting to this point meant navigating real concerns and skepticism, which the team did thoughtfully.

An overhauled recruiting process. A new recruiting structure resulting in stronger partnerships with hiring managers and interview teams. This gave our candidates an experience that received genuinely positive feedback.

LinkedIn Learning launched org-wide. Accessible and practical learning tools that the Carbon180 team are actually using, helping our staff grow as experts and leaders in their fields.

Clearer role expectations across leadership. We updated each job description to reflect our current reality. Accountability expectations were established for the entire organization so that responsibilities and expectations are clear and modeled consistently.

Trusted coaching. The Carbon180 team became our go-to resource for difficult conversations and people decisions. This is the kind of trust that doesn't get mandated, but is earned over dozens of individual interactions where someone felt heard and supported.



Team Carbon180

Introduced 2 new program areas, Ocean Policy team and the State & Regional team, ensuring all potential pathways to gigaton scale are part of the equation for carbon removal.

Influencing the field

98 reporter briefings on CDR and features in 78 articles and media segments

10 *years* of building the carbon removal field

Dollars Secured and Defended

\$37 million secured for the Urban and Community Forestry Program

\$32 million secured for the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program

\$10.5 million secured for mCDR at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

\$2 million secured for the National Agroforestry Center

Funding levels held from the previous administration in FY26 appropriations, including \$116.5 million for carbon removal RDD&D across DOE

On the Hill

350+ individual submissions to House and Senate offices

95 Hill meetings

8 Congressional press releases featuring Carbon180 for CDR legislation introductions

Led 4 Dear Colleague letters (3 bipartisan) and 3 partner advocacy letters covering soil health, CDR R&D funding, and mCDR R&D

4 priority land policy bills introduced with bipartisan support



Carbon removal claims are only as good as the science behind them. We made sure the field knew the *difference*.

In 2025, Carbon180's Science & Innovation (S&I) team focused on improving clarity and understanding of how carbon removal gets talked about and how it actually works in practice. In recent years, we've seen private procurement grow, pilot projects come online, and new claims about removal capacity and durability — and we wanted to ensure that these claims were supported by science.

The work centered on identifying where existing claims, frameworks, and standards break down — physically, socially, or legally — and building clearer guidance that reflects real atmospheric constraints and real community impacts. Much of our impact came from synthesizing across technical, finance, policy, and justice domains in ways that individual project developers, buyers, or agencies couldn't do alone. Science & Innovation also spent the year researching and evaluating frameworks and standards to build guidance that accounts for real climate outcomes and real community impacts. Here's what that looked like:

Built the CORE Carbon Removal Framework. In partnership with our Equity & Justice team, Science & Innovation defined specific expectations around impact, quality, and enforcement that cleanly integrate with equity and justice. Launched in April 2026, this work empowers communities to define how carbon removal works with and for them.

Hosted a Community-First Biomass Carbon Removal and Storage (BiCRS) workshop. We explored the wins and opportunities inspiring farmers, foresters, and community advocates who might not think of biomass as carbon removal, but who deal with food waste and forest scraps every day. The collaborative session provided new, locally rooted learnings on the role of biomass in meeting the needs of marginalized communities, as well as of climate.

Published thought leadership. Including analysis on resource use for DAC, BiCRS potential, short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), overshoot scenarios, and the future of biomass. Each was written to be useful for policymakers to understand different aspects of carbon removal.

Served as a trusted technical voice in federal policy discussions. When agencies and policymakers needed realism about constraints, risks, and tradeoffs, our Science & Innovation experts were in the room. That role — honest broker, not cheerleader — is what makes Carbon180 different from organizations that only advocate for more of everything.

What's Next

Carbon removal isn't just *one* thing.

It's soils, trees, direct air capture, hybrid solutions, and marine approaches. While they basically have nothing in common, they all happen to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

That matters more now than it used to. When we started this work a decade ago, the only real policies we could move were on direct air capture, and the goal was mostly to teach policymakers what carbon removal even was. Today, we're in a very different position. We're no longer explaining the concept at the 10,000 foot level, but are actively building the policy infrastructure for an entire field across multiple pathways, regions, and political coalitions. A true "all of the above" approach.

We've set ourselves a target of 30 million tons of high-quality carbon removal per year by 2030. It's ambitious, but it is also the kind of milestone that feels reachable enough to put into action right now, rather than letting "gigaton scale" stay as a somewhat nebulous abstract that is perpetually "five years away". Getting to this goal requires a different approach to policy than what got us here initially. This means sector-specific and regionally-specific policy and pathways with the coalitions and community buy-in to make each piece durable, just, and accountable.

This is what it looks like in practice:

Policy roadmaps for every pathway. We're building policy roadmaps for tech, agriculture, forestry, and ocean policy that details exactly what policymakers must do to reach 30 megatons by 2030. These are designed as realistic steps for this political moment. In 2026, ocean published first, followed by tech, with agriculture and forestry later in the year.

The CORE Framework is public. The carbon removal field has never had a shared standard for what "doing carbon removal well" actually means. That's what CORE is. Carbon180 developed a framework around eight principles (justice, equity, transparency, accountability, enforcement, inclusion, additionality, and net negativity) and eleven practices that make those principles actionable. It is now live.

Ocean policy comes into its own. The ocean team, less than a year old, is already moving legislation. The ReSCUE Oceans Act was introduced with bipartisan sponsorship in both chambers. This bill is a public funding mechanism for marine CDR research, with community and Indigenous leadership is part of the process from the start. We're also co-hosting the marine CDR Forum, and our "Making Waves" regranting cohort in Alaska, Hawai'i, and Puerto Rico just got a second year of funding.

States and Regions program launch. Feasibility studies will kick off in Alaska, California, and Washington. They will look at governance, permitting, workforce, and community accountability for carbon removal on the ground. Carbon removal projects get built in specific places, so the policy needs to be specific, too.

A new policy pipeline. We're also building a database of longer-horizon ideas that think 10 or 20 years out. What entirely new policy structures does gigaton-scale removal need? Those concepts feed back into the roadmaps as they evolve.

Growing our financial foundation. More organizations are competing for carbon removal funding. We're shifting from waiting for grants to proactively building new funder relationships and diversifying our donor base. An organization that plans to be around for another decade has to build financial resilience the same way it builds policy.



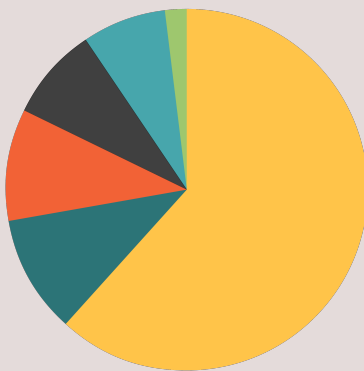
SHEEP GRAZING AT RED FERM FARM DURING THE AGROFORESTRY CASE STUDIES

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

\$10,128,792



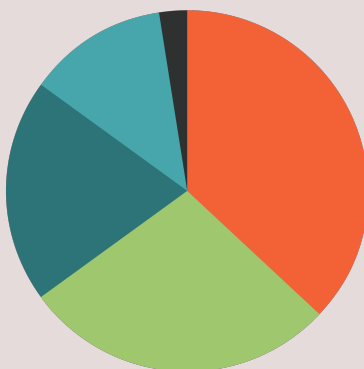
OVERHEAD	\$1,065,650
FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT	\$843,305

PROGRAMS

POLICY	\$6,264,912
COMMUNICATIONS	\$1,021,589
SCIENCE & INNOVATION	\$743,324
LOBBYING	\$190,012

REVENUE

\$5,400,115



GRANT INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS	\$2,000,000
FOUNDATION GRANTS	\$1,523,917
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$1,072,903
INVESTING ACTIVITIES	\$677,556
CORPORATE DONATIONS	\$126,740

Disclosures: Carbon180 does not accept donations from the fossil fuel industry or private carbon removal companies. Our 2025 annual audit is underway at the time of this publication. We are audited annually as required by law for a 501c3 of our size and location. The audit may result in modest adjustments to the data presented. For an audited version of our financials, please email hello@carbon180.org.