

Scaling CDR in the Ocean: A US Federal Policy Roadmap

Scaling CDR in the Ocean: A US Federal Policy Roadmap lays out the most impactful and practical policy actions needed to advance marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR). These are pragmatic ideas we need to hit our interim goal of 30 megatons of carbon removal per year by 2030 across all CDR pathways.

mCDR is a set of technologies and nature-based approaches — such as ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE), direct ocean capture (DOC), and ocean fertilization (OF) — that work with the ocean's natural processes to pull more carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere.

The roadmap highlights **six priority recommendations for policymakers** to meet mCDR's greatest needs:

The **single most impactful action** policymakers can take right now:

Pass the ReSCUE Oceans Act. This recently introduced bipartisan, bicameral bill lays the groundwork for advancing the R&D and the coordination needed to responsibly scale mCDR.

To resolve uncertainties about **environmental impact:**

Fund mCDR at NSF to provide the foundational knowledge on the ocean environment to support mCDR research, measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MMRV) methodologies.

To answer questions around **efficacy & durability:**

Reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act and include specifications of programmatic foci onto mCDR explicitly, such as for mCDR measurement, monitoring, and modeling, and tools for easily finding and using mCDR data.

To build mCDR **social license:**

Establish in law the mCDR Interagency Working Group to coordinate mCDR research, a mCDR code of conduct, recommendations for scaling, and ensure public accessibility and usability of federally funded mCDR data.

To move the needle on **scaling & deployment:**

Reintroduce the Ocean Regional Opportunity and Innovation Act which creates Ocean Innovation Clusters, and target those areas of the US coast for mCDR R&D, job training, and cross-sector partnerships.

To enable responsible **commercialization:**

Conduct a US Government Accountability Office review of federal regulatory and permitting frameworks applicable to mCDR activities, including research, field trials, and commercial-scale deployment.

Carbon180's *Road to 2030* roadmaps are actionable frameworks for policymakers to bring the benefits of carbon dioxide removal (CDR) to American's doorsteps. Scientists agree that we need to get CDR to gigaton scale by mid-century to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. We cannot bring solutions to scale without a federal policy foundation that supports this growth.

Reach out to us at ocean@carbon180.org for questions or follow up discussions.



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