



PRESS RELEASE

CARBON GAP LAUNCHES A ROADMAP TO RESPONSIBLY SCALE-UP CDR IN EUROPE AND CALLS FOR AN EU CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL STRATEGY

Brussels, 19 March 2024 – Today, environmental NGO [Carbon Gap](#) is launching a **roadmap** with concrete policy recommendations to responsibly scale up CDR in Europe, calling on the European Commission to develop a comprehensive EU Carbon Dioxide Removal Strategy.

In the midst of the climate crisis, and just a few decades away from the 2050 climate neutrality deadline, Europe must urgently increase its climate mitigation efforts. Intermediate climate targets for 2040 are being discussed, with dramatic emissions cuts remaining the most important means of achieving EU climate goals. Still, accelerating the decarbonisation of European society and reaching net zero will also require actively deploying carbon dioxide removal (CDR).

In recent years, CDR has grown and gained significant political momentum. At the same time, **its deployment is not progressing at the pace required to meet global climate goals.** Whilst other global players are forging ahead with dedicated policies to support the development and scale-up of CDR, there is little targeted policy and financial support available for CDR in Europe. Without a coherent plan for how to overcome these challenges, the EU risks falling behind, leaving it up to chance as to whether CDR can fulfil its role in delivering on EU climate goals.

To address these challenges, Carbon Gap calls on the European Commission to develop an **EU Carbon Dioxide Removal Strategy**, taking the lead in the responsible development and deployment of carbon removal. A dedicated strategy would create the conditions for a thriving new green sector and the achievement of EU climate goals.

Building on the latest scientific knowledge and the progress already made by the EU on CDR, Carbon Gap has put together a **set of recommendations** to inspire European policymakers **to design such a strategy and provide a clear direction for CDR development**, starting during the next EU legislative cycle.

Our recommendations focus on **four policy areas** that will be key to taking CDR to the next level:

1. Boosting investment in research, innovation, and development of carbon removal
2. Bringing carbon removal methods from the lab to the field with deployment incentives
3. Developing an enduring policy framework for CDR
4. Ensuring just governance and deployment of carbon removal

These recommendations are designed to complement each other. Collectively, these recommendations would allow to:

1. **Strategically target EU funding where it is most needed**, boosting innovation and social science research, as well as de-risking investment into CDR through procurement.
2. **Make funding more accessible** for CDR researchers, developers, and other stakeholders, **as well as funding flows more transparent** for civil society to scrutinise.
3. **Leverage the EU's existing climate governance framework** to grow the land carbon sink, instigate demand for removals, crowd in private finance, prioritise RD&I, and ensure just and fair governance and deployment of CDR.
4. **Develop new governance infrastructure** to scale up CDR supply, aggregate demand over the long-term, and further galvanise private investment.
5. **Boost the EU's institutional capacity for civic engagement** on CDR, involving and empowering citizens at the policy- and project-levels.

"There is a window of opportunity for the EU to take bold action on CDR and cement its role as a global leader on climate action. An EU CDR Strategy would provide strategic direction on CDR as the EU seeks to deliver on its climate goals, charting a path for how to develop, deploy and scale CDR in Europe in the years ahead," says **Valter Selén**, Associate Policy Director.

"The EU needs to act now to harness the existing momentum for CDR. An EU CDR Strategy would represent a welcome change of gears, and signal EU's vision to unleash growth and investments in CDR in time." urges **Eli Mitchell-Larson**, Chief Science and Advocacy Officer.

About CDR

As defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), CDR refers to *"anthropogenic activities that remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it durably in geological, terrestrial, or ocean reservoirs, or in products"*. CDR is required at a significant scale to maintain a stable climate, with the State of CDR report estimating that around 5-10GtCO₂/year will need to be removed from the atmosphere by 2050 to meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Next steps

Based on what we hope will be productive discussions generated by the launch of our proposal, we call on the European Commission to adopt an *EU CDR Strategy* in the form of a Commission communication as early as possible after the EU elections, laying out a roadmap for CDR from now to 2050. Carbon Gap is ready to support this endeavour.

PRESS RELEASE ENDS



NOTES FOR EDITORS

Carbon Gap is an independent, philanthropically funded non-profit organisation focused on responsibly scaling up carbon dioxide removal in Europe, as an important complement to emissions reductions.

Useful resources:

- [Carbon Gap – Envisioning an EU Carbon Dioxide Removal Strategy](#)
- [Carbon Gap press release on 2040 targets and industrial carbon management.](#)
- The State of Carbon Dioxide Removal – 1st [Edition \(2023\)](#)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [Mitigation of Climate Change. Summary for Policymakers \(2015\)](#)

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