

THE VANCOUVER DECLARATION

On Global Cooperation to Remove Carbon Dioxide

Our planet's climate is changing rapidly. Rising temperatures are altering the natural systems that support life, human society, and our global economy. To confront these changes with the urgency and effectiveness they demand, we must complement our carbon dioxide reduction efforts with carbon dioxide removal (CDR) as soon as possible.

The best available science supports this approach:

- Over the past decade, the average near-surface temperature of our planet has risen faster and to higher levels than at any other period in recorded human history. There is no longer a credible pathway for limiting this warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and the 2016 Paris Agreement's goal of holding warming to "well below 2°C" is increasingly at risk.
- Without intervention, our planet's temperature will continue rising long into the future. The impacts of this increase on societies, economies, and ecosystems are already noticeable and will only intensify over the coming years and decades.
- Greenhouse gases—especially carbon dioxide—are the primary drivers of this warming. Excess carbon dioxide pollution has accumulated in our planet's atmosphere, especially over the past two centuries, and will continue trapping heat for generations.
- Reducing carbon dioxide emissions must remain an essential part of any long-term climate strategy, but reductions alone will not be enough to regulate temperatures. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has advised for decades that carbon dioxide removal must also play a critical role.

Developing a robust, global CDR capacity as soon as possible is a necessary step in helping limit the changes happening to our climate. However, this capacity remains orders of magnitude below where it needs to be. Government leadership and involvement are now essential given the scope and urgency of the challenge, and the unique abilities and historic roles of governments in scaling major infrastructure systems that serve the public good.

Therefore, by this Declaration, we join in common cause with governments and government institutions around the world to begin building new pathways for global, intergovernmental collaboration on the urgent, responsible, and equitable removal of excess carbon dioxide from our planet's atmosphere.

We have reached a pivotal point in human history—one that calls for trust in science, global solidarity, shared responsibility, and bold, united action, without which the human experience on our planet will become uniquely challenging. By this Declaration, we choose to act together now, so we may better protect our present, and preserve a livable future for generations yet to come.