Membership and Governance Guidelines

Version 1.0 | September 2026

0.1 Purpose: CDRANet is a global network of people working across science, policy, government, industry, civil society, law, finance, and other fields to help advance responsible carbon dioxide removal. The network is a program of the Science Communication Institute (SCI), a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

0.2 Guidelines: These guidelines explain what CDRANet membership means, how members participate in the network, how group decisions are made, and how SCI supports and manages CDRANet.

1. Membership

1.1 Participation: Membership is free and voluntary. There are no dues, attendance requirements, travel requirements, or minimum participation requirements. Members are not required to read every email, attend meetings, serve on committees, or vote on CDRANet matters.

1.2 Individuals: Membership is generally individual. Unless specifically stated otherwise, institutional affiliations are provided for identification purposes only and do not imply that a member's employer or affiliated institution endorses CDRANet or its work. In some cases, individuals or institutions may expressly agree to be identified as supporters or participants in order to help promote CDRANet's work; where this occurs, CDRANet may describe that support accordingly.

1.3 Privacy: Public identification is opt-in only. CDRANet will not publicly list a member's name or institutional affiliation without permission. Members may choose to have their name listed, their institution listed, both, or neither.

1.4 Identification: Members may identify themselves publicly as CDRANet members and are welcome to use the CDRANet logo when describing their participation in the network.

1.5 Recruitment: Members may invite others to join. CDRANet grows largely through professional networks, and members are encouraged to invite colleagues whose knowledge or perspective would contribute to the group.

1.6 Endorsement: Membership does not imply support for every CDRANet project, statement, decision, recommendation, or activity. Nor does an individual's membership imply endorsement by their employer or institution unless that institution has explicitly said otherwise.

1.7 Removal: Membership may be revoked in exceptional circumstances involving harassment, abuse, deliberate disruption, serious misrepresentation of CDRANet, or other conduct materially inconsistent with the purposes of the network. The CDRANet Program Director may recommend removal of a member, but removal requires the unanimous approval of the CDRANet Permanent Advisory Committee.

2. Member Discussions and Confidentiality

2.1 Confidentiality: Conversations on the CDRANet listserv and in other member-only settings are treated as confidential within the network unless participants are informed otherwise.

2.2 Summaries: CDRANet may publish deidentified summaries of member discussions when the information would be useful to governments, researchers, policymakers, or the broader CDR community (see 2.3). These summaries may describe themes, ideas, areas of agreement, and areas of disagreement.

2.3 Attribution: Members, institutions, quotations, or identifiable ideas will only be publicly attributed with permission.

2.4 Approval: Public summaries of member discussions do not require a vote of the membership because they report on discussions rather than establish official CDRANet positions.

3. Decision-making

3.1 Authority: Most CDRANet activities and decisions do not require a vote of the full membership. The Program Director, SCI, the Permanent Advisory Committee, and other CDRANet committees and working groups may carry out the network's activities within their respective areas of responsibility. The Permanent Advisory Committee is appointed as described in Section 4.2.

3.2 Member votes: A formal vote of the CDRANet membership is required only for:
a. substantive changes to these Membership and Governance Guidelines;
b. a decision that CDRANet should become an independent organization separate from SCI; or
c. other matters that the CDRANet Permanent Advisory Committee determines should be submitted to the full membership.

3.3 Quorum: A quorum is required for all formal member decisions identified in Section 3.2. A quorum is defined as votes cast by at least ten percent of the CDRANet listserv membership, rounded to the nearest whole number.

3.4 Approval: Unless otherwise stated when a vote is announced, a proposal is approved by a simple majority of votes cast once quorum has been reached.

3.5 Voting: Votes may be conducted electronically so all members have a reasonable opportunity to participate.

3.6 Representation: An approved CDRANet decision represents an official decision of the network under these procedures. It does not mean that every CDRANet member personally agrees with the decision.

4. Committees and Member Participation

4.1 Participation: Members may volunteer to serve on CDRANet committees, advisory groups, working groups, and other project teams. These groups help develop ideas, provide expertise, organize activities, and assist with the management and direction of the network.

4.2 Advisory Committee: The Permanent Advisory Committee provides ongoing advice and governance support to the CDRANet Program Director and SCI. Members are selected by the Program Director. Other committees and working groups may be established as needed for particular projects or areas of work.

4.3 Transparency: Current CDRANet governance and advisory groups are identified on the CDRANet website so members and the public can see how the network's work is being supported.

4.4 Representation: Participation on a committee or working group does not automatically give that group authority to speak for the entire CDRANet membership.

5. SCI's Role

5.1 Management: CDRANet is a program of the Science Communication Institute. SCI serves as its legal and administrative home and provides the infrastructure needed for the network to operate.

5.2 Administration: SCI provides administrative and program support; receives and manages grants, contributions, sponsorships, and other CDRANet funds; manages contracts, websites, communications, meetings, and conferences; handles legal, tax, financial, and organizational requirements; and provides organizational insurance for covered CDRANet activities.

5.3 Overhead: SCI currently charges no overhead fee on contributions designated for CDRANet.

6. Financial Transparency

6.1 Reporting: SCI will publish an annual financial summary for CDRANet showing funds received, funds spent, and the principal purposes for which those funds were used.

6.2 Accounting: More detailed CDRANet financial information will remain part of SCI's overall nonprofit accounting and will be reflected in SCI's Annual Report and required federal tax filings.

6.3 Independence: Financial support for CDRANet does not give a donor, sponsor, or funder control over CDRANet positions or decisions.

7. Volunteers and Liability

7.1 Volunteers: Much of CDRANet's work is supported by volunteers. Volunteers working on authorized CDRANet activities operate under SCI's nonprofit structure and are covered to the extent provided by applicable SCI insurance policies.

7.2 Protection: Uncompensated nonprofit volunteers may also receive protection from personal civil liability under Washington State law, including RCW 4.24.670, and under the federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997, when they are acting within the scope of their assigned responsibilities.

7.3 Limits: These protections are not absolute and do not cover every circumstance or form of misconduct. SCI therefore maintains insurance and other safeguards appropriate to CDRANet's activities.

8. CDRANet's Future

8.1 Status: CDRANet will remain a program of SCI unless its members decide that the network should become a separate organization.

8.2 Independence: Any decision to separate CDRANet from SCI requires a formal membership vote under Section 3, including the quorum requirement in Section 3.3. Approval would authorize SCI and CDRANet to develop the legal, financial, and organizational arrangements needed for such a transition.

8.3 Continuity: Until such a transition occurs, SCI will continue managing CDRANet with assistance from the Permanent Advisory Committee, other committees and working groups, volunteers, and members.

8.4 Amendments: Substantive changes to these guidelines require member approval under Section 3. Routine clarifications, factual updates, and administrative edits may be made by the CDRANet Program Director and SCI without a membership vote.