



Removing Carbon to Fight Climate Change: Prospects and Perils

Roundtable proposal prepared by Simon Nicholson, Co-director of the Institute for Carbon Removal Law and Policy, American University (www.carbonremoval.info)

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This roundtable will interrogate the role that **carbon removal** will and should play in the fight against climate change.

Recent studies by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the US National Academy of Sciences, and others have made clear that the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions will no longer be enough to avoid crossing the temperature thresholds established in the Paris Agreement. As a supplement to decarbonizing the world's energy, transportation, and food systems, large amounts of carbon dioxide will need to be pulled out of the atmosphere. The prospect of carbon removal raises, though, a host of thorny questions and challenges, such that societal consideration of carbon removal options promises to be contentious even as it's essential.

We will use this roundtable discussion to:

- consider the state of physical science and engineering research on carbon removal;
- outline the risks and opportunities associated with various forms of carbon removal at a variety of scales;
- discuss the existing and needed governance architecture required for beneficial carbon removal; and
- propose a set of actionable next steps for US-based carbon removal investigation and action.

Invited participants:

Maya Breitburg-Smith, RESOLVE

Rick Duke, Gigaton Strategies (formerly Special Assistant to President Obama)

David Morrow, Institute for Carbon Removal Law and Policy, American University

Simon Nicholson (moderator), Institute for Carbon Removal Law and Policy, American University

Olufemi Taiwo, Georgetown University

Michael Thompson, Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative