



AFEN

Association Française pour les Émissions Négatives

Charter of the Association Française pour les Émissions Négatives

Preamble

The Association Française pour les Émissions Négatives (AFEN) community recognizes the global scientific consensus that "*it is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, oceans and land,*" and that high atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide are the most significant expression of this influence.

We also recognize the scientific consensus that removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is a necessary contribution to global efforts to halt the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations.

Negative emissions, also referred to as Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR), as recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), refers to anthropogenic activities that remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it durably in geological, terrestrial or oceanic reservoirs, or products. Methods include but are not limited to, Biochar Carbon Removal, Mineralization, Enhanced Rock Weathering (ERW), Direct Air Capture with Sequestration (DACCS), Bioenergy with Capture and Sequestration (BECCS), Ecosystem Restoration, or Marine Carbon Removal Processes (mCDR) such as Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement (OAE) or Macroalgae with storage.

Negative emissions can 1) accelerate the reduction of net emissions (immediately), 2) offset incompressible emissions directly within organizations' value chains (i.e. *insetting*) or through a contribution to third parties (i.e. voluntary offsetting), with equivalent removals, in the short term, and 3) produce net negative emissions (in the long term) to lower levels of emissions CO₂ concentrations.

Negative emissions are distinct from carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and carbon capture and utilization (CCU). These two approaches aim to separate CO₂ from industrial exhaust gases to avoid the release of these gases into the atmosphere, with two different ways

of managing the CO₂ thus trapped. In the case of CCS, CO₂ is stored geologically permanently while CCU is part of a broader set of "carbon recycling" applications, describing the reuse of captured carbon either directly (e.g., to fertilize greenhouses, in beverages) or as an ingredient in new products (e.g., concrete, fuels, chemicals). Since most of the carbon captured is not stored sustainably, CCU is generally not considered a removal. Carbon dioxide removal, CCU, and CCS are separate, but some carbon removal methods (e.g., direct air capture or mineralization) may use the same capture processes or long-term storage infrastructure as those used for conventional CCS and CCU. All these sectors have a role to play, but they deliver different climate benefits and do not face the same challenges.

We, members or partners of the Association Française pour les Émissions Négatives (AFEN), make the following commitments to our peers as part of our species' fight against the harmful effects of climate change:

Ambition

1. We recognize the strong dependence between greenhouse gas (GHG) and negative emissions reductions and recognize that the implementation of a robust strategy for the rapid reduction of GHG emissions is a prerequisite for the use of carbon removal. The two combined may succeed in stabilizing our climate, but one without the other will not be enough.
2. We support a carbon removal strategy in line with the ambitions of the Paris Agreement and the national goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 at the latest. We also call for the highest level of climate ambition from private companies, local authorities, or States – in France and internationally, and recognize the role of carbon removal concerning historical emissions and climate justice.

Science

3. We actively seek to keep abreast of scientific advances in climate change in general and carbon removal, and are committed to aligning our activities with best practices following scientific consensus.
4. We support a rigorous approach to abatement of emissions based on the principle of "like for like". Organizations, including private companies, can only offset their fossil fuel emissions through comparable carbon removals, i.e., permanent removals, not short-term ones.

5. We recognize that the rapid development of a wide range of carbon removal methods is necessary to meet global commitments. Therefore, we believe that climate goals should set an overall goal for permanent carbon removal. All carbon removal technologies that contribute to this goal must be developed without privileging any specific technology.

Quality

We recognize the importance of meeting the highest requirements for carbon removal. As such, we are committed to complying with the most robust standards, particularly as defined in the European Union's certification framework for carbon removals or peer-validated standards. The quality criteria we meet are:

6. **Additionality:** Carbon removal projects must result in carbon removal that would not have occurred without the project.
7. **Permanence:** Each carbon removal solution, in terms of its technological feasibility, should aim for maximum permanence, assessed considering the environmental changes it would have to face. If there is a risk of re-issuance, appropriate measures must be put in place to mitigate this risk.
8. **Net negative:** Carbon removal solutions must result in a net reduction in the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere, without double counting.
9. **Measurability, Reporting, and Verifiability (MRV):** Carbon removal projects must follow scientifically rigorous and transparent methods for independent third-party monitoring, quantification, reporting, and verification of GHG emissions removed, reduced/avoided.
10. **Co-benefits:** We recognize the value of environmental, social, or economic co-benefits beyond climate change mitigation, such as preserving biodiversity, supporting local communities, or preserving natural resources.

Responsibility

11. We are committed to communicating transparently to the public and our peers about the actual impacts of our carbon removal activities, and to collaborating and communicating with each other and with stakeholders in our operations in a frank and accurate manner. This commitment ensures full information about the nature of our activity, its purpose, and all the scientific evidence surrounding it (including any identified

risks).

12. We recognize the importance of the sustainable development of our business and are committed to adopting activities that generate a positive and significant social, societal, and environmental impact. As part of this approach, we respect the principles of global sustainability as set out in the United Nations' Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as a benevolent approach within the association, by being part of a mission-driven company approach, for example.
13. Where possible, we support a collaborative approach between carbon removal actors, scientific communities, and other audiences to develop a CDR pathway at the scale required by scientists and improve understanding of activities around carbon removal.