

# The Best Ideas from COP30, the UN Climate Summit in Brazil

December 18, 2025



**Senator Josh Becker**  
California Senate



**Vini Sala**  
Teradot



**Barry Vesser**  
The Climate Center



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# Our Mission

**We're working to rapidly  
reduce climate pollution at  
scale, starting in California.**

We believe in thriving, healthy communities. We envision a future where everyone in California enjoys clean air and water, renewable and reliable energy, healthy food, thriving nature, and more.





## RAISING THE ALARM

Evidence that tipping points are under way has mounted in the past decade. Domino effects have also been proposed.



**A. Amazon rainforest**  
Frequent droughts

**B. Arctic sea ice**  
Reduction in area

**C. Atlantic circulation**  
In slowdown since 1950s

**D. Boreal forest**  
Fires and pests changing

**F. Coral reefs**  
Large-scale die-offs

**G. Greenland ice sheet**  
Ice loss accelerating

**H. Permafrost**  
Thawing

**I. West Antarctic ice sheet**  
Ice loss accelerating

**J. Wilkes Basin, East Antarctica**  
Ice loss accelerating

# The Challenge

The climate crisis is hitting harder and faster than scientists predicted even a few years ago. As the United Nations recently warned, we are witnessing a **“code red” moment** for humanity.



# California Must Lead

California has the tools and know-how to lead on climate. When our elected officials accelerate the transition to clean energy, all of us will benefit.

**California must lead on climate once again at the speed and scale required. Our communities deserve accelerated, equitable solutions.**

Photo: Climate rally in Sacramento. Image by Tessa Richardson.

# California is Leading the Way





# What is COP?

United Nations Climate Change Conferences, which take place every year, and are the world's only multilateral decision-making forum on climate change that brings together almost **every country on Earth**.

Conference of Parties (COP) is where the world comes together to agree on the actions to address the climate crisis!

The goal is to bring together world leaders and negotiators to further global progress, with business leaders, young people, climate scientists, Indigenous Peoples, and civil society sharing insights and best practices to strengthen global, collective and inclusive climate action.



# Where was COP 30?



# Blue Zone vs Green Zone

## GENERAL MAP | BLUE ZONE

United Nations  
Climate Change

JÚLIO CESAR AVENUE



the  
climate  
center



# Why was The Climate Center at COP 30?

The Climate Center became an official Observer organization to the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) (UNFCCC) in 2020. As an Observer, we're able to help a limited number of California policymakers and nonprofit leaders gain entrance to the annual gathering of tens of thousands of attendees from all over the world!



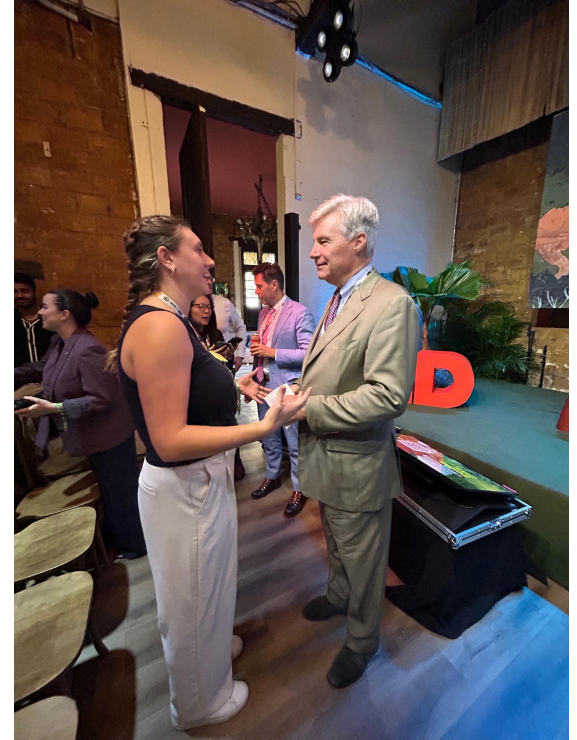
# United States Presence at COP 30

- Our presence was felt - The Climate Registry USA Climate Pavilion
- A lack of US leadership - vacuum in negotiations
- Newsom - Trump handing China the biggest economic opportunity in history



# United States Presence at COP30

- Because of the government shutdown, only 1 out of 17 congress people made it. Thanks to Senator Sheldon Whitehouse!
- The largest economy in the world and the second largest climate polluter shirks its responsibility with real consequences



# The United States is making progress on climate despite Tr\*mp





# First Timer Takeaway

- Powerful exchange of ideas
- Diversity
- Frustrations and excitement for innovation



# Today's Webinar



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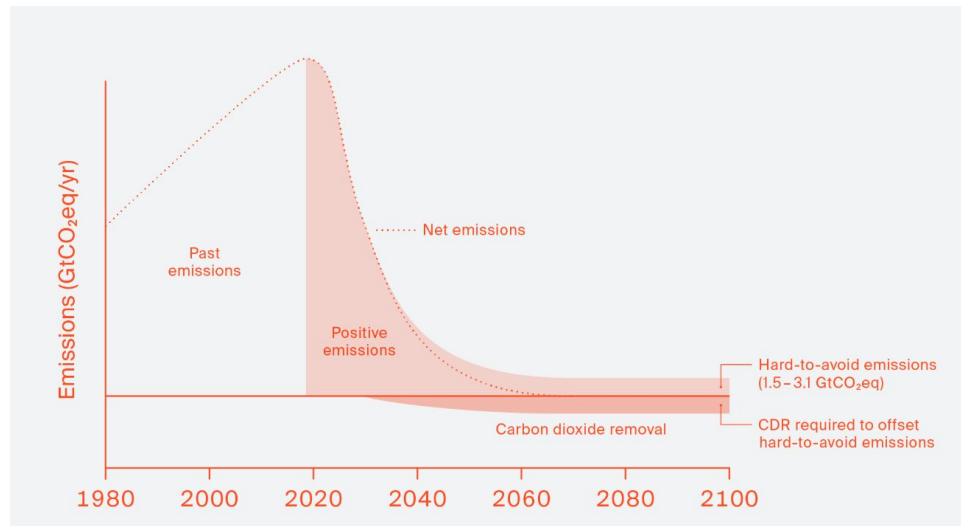
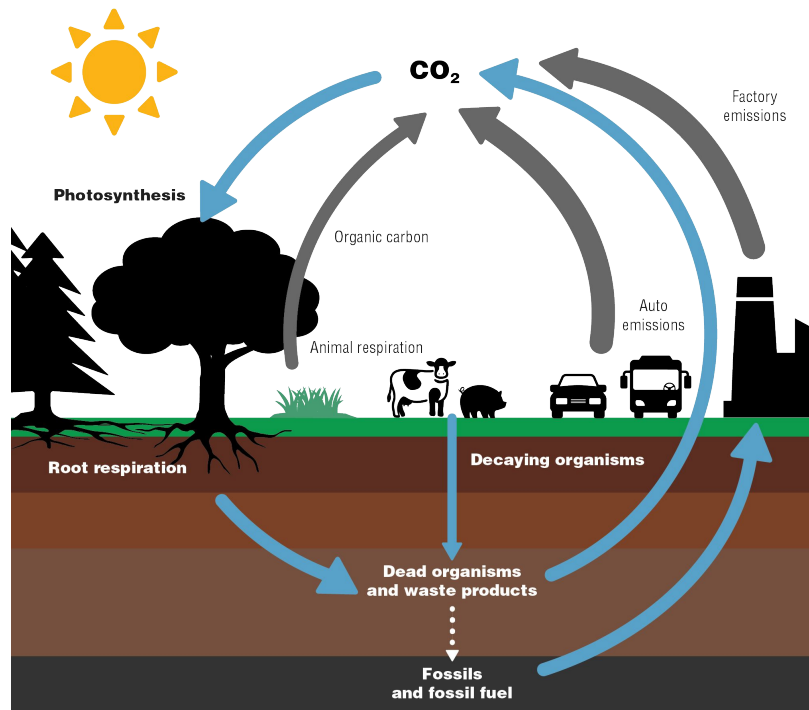
HOLD

# Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)

- **What is it?**
- **Why it is needed?**
- **Ways to do it!**

# Carbon Cycle & Legacy Emissions

The Carbon Cycle



# What is Carbon Dioxide Removal?

## Why is it Needed?

### How CDR Addresses CO2 Legacy Emissions

- Carbon dioxide removal refers to activities that remove existing CO2 from the atmosphere and store it durably, whether in products, the land, ocean, or geologic storage sites.
- CO2 has a long life span in the atmosphere
- CDR is a sort of 'waste management' strategy
- CDR encompasses a variety of pathways, some of which have many co-benefits for food insecurity, community resilience to climate change, water quality, and air quality.



Trees



Biochar

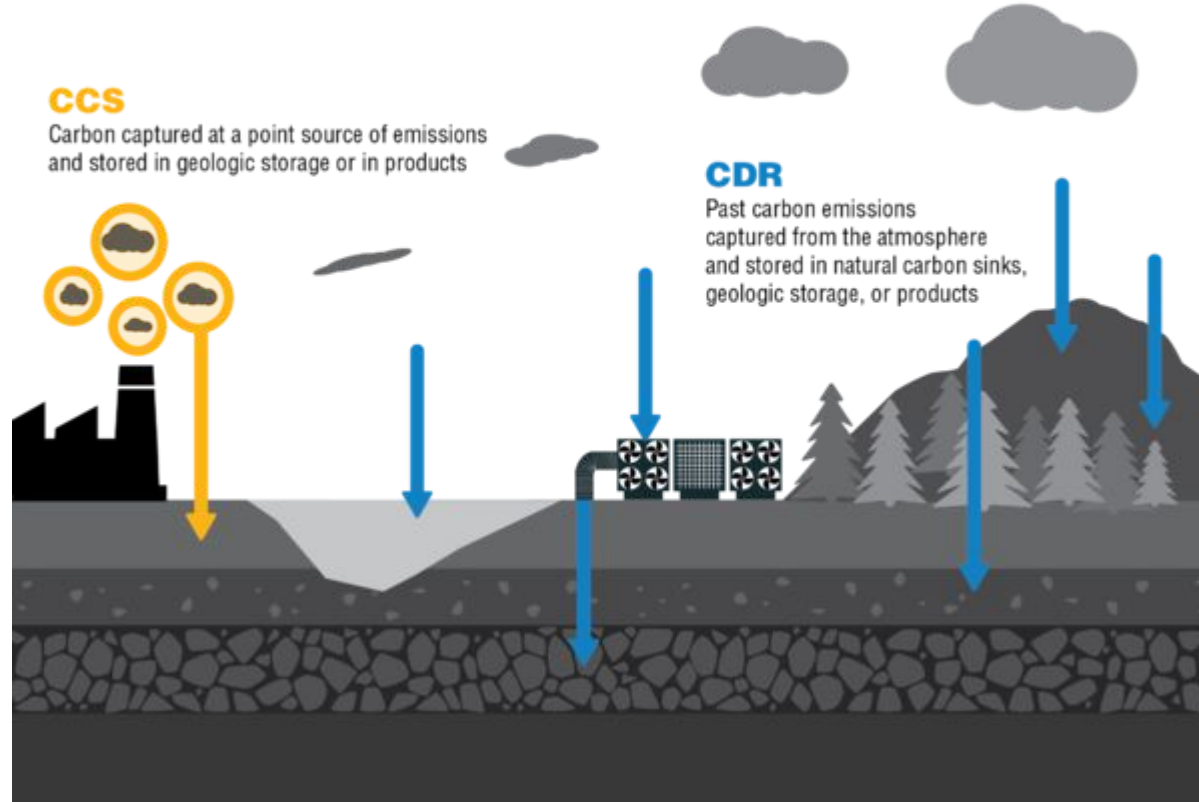


Direct Air Capture



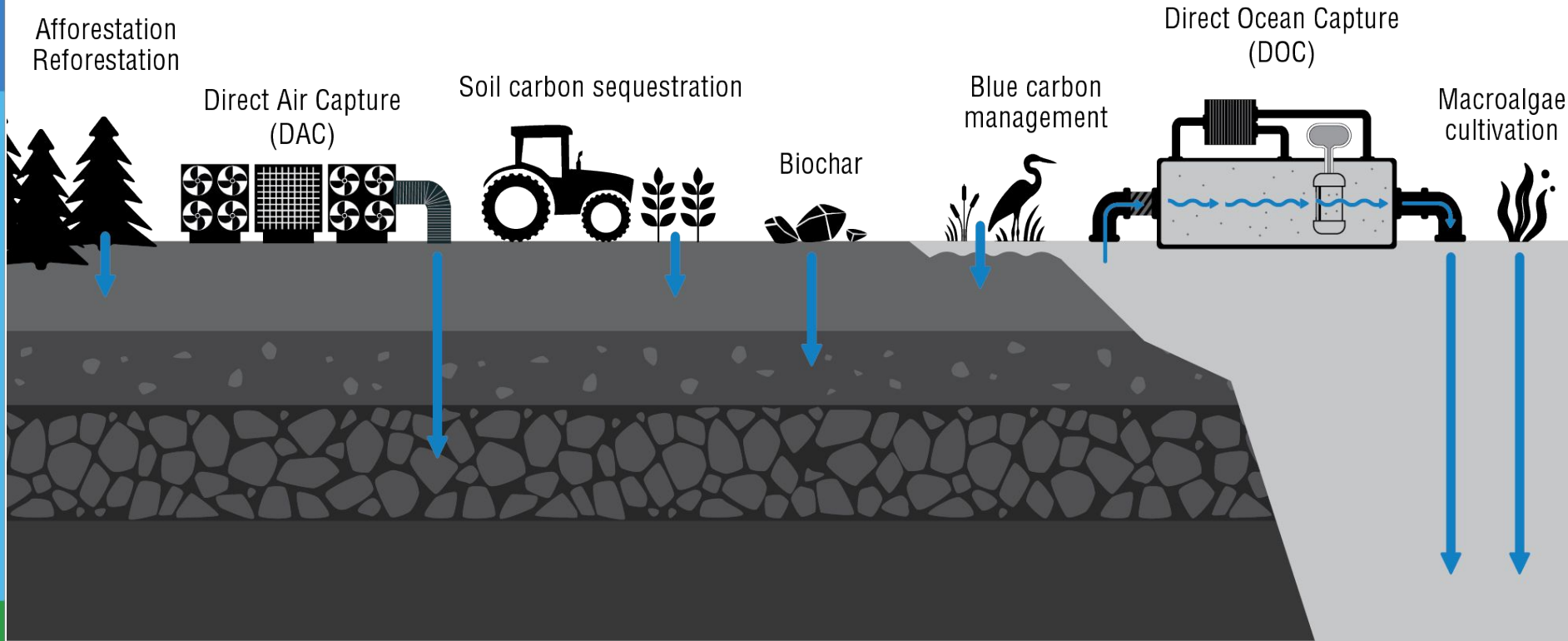
Healthy Soils

# CDR is Not Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)



Source: Carbon Gap

# CDR Strategies







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