CNCA
CARBON NEUTRAL CITIES ALLIANCE

CNCA Game Changers | Regenerative Systems and Economies

Topic. Carbon Drawdown Funding Priorities

Leadership. The Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance (CNCA) members guiding this effort are Boulder, CO, USA; and Stockholm, SE.

Problem statement. Carbon drawdown initiatives in urban environments can significantly advance local carbon neutrality goals, but cities struggle to: (1) focus initiatives on actions that are the right fit for the city's unique circumstances; and (2) develop the cross-sector partnerships necessary to implement successful carbon drawdown actions. Key issues are:

- Biocarbon capture systems (e.g., bioenergy facilities[1] and landscapes) need to be developed at a large scale
- Urban and rural landscapes need to be evaluated and approached as an interconnected system
- Sequestration methods in vegetated areas and soils need to be mapped against a common set of standards
- Cities need to develop the storyline of carbon as a resource that can improve lives
- Cities need to find external partners and funding sources at the local and regional levels in order to lock in long-term support
- Local carbon drawdown initiatives with social benefits need to be valued in ways that reflect these benefits

Theory of change. If negative emissions need to be achieved to reach a 1.5-degree global temperature reduction, then regenerative offsets are necessary to reach carbon neutrality targets. To be able to significantly capture carbon, the "game changing" actions required are:

- Fostering strong urban and regional partnerships to sequester carbon within natural systems like fields, forests, and oceans
- Advancing the use of regenerative and sustainable management techniques to agricultural and controlled burning practices
- Dramatically increasing carbon stocks in living landscapes to create more resilient, productive and secure communities
- Making carbon drawdown more tangible by identifying funding sources, and by streamlining processes for investment and accountability
- Mobilizing broader uptake of practices by governments, businesses and community and monitoring progress against common standards
- Using regenerative offsets to achieve carbon neutrality, and grow clean new economic opportunities

[1] One of CNCA's goals is to increase the knowledge and awareness of carbon capture and storage (CCS). Combining bioenergy and CCS technology can make this practice much more accepted than when it is paired with fossil fuels.

Funding priorities. The CNCA Game Changer Fund seeks to support city efforts that build regenerative systems and economies through carbon drawdown initiatives. Table 1 outlines funding priorities and targeted outcomes of successful carbon drawdown efforts as identified by CNCA members. As funds are raised, CNCA will call for projects that advance these priorities in measurable ways.

Table 1. Carbon Drawdown Funding Priorities and Targeted Outcomes.

Funding Priorities:	Targeted Outcomes:
● Studies to determine which cities are effectively using carbon sequestration practices and what they are finding ● Pilot projects that focus on urban applications for carbon drawdown and help develop a common set of standards ● Storytelling tools to identify the benefits created by various carbon drawdown actions, to better understand and convey the most impactful mix of actions ● Collaborative planning to support carbon drawdown actions in regional governance and economic systems, and to build and connect the emerging network of practitioners internationally ● Projects to catalyze urban forestry to create significant urban living carbon sinks, like forests and wetlands ● Best practice tools to inform carbon drawdown policy actions at multiple governance levels based on emission reduction data	● A common language for carbon drawdown is established at the national scale ● Carbon drawdown initiatives are supported by external partners, both locally and regionally ● Communities are engaged to support local and regional actions ● Cities are increasingly using carbon capture methods ● Meaningful data on carbon drawdown actions is available to support messaging ● The impacts of carbon capture at the city level are clear and quantifiable ● Urban forestry practices are a proven method for sequestration ● Carbon drawdown projects drive the state of practice development