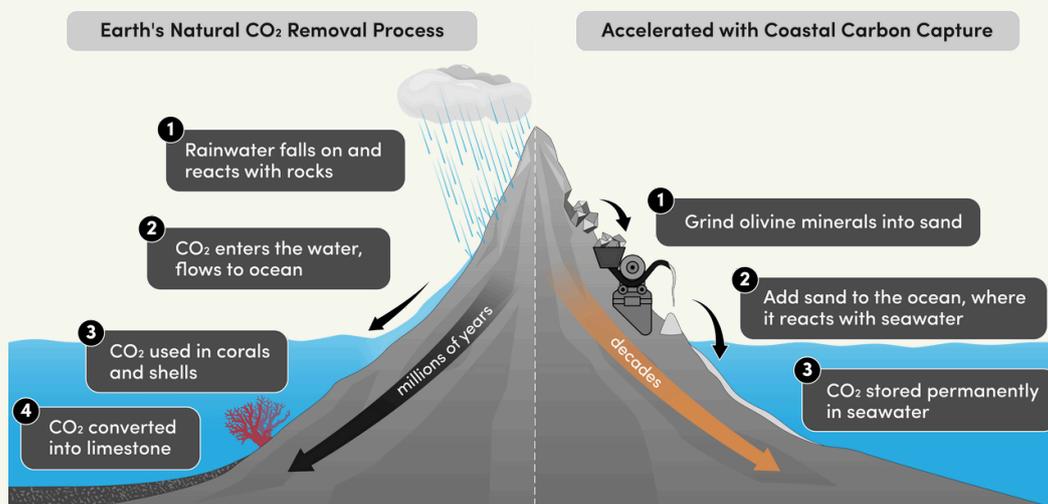


Community Perspectives on Carbon Dioxide Removal on the Outer Banks

Outer Banks residents are open to learning about carbon dioxide removal but seek robust safeguards, local input, and transparent decision-making.

OVERVIEW

Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies are beginning to move from abstract ideas to real-world proposals. Because any future projects could affect the Outer Banks, we asked local residents how they feel about CDR, who they trust to manage it, and what conditions would make it more or less acceptable.



SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Who responded?

This survey reflected the views of a small group of mostly long-term, permanent Outer Banks residents. Respondents tended to be older adults who were already engaged in everyday environmental behaviors, such as conserving energy and reducing waste.

What do residents of the OBX know about carbon dioxide removal?

About half of the respondents had heard of carbon dioxide removal before taking the survey. Most were unsure whether any CDR projects are underway on the Outer Banks, and only a small number believed there definitely are.

Residents were more familiar with nature-based methods (tree-planting, soil carbon) than engineered methods (enhanced ocean weathering, direct air capture).

Do residents want carbon dioxide removal?

People are neither uniformly “for” nor “against” CDR. They are trying to weigh possible benefits against risks, trade-offs, and uncertainties.

Many residents see CDR as potentially helpful: some believe it could buy time to reduce emissions and might be a necessary tool in responding to climate change.

A significant share worries that CDR could distract from the more urgent task of cutting emissions at the source, or allow major polluters to keep emitting while claiming to “offset” their impacts.

Support for Carbon Dioxide Removal Projects

When framed as "safe and well-regulated," residents said they would be comfortable with CDR projects operating locally.

Support was higher for concrete, carefully governed local projects than for abstract policies alone.

Few respondents were eager to pay a new monthly fee out of pocket. A clear majority preferred that corporations bear the main cost of CDR.

A role for community voice

Trust and **fairness** emerged as central themes. Only a minority of respondents said they trust government agencies to oversee CDR responsibly. Concern about corporations misusing CDR for profit was much more common.

Residents strongly agreed that any CDR projects should:

- Include meaningful community input in both design and deployment; and
- Be governed with a high level of transparency, especially around risks, monitoring, and local impacts.

Residents were unsure whether CDR might disrupt local traditions or values tied to environmental stewardship.

Questions for the community

We want to have a deeper conversation on the full results.

- What conditions, if any, would CDR feel acceptable in the Outer Banks?
- What kinds of safeguards, monitoring, and accountability would you want to see?
- How should local knowledge, livelihoods, and traditions inform decisions about whether and how CDR is used here?

Science alone cannot answer these questions. We need your local experience, values, and perspectives.

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