

Carbon Removal Network Meet-Up: Interactive Activities Transcript

On 27th February at the Royal Society of Arts the Carbon Removal Network held its third meeting with approximately 70 attendees following a series of successful earlier gatherings. The first was in July 2018 with 9 attendees, and the second was in September 2018 with 14 attendees.

The RSA event sought to establish whether people with an active interest in carbon removal would get value from face to face meet up opportunities. Not just to share knowledge and spark ideas, but also to give a podium to leaders in redefining and restoring our relationship with the carbon cycle, and who are making things happen in thoughtful and thoroughly interesting ways.

In addition, a theme of the network events so far has been the inclusive and participatory co-creation of new institutions, such as a possible EU/UK Centre for Carbon Removal (inspired by Carbon180 (<https://carbon180.org>)).

Of the individuals that registered for the event, backgrounds ranged from academia to consultancy; investment institutions to insurers; foundations to founders; newcomers to non-profits; policymakers to public servants; and story tellers, to startups, to strategic energy and resource companies.

After opening remarks, and a talk from special guest Sven Jense from Climate Cleanup (<https://climatecleanup.org>). Many of the attendees on the night and participated in the five co-creation activities held at the Meet-Up.

The recorded inputs from those co-created activities are transcribed below.

1. ***What would you like to see at Carbon Removal Network events and how could the Centre for Carbon Removal and future events be funded?***

What would you like to see? (*stickers next to pre-selected options*)

- Networking: **6**
- Presentations on [carbon removal]: **3**
- Innovator Pitches: **13**
- Matching Service between those with [carbon removal related] customer service needs and those with value propositions to address those needs? **4**

Others (*free for attendees to submit their own ideas*)

- “Fun: Stand-up comedy about climate change. Participating makes it fun to come to more than other events”
- “Influence decision makers”
- “A place to hear what people are doing. The more that you hear that is being done the more that you get interested”.
- “Delivery and presentation of research”
- “Governance”
- “Action plan for group”
- “Strategy for group”

How should future events be funded? (*stickers next to pre-selected options*)

- Corporate Sponsorship: 9
- Event fees with central theme: **2**
- Crowd and Philanthropic Funding: 5
- Membership Model: **2**

Others (*free for attendees to submit their own ideas*)

- “Associate with other institutes e.g. [institutions in the energy/climate space]”
- “Business Model: Consulting and Comms like [well known sustainability consultancies]”
- “Have Companies in the Carbon Space sponsor events / incentive that they would have high calibre people to hire (look at datascienceforsustainability.org)”
- “Collaboration of multi-agency – government, academic, EU, corporate”
- “Funding from the government / EU”

2. What are the Services that you consider to be of greatest priority to be developed by the Centre for Carbon Removal? (*stickers next to pre-selected options*)

- Synthesising and communicating high quality data and evidence: **12**
- Informing positive stories to raise awareness and catalyse change: **7+5**
- Facilitating access to diverse networks and subject matter experts: **0**
- Convening events and thematic workshops: **4**
- Educating and empowering decision makers: **8**
- Summarising and contextualising news: **1**

Others as yet unspecified: (*free for attendees to submit their own ideas*)

- “Lexicon and Stories”
- “Political Pressure”
- “Well defined Problems”
- “Ranked Opportunities – screening solutions by time, cost, impact (tCO₂e), Scalability”
- “Well defined and accessible language for those not familiar with the industry”
- “Policy Thinking – how to incentivise / Scale up”
- “Evidence”
- “Comms”

- “List of fundable research – prioritised”
- “List of fundable projects – prioritised”
- “Governance mechanisms”
- “An analysis of the GGR approaches that will make a material impact”
- “Design for atmospheric regulator”
- “Organise movement to vote for green”
- “Public outreach”
- “Tangible links to industry and institutions – £, Grow here, Access to talent, Promote opportunities, access to academia”
- “Board of governance to establish clear goals, aims and strategy”
- “Connecting those with problems and those with solutions – the need for removal with the capability to understand across the removal sector”
- “Creating unforgettable/unavoidable large scale emotional engagement with the solutions”.
- “Let’s meet and plant trees”

3. What would you / your organisation be most interested in working with the Centre for Carbon Removal on to develop into a service? (stickers next to pre-selected options)

- Synthesising and communicating high quality data and evidence: **6**
- Informing positive stories to raise awareness and catalyse change: **7**
- Facilitating access to diverse networks and subject matter experts: **9**
- Convening events and thematic workshops: **5**
- Educating and empowering decision makers: **13**
- Summarising and contextualising news: **1**

Others as yet unspecified: *(free for attendees to submit their own ideas)*

- “Finding /matching you with pro-bono marketing experts (Stronger Stories)”
- “Making the complex more understandable (Stronger Stories)”
- “Promoting positive, local economic stories from GGRs/CCS”
- “Whole System analysis of a net Zero Economy”
- “Collect old mobile phones to send to people saving the amazon from illegal logging”
- “Data + Evidence + Strategy to inform debate, policy and action”
- “Map the space”
- “Advocacy and Policy Change”
- “London Environmental and Climate Change meet-ups (www.meetup.com)”

- “Networking - policy / news and online coverage”
- “Shared events platform”
- “Matching service - think dating App for solution providers with resource e.g. we have forest, land, grid connection”
- “Developing policy to enable investment and bankable”
- “Investor Working groups: developing investment thesis together that are: (1) high impact; and (2) complementary”

4. Open Board w. Post-its - *What would you like to see at the next Carbon Removal Network event scheduled to take place in September?* (free for attendees to submit their own ideas)

- “Good start. Don’t wait too long to update us”
- “WiFi”
- “More female speakers please”
- “Too short. Needs more content”
- “Balance co-creation with vision and momentum: thought that the guest speaker provided this tonight”
- “A brief introduction on current technologies and what phase they are in etc.”
- “Lots of energy that needs to be maintained: Could be done through a good follow-up email summarising the evening, getting people connected, discussing and have a good call for action.”
- “Organise / frame smaller group conversations and maybe networking games”.
- “Organise on social media to create exponential growth”
- “Politicise”
- “You cannot effect change without those who control the levers of power”
- “Emotive messaging works – BREXIT”
- “Engaging the young – they are desperate for leadership on this”
- “Climate ambassadors and story tellers. Intergenerational. Those will be the public face when together it creates a powerful force.”

5. *What should the UK CCR be called?* (free for attendees to submit their own ideas)

- “Atmos”
- “Atmospheric Restoration Centre (ARC)”
- “BARRY”
- “Carbon Negative - Climate Positive”

- “Centre for Carbon Removal”
- “Multipotent Carbon Removal”
- “Nelson”
- “RE:MOVE - helping Carbon Removal Scale”
- “Spero - Latin for Hope”