



Sustainable Silicon Valley and The Center for Carbon Removal co-host "Creating an Ecosystem for a Carbon Balanced Planet" featuring keynote speaker [DBL Partners](#) Nancy Pfund.

Update from Executive Director

Thank you to everyone who joined Sustainable Silicon Valley (SSV) and the [Center for Carbon Renewal](#) (CCR) for "Creating an Ecosystem for a Carbon Balanced Planet." We were honored to have [DBL Partners](#) Founder and Managing Partner, Nancy Pfund, as the keynote speaker. The event was held at DLA Piper with amazing views of the SF skyline. [Half Moon Bay Brewing Co.](#), [Golden Vineyards](#), and [Terra Sávia](#) graciously donated beer and wine.

At the event, more than 80 people came together representing a broad range of industries, start-ups, government, policymakers, and nonprofits. SSV Board member, Olivia Teter, opened the evening by reminding us that "carbon is the building block of life." CCR Executive Director, Noah Deich, went on to explain that, "we're on the frontier for carbon removal." Carbon removal includes biological and chemical solutions such as direct air capture, carbon negative materials, mineral capture, carbon farming, biochar, and sustainable forestry.

In the keynote address, Nancy Pfund said carbon removal is critical to the development of the 21st century economy, but also challenging to deploy. The carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) market is extremely sensitive to changes in policy. Meanwhile, a lack of historical data makes it difficult to assess and monetize risk. For example, investments in carbon farming can be profitable, and conservation and sustainable forestry initiatives can also play a role.

The event featured four presenters tapping into a new market for carbon removal solutions:

- [All Power Labs](#) - Founder Jim Mason spoke of APL's technology, which is a global leader in small-scale biomass gasification.
- [Global Thermostat](#) - CEO and Co-Founder Dr. Graciela Chichilnisky explained her company's carbon capture technology as a "giant humidifier" that removes CO₂ molecules from the air.
- [Blue Planet](#) - CEO and Founder Dr. Brent Constantz described how Blue Planet products are being used in a \$2.2 billion upgrade project at SFO, at Levi's Stadium, and Bay Bridge.
- [Oakbio Inc.](#) - VP of Business Development Heyward Robison spoke of Oakbio's process of creating high-value products from waste carbon including bioplastics.

After the presentations, attendees broke into groups for a design charrette to discuss, "What would make this a transformative technology?". With a "no wrong answers" approach, the rapid-fire discussion revealed several themes including the need to: **develop policy, create standards, secure financing and put a price on carbon.**

This event marked the beginning of SSV and CCR's initiatives around carbon removal. Overtime, we would like to see carbon removal as common place and accessible as recycling. We hope this event will galvanize a community around carbon removal. Please feel free to contact SSV's Executive Director, Jennifer Thompson,

or CCR Executive Director, Noah Deich, for ideas, suggestions, and opportunities.

Related resources:

- Sustainable Silicon Valley- [Speakers bios and powerpoint presentations](#)
- The Center for Carbon Removal's [newsletter](#) and [resources on all things carbon removal](#)
- All Power Labs [open house in Berkeley](#) to see live demos of their biomass power + biochar units
- Please contact us if you are interested in a tour of Global Thermostat's Menlo Park pilot project, and/or if you are interested in connecting with the other presenters about their work.

In the Spotlight

Water



The State Water Board is proposing that 40 percent of the river's flow be restored. The SFPUC might have to ramp up conservation or look for new water supplies.

[Learn More](#)

Energy



New York State Supreme Court has ordered the oil giant to produce documents subpoenaed in a highly charged investigation.

[Learn More](#)

Carbon



See photos of presenters at SSV and CCR's workshop "Creating an Ecosystem for a Carbon Balanced Planet".

[Learn More](#)

Events



SVLG Annual Public Policy Luncheon 2016 with featured guest speakers.

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Women in CleanTech & Sustainability hosts an annual TED-style event.

[Learn More](#)



Experts will lead you through the 10-steps to on-site water reuse.

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