Carbon Removal Challenge FAQ:

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Q: Who can participate in the Challenge?

A: This challenge is open to all higher ed (undergrad and grad) students with any level of experience with carbon removal. It's ok if you don't have much experience, we're happy to help get you acquainted with the basics! Teams need to have at least two members made up from students from the graduate and/or undergraduate levels. We recommend a maximum of 8 members, but teams can be larger.

Q: What resources are available to teams?

A: We'll be holding webinars and office hours with experts throughout the Challenge to help your team generate ideas, get feedback on designs, and learn about how you can get involved in the carbon removal industry and beyond. Once you're officially registered, you'll be receiving emails notifying you about these events. You're also welcome to join the OpenAir Discord here.

Q: Who do we need beyond our team members to participate in the Challenge?

A: Each team will need a faculty or staff advisor for their team, usually from their home University/College. This advisor's involvement in the project can vary, but at minimum they must be willing to approve the team's final submission and confirm their results. We recommend each

team try to find an advisor at their school, but if they have trouble finding one, we can attempt to help recruit one for you.

Q: When are submissions due?

A: Submission reports will be due February 28th, 2023. Your team will have to design, build, and test your prototype before submitting.

Q: How will submissions be judged?

A: We will be looking for innovative carbon removal devices; however, they will not be using a strict rubric. Our panel of judges will look at submissions holistically and consider several factors including: how novel the design is, energy efficiency, affordability, ease of assembly, scalability, etc. Finalists will be chosen on what the panel finds to be the most promising overall or if it excels in one of these areas. We want to leave open the possibility of being surprised by interesting and innovative approaches.

Q: Are there specific device requirements for the Challenge?

A: Projects must be focused on carbon removal not carbon capture. That means the carbon must come from ambient environmental sources, such as the air, water, or soil) not point sources such as flue gas. We are also interested in projects that focus on durable, long term carbon mineralization, sequestering carbon in a form that will last decades, centuries, or millenia. Or projects that do both!