

Trailpass Overview v0.1

This document is to align existing and prospective members in the Trailpass Network around the purpose and activities of the network. Being in the relatively early stages of formation, the network vision is malleable and will be shaped by those who participate. In the spirit of building in the open, this document has comment access to allow for asynchronous input. To join the network slack group, be part of the roster, and get emails about network events, [please fill out this form](#).

Last updated: 12/8/23

What are our shared goals (North Stars)?

What are the shared objectives and North Stars that could orient this network?

- Action Oriented Network to tackle the hard questions, reduce “hot air” in the sustainability space
- Act as a guide to what in reality moves the climate needle
- Reduce opacity of different climate action methods
- Reduce wheel spinning and capital burning
- Promote confidence in being authentic in sharing knowledge and experiences.
- Reduce knowledge asymmetry in the network and beyond.

What this is

Without doing any additional work or starting anything new, what is this? Are we missing anything that describes what this network already is?

- An opportunity to network with others who have diverse perspectives in the climate space in a pre-competitive platform
- A place to look at the complexity of trade offs, where bringing in more perspectives helps bring us out of tunnel vision or one dimensionality
- A place to learn and share updates, insights and ideas on significant issues, innovations, supply chains, and climate action funding
- A place to wrestle with diverse and knowledgeable people on nuances, challenges and warts of climate and nature-based solutions
- A place to validate or identify pain points in climate accounting while working with others to create durable solutions.
- An interdisciplinary network and community of practice
- Fertile ground to launch cohort based education models

What this isn't

What isn't this? What shouldn't it be?

- A sales engine / skill platform
- Just another networking space
- An accelerator to raise venture capital
- Learn about climate change solutions 101
- A climate jobs platform
- A consortium
- Science experiment and related analysis paralysis
- Pool party where a lot of splashing is going on but nothing gets wet

What we do

These are activities we currently do as a common point of work from members and from the network. Anything missing?

- Host topical “off the climate record” events
- Meet on Fridays for “Calls of the Wild”
- Form consensus around common interests
- Listen to others to dive deep into specific challenges and dimensions of climate solution problems
- Build Initiatives around climate action
- Safe space to honestly discuss edgy/provocative issues
- Consider how to put ideas into practice in the real world
- Mix stealth with open attempts at making a change
- Balance collaboration with competitiveness, not being right or wrong, but transparency first
- Share resources & information with each other

What we could do / be

Please add ideas of what this network could be; no idea is a bad idea at the moment.

-
- Offer Trailkits - to support information and knowledge dissemination around different focus areas
- In Q3 have applications for first cohort to directly connect climate interventions to methods to quantify impact build around a practicum of real world applications.
- We might want to look into the process of Farming Systems Research as a method to organize on-farm methods to how trials have relevance
- Track the impacts efforts are making to people, place, and communities
- Ask more informed questions with AI

Background Principles thus far

Looking for feedback, what resonates? Anything missing? Please comment!

Ensure a clarifying Focus & Scope

These snippets emphasize the need for the group to be laser-focused. Topics should be specific, action oriented, and meaningful to engage participants effectively.

Value Diverse Perspectives

Diverse perspectives enrich the conversation and help identify blind spots or new angles on problems.

Recognize the importance of communication & engagement

Effective communication channels and personal interactions can't be underestimated. People want to feel engaged and connected, not just communicated to. All opinions are respected.

Assess Impact & Effectiveness

This theme could be a bit existential—how can we ensure that efforts are not just activity for the sake of activity? Whether it's about creating awareness or real impact, a critical evaluation is necessary. Implicit in this principle are [FAIR](#) (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Repeatable) and [CARE](#) (Collective benefit, Authority of control, Responsibility, Ethics) principles.

Explore Innovations and Solutions

Finding novel ways to deliver information and solve problems is vital. The group seems open to challenging the status quo and interested in exploring new solutions, even if it means poking the bear sometimes.