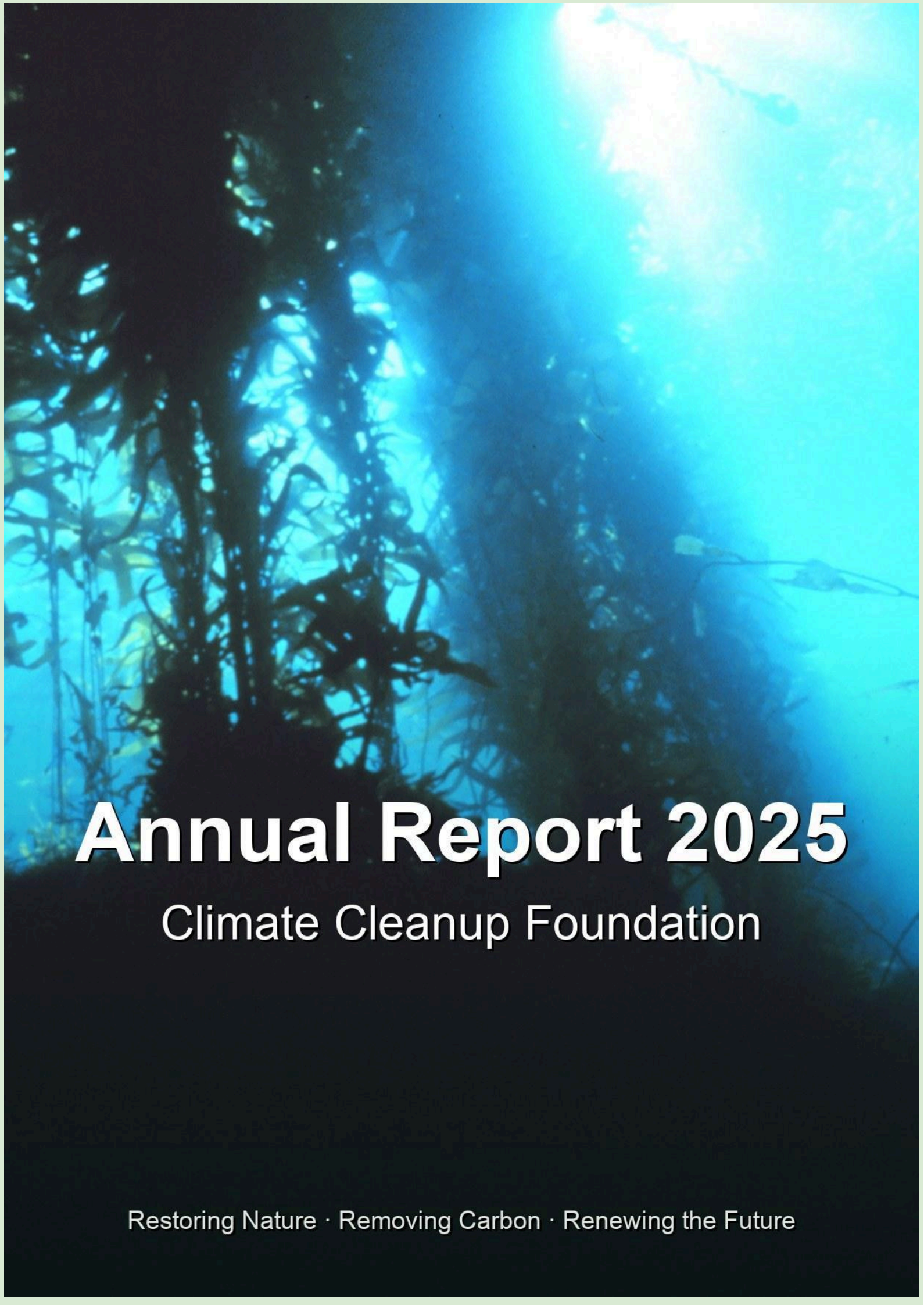




Annual Report 2025

Climate Cleanup Foundation

Restoring Nature · Removing Carbon · Renewing the Future

Climate Cleanup Foundation — Annual Report 2025

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Executive Summary

2025 was the year our methods became markets. Where 2024 published the protocols, 2025 put them to work: the world's first construction stored-carbon credits were traded and auctioned, new removers joined every week, and our European ambitions turned into a funded, four-year reality. Our annual CDR Conference again drew more than 150 leaders in carbon-removal finance and policy to Amsterdam. The Interreg "Agro Building Carbon" (ABC) project – which we initiated in 2024 – was approved in March and kicked off in May, giving nine European regions a four-year platform to connect regenerative agriculture with bio-based construction. The Oncra framework grew past 80 certified projects with a combined removal capacity of more than 230,000 tonnes of CO₂, and our work moved to the centre of both Dutch and European carbon-removal policy.

The year also marked a milestone for the foundation itself: in 2025 Climate Cleanup completed its seventh year, and we used the occasion to begin shaping our next seven-year strategy – a regenerative economy in which both soils and buildings store carbon, and in which the people who do that work are fairly rewarded.

None of this was done by the foundation alone, and none of it for profit. A small team – working, by choice, at well below market salaries – convened a community of hundreds of entrepreneurs, scientists and supporters to make it happen. This report is both an account of that work and an invitation to everyone, philanthropists included, who wants the climate crisis met by life itself.

Mission and Vision

Climate Cleanup Foundation is dedicated to removing carbon dioxide from oceans and the atmosphere by fostering the systemic conditions for a regenerative economy. Our vision remains to double nature, restoring 1500 gigatons of CO₂ to contain the climate crisis. We believe that by harnessing the power of entrepreneurial people, natural systems, and innovative technologies, we can create a sustainable future for all life.

Key Achievements

CDR Conference 2025



On 28 May 2025 we hosted our eighth annual conference in Amsterdam, bringing together more than 150 representatives – entrepreneurs, innovators, investors and policymakers – to explore how carbon finance can unlock the potential of CO₂ removal. Full report:

<https://climatecleanup.org/report-of-a-successful-cdr-conference-28-may/>

Highlights of the conference included:

- Provincial leadership: active participation from the provinces of Gelderland, Utrecht, North Holland and South Holland.
- Corporate engagement: a keynote from Ballast Nedam Development on the built environment's role in carbon removal.
- Finance and policy in the same room: sessions connecting carbon-removal buyers, bio-based building portfolios, investment, and government policy.

The conference sold out well ahead of the date

(<https://climatecleanup.org/climate-cleanup-conference-quickly-selling-out-2/>), a signal of the growing momentum behind nature-based carbon removal.

Construction Stored Carbon: from protocol to a working market



In 2024 we published the world's first open certification protocol for carbon storage in buildings. In 2025 that protocol became a functioning market:

- First auction. At Provada, the Netherlands' largest real-estate event, Ballast Nedam Development auctioned the first carbon credit from a "Nature House" residential project – the first time a developer financially valued and sold the CO₂ stored in a home. (<https://climatecleanup.org/provada-ballast-credit-auction/>)
- First industrial seller. Timber-construction manufacturer DERIX entered emissions trading with 1,169 carbon credits in its account, demonstrating that the model works at industrial scale. (<https://climatecleanup.org/derix-enters-emissions-trading-1169-carbon-credits-in-the-account/>)
- New institutional partner. a.s.r. real estate and Climate Cleanup launched a partnership to certify CO₂ storage across a real-estate portfolio, including hybrid-timber office buildings. (<https://climatecleanup.org/a-s-r-real-estate-and-climate-cleanup-foundation-launch-partnership-to-certify-co2-storage/>)
- Knowledge base. We published a whitepaper on Construction Stored Carbon to make the method accessible to the wider building sector. (<https://climatecleanup.org/whitepaper-construction-stored-carbon/>)

Rock Stored Carbon and Enhanced Weathering



Building on the rock-weathering protocol published in early 2025, we moved the method into practice (<https://climatecleanup.org/rock-stored-carbon-protocol-in-practice/>). Pol Knops and Lieke van Zon presented the protocol at the international Enhanced Rock Weathering conference in Antwerp ([https://climatecleanup.org/pol-knops-and-lieke-van-zon-present-groundbreaking-protocol-for-co₂-removal-at-erw-conference-in-antwerp/](https://climatecleanup.org/pol-knops-and-lieke-van-zon-present-groundbreaking-protocol-for-co2-removal-at-erw-conference-in-antwerp/)), and we continued to grow practical applications such as the greenSand presale and field demonstrations under the banner "Climate Action that Rocks!" (<https://climatecleanup.org/climate-action-that-rocks/>). In parallel, work began on a biochar accounting metric, advancing the soil-health innovation track ("SuperSoil") flagged in our 2024 outlook.

Oncra Expansion and Ecosystem Growth



Our Open Nature Carbon Removal Accounting framework continued its rapid growth in 2025:

- By mid-2025 the scheme had grown from over 50 entrepreneurs at the end of 2024 to more than 80 certified projects, with a combined removal capacity exceeding 230,000 tonnes of CO₂ – equivalent to the annual emissions of over 11,000 households.
(<https://climatecleanup.org/oncra-update-new-removers-and-new-sales/>)
- Nine new removers joined, spanning the Netherlands and beyond: Bosvol Smaak, Nooyen, Paulownia Agrovation, Zorgboerderij Blommendal, Metamorphosis, Buena Onda (agroforestry, Brazil), Akkerbouw Kaput, Underground Forest Sleeuwijk, and Zeleni Kruchi Permaculture Center (Ukraine).
- Sector diversification across perennial construction crops, agroforestry, permaculture, enhanced weathering and construction materials, with weekly sales continuing despite a challenging philanthropic-funding market.
- Independence and integrity. Through partnerships with Scature, Ecommit and Greencarbon, credit sales were placed with independent marketplaces, keeping

Oncra structurally independent of the sale of the credits it certifies. Work also advanced on third-party verification, preparing Oncra for international accreditation.

The Removers and the Carbon Removal Market

Climate Cleanup is, first and last, a group of entrepreneurial people who remove carbon with nature. Behind every certificate in the Oncra registry is a real person restoring a real piece of the living world – and they are the reason the foundation exists.

By 2025 the community of removers in the Oncra scheme had grown past 80 certified projects, spanning all four storage domains:

- Land – food foresters, agroforesters and construction-crop growers: bamboo (Joost Borneman, BambooLogic), miscanthus and straw (Marcel van de Peppel of Miscancell; Eric Verheijen, the "straw man"), paulownia, and regenerative farms from the Netherlands to Brazil (Buena Onda) and Ukraine (Zeleni Kruchi).
- Construction – developers and manufacturers storing carbon in buildings: Onno Dwars (Ballast Nedam Development) and timber pioneers such as DERIX.
- Rock – enhanced-weathering entrepreneurs: Eddy Wijnker (GreenSand), Magnus Willner (Arbon Earth) and a growing scientific community.
- Ocean – seaweed and coastal pioneers: The Seaweed Company, Oyster Heaven and Project Vesta, working at the hardest frontier of all.

These entrepreneurs typically work years ahead of the market, on thin margins and personal conviction. This year one of them, Erwin Westers, shared his journey "from soil to sale" – from a regenerative idea to a verified, sold carbon credit

(<https://climatecleanup.org/erwin-westers-from-soil-to-sale-and-shared-success/>). Oncra exists to make that journey possible: to give the people who store carbon a way to prove it, be trusted, and be paid for it.

The market they are building. 2025 was a difficult year for the voluntary carbon market, with prices and confidence under pressure across the sector. Yet durable, nature-based removal kept maturing – and Europe gave it a backbone. The EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF), adopted at the end of 2024, moved into implementation through 2025. Our conviction is that the future of this market is not anonymous offsets but transparent, certified removal tied to real projects and real people – and that the open Oncra framework can become recognised infrastructure under the CRCF. We are building for the market that should exist, not the one that is fading.

Systemic Interventions

European Collaboration: the Interreg ABC Project



The "Agro Building Carbon" (ABC) project – which Climate Cleanup initiated in 2024 – was approved in March 2025

(<https://climatecleanup.org/agro-building-carbon-abc-european-project-with-gelderland-approved/>) and kicked off on 20 May 2025 in the Province of Gelderland

(<https://climatecleanup.org/interreg-abc-project-kicks-off-with-inspiring-first-meeting/>).

- Lead Partner: Province of Gelderland (Netherlands).
- Climate Cleanup's role: advisory partner, contributing Oncra as the Dutch good-practice methodology to be exchanged across regions.
- Scope: a four-year (2025–2029) collaboration across nine European regions, including Latvia, Romania, Slovenia, Italy and Greece, Albania and Ukraine engaged.
- Objective: strengthen regional policies that support carbon sequestration through collaboration between the agricultural and construction sectors – a regenerative economy in which both soils and building materials store carbon – aligned with the EU Green Deal and the Carbon Removal Certification Framework (CRCF).

Policy Integration and Government Engagement

2025 saw Climate Cleanup move to the centre of carbon-removal policy in both the Netherlands and the EU:

- Dutch carbon-removal roadmap. We contributed to the national carbon-removal roadmap and the accompanying provincial market exploration, and published a comparison of the national and provincial roadmaps to sharpen the policy debate. (<https://climatecleanup.org/dutch-carbon-removal-roadmap-and-provincial-market-exploration/> · <https://climatecleanup.org/comparing-dutch-national-and-provincial-carbon-removal-roadmaps/>)
- EU CRCF. We tracked and contributed to the European Carbon Removal Certification Framework, including reporting from the European Farming Summit, and began positioning Oncra for recognition as a certification scheme under the new regulation. (<https://climatecleanup.org/eu-crcf-update-report-from-european-farming-summit/>)
- Fibre-crop certification. We hosted a webinar on certifying carbon credits within the Dutch "Regeling Stimuleren Vezelteelt" (fibre-crop stimulation scheme), connecting the government's support for construction crops to verifiable carbon credits. (<https://climatecleanup.org/webinar-certificering-van-carbon-credits-in-de-regeling-stimuleren-vezelteelt/>)
- Building sector capacity. Recognising that CRCF accreditation is now a strategic priority, we began recruiting a CRCF Process & Organisation Lead. (<https://climatecleanup.org/crcf-process-organisation-lead/>)
- Organising the sector. We supported the formation of a Dutch carbon-dioxide-removal trade association (branchevereniging CDR), helping the emerging sector speak with one voice.

Ocean-Based Carbon Removal

We continued to develop ocean-stored carbon as a fourth storage domain. Early in the year we issued a call for founding funders for a Sargassum-sinking innovation (<https://climatecleanup.org/wanted-founding-funders-for-sargassum-sinking-innovation/>), building on the Golden Tides collaboration with Oceanus International on the Yucatán coast. We deepened our Mexican partnerships, including with the regenerative farm Piedra Azul (<https://climatecleanup.org/piedra-azul/>), and initiated the tidal "WETCOAST" nature project to explore coastal carbon storage.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Strategic Industry Partnerships

- Ballast Nedam Development deepened its pioneering role, moving from valuing CO₂ storage in residential construction to publicly auctioning the first credit from a completed home.

- a.s.r. real estate joined as an institutional partner certifying CO₂ storage across a real-estate portfolio.
- DERIX became the first timber-construction manufacturer to enter carbon trading through the scheme.
- Scature, Ecommit and Greencarbon broadened a transparent marketplace for CO₂ certificates in the Netherlands and Belgium, while strengthening Climate Cleanup's governance by keeping Oncra independent of credit sales.

Government and Provincial Partnerships

Our collaboration with Dutch provinces continued to strengthen, with Gelderland, Utrecht, North Holland and South Holland all actively supporting the CDR Conference and carbon-removal initiatives, and Gelderland leading the Interreg ABC project.

International Collaborations

The Interreg ABC project anchors our most ambitious international collaboration, connecting regenerative agriculture with bio-based construction across nine European regions. Beyond Europe, our remover network now spans Brazil (Buena Onda) and Ukraine (Zeleni Kruchi), and our meso-American work continued through Oceanus International and Piedra Azul in southern Mexico.

Network and Movement

Beyond methods and markets, 2025 was a year of movement-building. Members of our network ran and cycled for the cause — e.g. for the International Day of the North Sea, and the Glorious Glacier Ride for climate and CO₂ removal — and we helped convene the wider regenerative community through the "We Buy the Netherlands Free" campaign and Rob Hopkins' 2025 *Small is Beautiful* lecture, "How to fall in love with the future."

Supporters and Ambassadors — The 1500 Club

Climate Cleanup is held up by a remarkable community. More than two hundred people stand with us — not as a mailing list, but as a movement we call The 1500 Club, after our goal of restoring 1500 gigatons of CO₂. Anyone who shares that goal can join as an Ambassador.

The community is broad and serious:

- Scientists and elders lend authority and judgement — among them scientific advisor Tim Flannery, climate-science professor Pier Vellinga, and economist and climate-psychologist Per Espen Stoknes.
- Institutions and funders stand alongside us, including WWF (Bas Roels) and the ClimateWorks Foundation (Jan Mazurek).
- Entrepreneurs, designers, communicators, civil servants and friends — more than 180 ambassadors who open doors, lend skills, carry the story and back the work, several as Gold Members.

These are not passive names on a page; they are the network through which a small foundation reaches far beyond its size — connecting us to government, to capital, to science and to the wider public. Anchoring it all, our board of non-executive directors — chair Ruud Koornstra, climate optimist Donald Pols, co-founder and strategist Ruurd Priester, and Laura Rooseboom — serves without compensation.

If this report speaks to you, there is a place for you in The 1500 Club.

What We Tried That Didn't Work (yet)

Real innovation leaves a trail of things that didn't work. We believe an honest account of where we fell short is worth more than a tidy list of wins: it is the clearest proof that we are working at a genuine frontier, and it is how we learn. In the spirit of cyclical learning by doing, here is some of what did not go to plan in 2025.

- The Toekomstmachine — a bet on public imagination that stalled. Since 2023, together with our home base Tolhuistuin, we worked on the *Toekomstmachine* ("Future Machine", working title *WONDEREN*): an immersive public experience designed to let visitors *feel* a regenerative future rather than only read about it, and we pursued EFRO / Kansen voor West (European regional development) funding to build it. We believe a foundation that changes systems must also change imaginations. We re-planned the project in 2025 and built toward a "V2" with a scale model — but it could not secure the funding and footing to launch, and we paused it at the turn of 2026. We still believe in the idea; it has not yet found its form.
- Issuing our own credits (Onsets). We had facilitated credit sales through our own entity, Onsets. In 2025 we concluded this structure was wrong: an organisation that both certifies and sells credits (albeit without any markup) carries an inherent and at least cosmetic conflict of interest. We wound Onsets down and moved sales to independent marketplaces (Scature, Ecommit, Greencarbon), keeping Oncra structurally independent of the credits it certifies.
- Ocean-stored carbon — still before proof. Ocean is the hardest of our four storage domains. We issued a public call for founding funders for a Sargassum-sinking innovation and continued the Golden Tides work on the Yucatán coast — but ocean carbon remains pre-certification: the method, the measurement and the financing are not yet proven at the scale required. We are honest that we are not there yet.

We share these not as failures to apologise for, but as evidence that we are attempting work that has not been done before — and as the raw material for what we get right next.

Financial Overview

As an ANBI (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling), Climate Cleanup Foundation maintains transparent financial practices. 2025 was a year of revenue transition. Income from our own

work, principally Oncra certification and the annual CDR Conference, almost doubled. Donations and grants fell sharply over the same period: a clear shift from donor-funded operations toward earned market revenue. At the same time we invested in the team to carry the growing work, accepting a planned net deficit of €49,000 for the year, which was absorbed by general reserves. The foundation enters 2026 with a leaner balance sheet but a stronger own-revenue base than at any point in its history.

Key figures:

	2025	2024
Total income	€216,000	€290,000
<i>of which net market revenue (Oncra, CDR Conference)</i>	€143,000	€75,000
<i>of which donations and grants</i>	€72,000	€214,000
Total expenses	€265,000	€200,000
<i>of which personnel costs</i>	€146,000	€44,000
Net result	-€49,000	+€90,000
Balance sheet, 31 December		
Assets	€28,000	€77,000
Cash and equivalents	€41,000	€99,000
Balance-sheet total	€101,000	€139,000

Notes: 2024 grant income included an incidental €100,000 donation, which also covered the planned 2025 investments in Oncra; the 2025 deficit was absorbed by general reserves. Personnel costs rose as Gijs Tolmeijer and additional colleagues joined the team. A long-term loan of €50,000 and the donation mentioned above support continued operations.

Remuneration

The team works on two principles: impact first, and equal pay. *Impact first* means salaries are capped at the Dutch modal level, and the team currently agrees to work at 60–70% of that level until the foundation has the financial basis needed for normal remuneration – in effect the team philanthropically self-funds part of the operations, choosing intrinsically motivated talent over pay. *Equal pay* means everyone in the organisation earns roughly the same, interns and volunteers excepted, so the team stands shoulder to shoulder – in line with the food foresters and construction innovators in our network who likewise invest substantial personal time. The board receives no compensation for its board work.

Results

The foundation recorded a planned net deficit of €49,000 in 2025, deducted from general reserves. This loss was budgeted as an investment in Oncra. For full detail we refer to the financial statement (jaarrekening 2025), published separately.

Supporting Our Work

Climate Cleanup is a small foundation with outsized reach. A lean team — working, by choice, at 60–70% of a modal salary — convenes a network of hundreds, helped create a new market, and is helping write carbon-removal policy in The Hague and Brussels. For a philanthropic funder, that is rare leverage: a gift here moves systems, not just single projects.

The honest picture is that philanthropic funding for our part of the sector has tightened, even as the need has grown. Flexible, multi-year support is what lets us do the things the market and government cannot yet pay for: open methodologies, the hardest storage domains, public engagement, and the patient work of building trust between farmers, builders, financiers and government.

If you are a foundation or philanthropist who wants the climate crisis met by life itself — by farmers, builders, foresters and seaweed growers, rather than by extraction — we would welcome a conversation. You can support the foundation directly, or join The 1500 Club as an Ambassador. Contact us at act@climatecleanup.org or through our website.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Building on 2025, our priorities for 2026 are:

1. Oncra under the foundation's stewardship

- In 2026, Oncra will be legally placed under the stewardship of the Climate Cleanup Foundation as a steward-owned business, in line with legal and fiscal requirements. We are proud of this step. Oncra has proven itself a successful intervention, and steward-ownership lets it grow more autonomously while staying anchored in the foundation's mission — so it can scale its impact in a decentralized way and help finance the transition from fossil-based to regenerative practices through transition finance.

2. Accreditation and the rules of the market

- Pursue recognition of Oncra as a certification scheme under the EU CRCF, and accreditation by ICVCM and ICROA, to smooth remover intake and unlock larger buyers.

- Convene a buyer group to forward-finance Oncra credits, in step with the EU's emerging Buyers' Club for carbon farming and permanent removals.

3. European leadership

- Full implementation of the Interreg ABC project across its partner regions, with Oncra as the methodology exchanged.
- Continued contribution to the CRCF and to Dutch national and provincial carbon-removal policy.

4. Scaling market solutions

- Expand the Construction Stored Carbon market with new developers, manufacturers and institutional buyers.
- Grow the Oncra network across land, construction, rock and ocean storage.

5. Technology and innovation

- Advance the ocean-stored-carbon method with Oceanus International, Arbon Earth, WWF and others.
- Develop the SuperSoil track at the interface of regenerative farming, soil life, rock weathering and biochar.

6. Strategy and movement

- Complete the foundation's next seven-year strategy.
- Convene the wider movement, including a national summit in June 2026, to connect entrepreneurs, policymakers and financiers around a life-based economy.

Organizational Information (ANBI Requirements)

Foundation Details:

- Name: Stichting Climate Cleanup
- RSIN / Fiscal Number: 858911759
- Chamber of Commerce Number: 71935754
- Address: Tolhuisweg 2, 1031 CL Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Bank: NL58 TRIO 0379 3068 24 – Swift/BIC: TRIONL2U

Objectives: The foundation develops and implements innovative systemic solutions for climate change to restore balance between natural ecosystems and people, creating a regenerative economy through nature-based carbon dioxide removal.

Remuneration Policy: Board members receive no compensation for their work on the board. The foundation maintains minimal administrative costs while employees receive fair compensation aligned with our mission-driven approach.

Board Composition (as of 31 December 2025):

- Chairman: Ruud Koornstra
- Secretary: Sven Jense
- Treasurer: Laura Rooseboom
- Board Members: Ruurd Priester, Donald Pols

Board meetings are conducted quarterly. Board members receive no compensation for their board work, in accordance with ANBI requirements.

Conclusions

In 2025, Climate Cleanup's ambitious Oncra intervention turned proof-of-concept into proof-of-market. The first construction carbon credits were auctioned and traded; the Oncra network passed 80 projects and 230,000 tonnes of removal capacity; and our European ambition became a funded, nine-region collaboration. We moved from the edge of carbon-removal policy to its centre, in The Hague and in Brussels, and we did so without losing the human core of the work – the farmers, builders, scientists and entrepreneurs who store carbon in real soils and real buildings, often at real personal cost.

As we complete our seventh year and design the next seven, we remain committed to our mission of doubling nature and restoring 1500 gigatons of CO₂. The climate crisis demands urgent and radically positive action. 2025 has shown that nature-based solutions offer both the scale and the speed needed – and that, when those solutions are built into the rules of the economy, they become not a cost but a market. We are grateful to our board, our partners, the entrepreneurs who do the removing, and the more than two hundred ambassadors of The 1500 Club who make this vital work possible. And to the funders and friends reading this: the fastest way to back life is to back the people restoring it – there is room for you among them.