



CARBON CAPTURE IMPACT

Carbon Capture Impact Legislative Work Group January 14, 2026 Meeting Notes

Meeting Summary

Carbon Capture Impact convened its first Legislative Work Group meeting of 2026 to provide members with updates on organizational changes, the congressional and political outlook for the year ahead, ongoing advocacy related to EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP), and the status of FY2026 appropriations affecting carbon management. Staff opened the call by detailing some logistical changes associated with launching our new affiliated 501(c)4 entity, "Carbon Capture Impact" (Impact). Moving forward, Impact will lead all legislative and advocacy work associated with the Coalition. From there, we discussed the political and congressional outlook for 2026, including final preparations for fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations, permitting reform, potential budget reconciliation efforts, and FY2027 appropriations. Impact staff also detailed ongoing efforts on the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, including interim safe harbor guidance from Treasury and potential legislative pathways to codify the program in statute. The meeting ended with a detailed overview of how carbon management programs and funding landed in the final FY2026 appropriations bills.

Important Resources:

- [1.14.2026 Legislative Work Group Slide Deck](#)
- [CCC/CURC and Treasury Model Guidance Crosswalk](#)
- [Treasury Safe Harbor Guidance for 45Q – Notice 2026-01](#)

Key-Takeaways

- Carbon Capture Impact is now fully operational as the Coalition's legislative and advocacy vehicle, providing greater flexibility to engage with Congress and the Administration.
- 2026 is already shaping up to be a consequential year for carbon management, with appropriations, permitting reform, and GHGRP all active and intersecting on Capitol Hill.
- GHGRP remains a top priority, with strong bipartisan and cross-sector support for transparency and continued momentum around Treasury's safe harbor and potential legislative pathways.
- FY2026 appropriations present mixed results for carbon management, with meaningful reductions at DOE offset somewhat by continued support for EPA's Class VI program.

Next Steps & Action Items

- Carbon Capture Impact staff will continue active engagement with congressional offices on GHGRP, including monitoring developments around potential statutory codification and House-side advocacy efforts.
- Members are encouraged to confirm access to Legislative Work Group calls and ensure Impact email addresses are added to safe sender lists.
- Save the date for Carbon Capture Impact's 2026 Capitol Hill Day (March 19), with additional details and registration information to follow.
- Further information on the Carbon Capture Impact Advisory Council will be shared shortly for members interested in deeper engagement.

Housekeeping & Organizational Updates

Carbon Capture Impact Transition

As discussed extensively in 2025, Carbon Capture Impact, the Coalition's allied 501(c)(4) organization, has formally assumed responsibility for all legislative and advocacy activities on behalf of members.

This transition:

- Provides greater flexibility to engage with Congress and the Administration
- Ensures appropriate separation from Coalition 501(c)(3) activities

Carbon Capture Impact is rolling out:

- [New website](#) with statements and blogs focused on legislation and advocacy
- New branding and logo
- New Impact email addresses for staff
 - General email: cci@carboncaptureimpact.org
 - Madelyn Morrison: mmorrison@carboncaptureimpact.org
 - Jessie Stolark: jstolark@carboncaptureimpact.org
- Impact-branded advocacy resources, which will be available ahead of the 2026 Capitol Hill Day

Communications & Member Engagement

Members were encouraged to add new Impact email addresses to their safe sender lists to ensure uninterrupted communication.

Ongoing engagement channels include:

- **Biweekly Legislative Work Group calls**
Wednesdays, 2:00–3:00 pm ET
(Please let us know if you continue to have issues with receiving the calendar hold)
- **CCC Weekly Updates**, which will continue to include high-level legislative and advocacy news
- **Carbon Capture Impact Quarterly Updates**, providing a snapshot of Legislative Work Group discussions each quarter
- **Ad hoc legislative alerts and advocacy requests** as needed

All legislative and advocacy materials—including meeting notes, fact sheets, and talking points—remain available on the members-only website via the Carbon Capture Coalition member portal:

- <https://carboncapturecoalition.org/member-portal/>
- Password: ccc12345q

Carbon Capture Impact Advisory Council

Carbon Capture Impact is establishing a new Advisory Council, composed of Impact members, to help guide the organization's legislative and advocacy priorities. Additional details will be shared by email in the coming days from Jessie Stolark.

2026 Capitol Hill Day

CCC annual Capitol Hill Day will transition over to Impact in 2026. Registration and sponsorship information will be shared shortly in a formal save-the-date.

- Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026
- Location: Top of the Hill

Format: Morning program, afternoon Hill meetings, and evening reception

Political & Congressional Outlook – 2026

KDCR Partners provided a detailed snapshot of the congressional landscape as the year gets underway, noting that while bipartisan engagement continues, progress remains uneven across several fronts.

Appropriations Outlook

- Bipartisan staff-level work on appropriations is ongoing; however, recent House floor efforts collapsed due to Republican defections.
- Congress is awaiting completion of a mini-bus appropriations package, which includes the final bipartisan Energy and Water Development bill.
 - The package was negotiated on a bipartisan basis by committee staff.
 - Despite recent setbacks, staff expressed a cautiously optimistic outlook.
 - The Senate is expected to adjourn next week.
- Members were reminded that FY2027 appropriations discussions will begin soon.

Permitting Reform

- Permitting reform remains active but challenging.
- The SPEED Act, which focuses on NEPA reforms, passed the House in December, marking some movement on permitting; likely dead in the Senate.
- Bipartisan negotiations in the Senate led by Senators Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and Martin Heinrich (D-NM) ended following concerns over recent Administration actions related to clean energy projects.
- Democrats have articulated firm red lines related to requirements for renewable energy projects.
- Congressional offices continue exploring legislative vehicles for permitting reform, though no definitive path has emerged.

Other Congressional Developments

- The Republican Study Committee is developing principles for a potential “Reconciliation 2.0” package.
 - Early indications suggest permitting provisions could be included.
 - Concepts under discussion include:
 - Codifying regulatory changes made through executive orders
 - Discouraging litigation for certain categories of projects
 - Exploring AI-based approaches to Byrd compliance
- Staff shared the view that, given how difficult it was to include energy tax provisions in the last legislative package, Congress is unlikely to reopen debates on clean energy tax credits.
 - There is concern such changes could impact energy prices.
 - While tax provisions could theoretically be framed as bill-lowering measures, this would be difficult in practice.

EPA GHGRP Updates

Members were reminded that, at the end of 2025, the Legislative Work Group—working in consultation with the Regulatory and Guidance Work Group—finalized a letter to Treasury that included draft interim guidance for consideration in the event of a repeal of EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.

On December 19, ahead of the holiday recess, **Treasury released a safe harbor** allowing taxpayers storing CO₂ in Class VI wells to continue claiming the 45Q tax credit in the potential absence of GHGRP requirements. Staff reviewed:

- The parameters of Treasury’s safe harbor
- What the guidance does and does not cover
- Planned next steps for advocacy and engagement

GHGRP Advocacy Update

Carbon Capture Impact staff reported continued positive engagement with members of key congressional committees, emphasizing:

- The importance of maintaining a clear mechanism for entities claiming the 45Q tax credit
- Broad, cross-sector support for GHGRP across energy and industrial stakeholders
- The critical role transparency plays in maintaining public confidence in carbon management and the 45Q tax credit

Additional updates included:

- Ongoing discussions with Rep. Carol Miller's (R-WV) office regarding a potential House counterpart to the Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) / Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) letter sent to EPA last fall
- Continued conversations among several Senate Republican offices exploring statutory codification of some or all elements of GHGRP
 - Impact staff are in communication with these offices and expect additional clarity in the coming weeks
- Engagement with other stakeholder groups developing ideas for an appropriate statutory home for GHGRP or a similar transparency mechanism, with an emphasis on coalition-based engagement

FY2026 Appropriations Update

Overview

Members received a readout from Impact staff of the House-passed three-bill minibuss released by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, including:

- Energy and Water Development
- Interior–Environment

Key Outcomes for Carbon Management

- **DOE core carbon management funding** decreased by **\$20.5 million** compared to the FY2025 spending tables released by the Trump Administration.
- The Energy and Water bill repurposed approximately **\$3.5 billion** in unobligated IIJA carbon management funding at DOE:
 - \$1.5 billion from CIFIA
 - \$1.04 billion from DAC Hubs
 - \$950 million from large-scale carbon capture pilot and demonstration projects
- **Class VI permitting** fared better in the Interior–Environment bill:
 - \$5 million maintained for EPA's Class VI program
 - An additional \$600,000 provided for regulator resources and training

Funding Context

- FY2025 was funded through a full-year continuing resolution at FY2024 levels.
- Under that CR, DOE repurposed approximately \$100 million within the Office of Fossil Energy.
- When compared to the last true congressional appropriation under the FY2024 omnibus, the FY2026 proposal represents closer to a **\$120 million reduction** for core carbon management programs.
- Members reviewed a detailed funding table comparing FY2026 proposed levels with FY2024 appropriations and the FY2025 DOE spend plan.