



Written by [Rebecca Terrell](#) on March 31, 2025

Elon Musk Funds Carbon Removal

DOGE darling Elon Musk is putting up \$100 million for development of carbon dioxide removal technology.

It's touted as the "largest incentive prize in history" and "an extraordinary milestone" on the website [XPRIZE.org](#). That's the non-profit fronting the project, and the [Musk Foundation](#) is funding it.

"XPRIZE Carbon Removal is aimed at tackling the biggest threat facing humanity — fighting climate change and rebalancing Earth's carbon cycle," claims the non-profit in a statement that holds an ironic double meaning, depending on how you read it.

"Fighting climate change" is "the biggest threat facing humanity"? Actually, we'd agree that using so-called man-made climate change as a ruse to enslave people is certainly a huge threat facing us all.

But that's not what XPRIZE and its multi-million-dollar donor mean, is it?

XPRIZE Goals

"The planet is reaching its highest temperatures in over 3 million years," spins a [promotional video](#). "We need the largest incentive prize in history to help solve it."

The video posits that removing "excess CO₂ from the atmosphere and oceans" will restore "Earth's carbon balance" — whatever that means. In fact, neither XPRIZE nor the Musk Foundation offer data to justify any of their fallacious claims. That's probably because actual [data](#) prove [otherwise time and time again](#).

XPRIZE launched its carbon-removal project in 2019 when 1,300 teams from 88 countries threw their hats in the ring. Competitors were charged with removing carbon from air, oceans, land, and rocks.

In 2023, XPRIZE selected 20 finalists. To win, contestants must remove and sequester 1,000 tons of CO₂ per year and must demonstrate the potential to scale to gigaton level by 2050. The grand-prize winner will walk away with \$50 million, and the runners up will split the remaining funds, minus unspecified "operational funding" mentioned on the XPRIZE site.

Winners will be announced Earth Day, April 22, 2025.



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