

## **NEW DIGITAL DIRECTORY FOR RESEARCHING AND ASSESSING GEOENGINEERING PROJECTS LAUNCHED GEOMAP WILL CATALOG, RATE AND SHOW IMPACTS OF ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS**

**Disclaimer: For visioning purposes only, document may not reflect current state of project**

**(WASHINGTON, DC - APRIL 22, 2021)** Today, on Earth Day 2021, GeoMap was announced as a new research and planning initiative designed to support climate restoration, adaptation and mitigation with engineered solutions. GeoMap provides the world's first interactive directory of proposed and active climate restoration and intervention projects along with an assessment of each project's potential benefits and risks. Engineered solutions include carbon dioxide removal (CDR) and solar radiation modification (SRM). GeoMap is designed to help improve public awareness of global climate projects and provide a standardized framework for assessing a project's qualifications, team, strategy, readiness and potential positive and negative impacts.

Today, geoengineering is a controversial topic with questions about the ethics of physically altering the Earth's climate, as well as the potential impacts of such changes. The US National Climate Assessment and the United Nations have called for more research into the potential benefits and risks of engineered solutions. Currently there is a lack of governance, research and public understanding of some advanced climate change solutions. These issues need to be resolved to understand whether engineered solutions can be leveraged, at what scale and when.

GeoMap is designed to advance society's understanding of climate projects leveraging expert faculty and staff and technology created at the Smart City Innovation Center. GeoMap provides one source to see the known universe of projects and how the projects rate according to a risk assessment. GeoMap will create awareness and information to help drive the conversation and advance the potential for deploying well-designed engineering solutions at scale.

"Climate intervention is not yet fully understood and requires more research and understanding of the potential benefits and impacts. Given the seriousness of the challenges and the urgency to act before impacts of climate change are irreversible, GeoMap will be a powerful tool to help advance this important research," said June Flood, Professor of Climate Studies. "GeoMap will provide an easily accessible and complete source of information on climate projects and an analysis of how well they are designed."

GeoMap is an interactive website that allows climate researchers and other users to search for global climate projects and includes project ratings generated according to the GeoMap risk assessment. Project owners can register projects at the site and provide information and updates. GeoMap webscrapers will monitor the space and add project details as identified. The GeoMap Project Assessment was developed by experts to create a standardized measure for determining project viability, maturity and impact.

"GeoMap makes it very easy to find and stay up to date on the universe of engineered solutions around the world," said Cara Bonne, a university carbon reduction researcher. "People, companies, governments are all experimenting and trying new things and it was hard to understand the level of project sophistication and potential impact. The risk assessment shows if the project team knows what they are doing. This helps identify projects that may have negative impacts and require more evaluation."

For more information on GeoMap please visit [www.geomap.com](http://www.geomap.com).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - GEOMAP

### 1. What are we building and why?

GeoMap is two things. One, an interactive directory of global climate projects and two, an assessment with a rating on the projects potential viability. GeoMap will help advance the awareness, understanding and advancement of climate projects by making information more available. GeoMap will also help prevent potentially harmful projects from moving forward by providing the mechanism to review, assess and share ratings on projects. Ultimately, GeoMap will help beneficial projects advance and support the further review and refinement of harmful projects. It's the Charity Navigator for climate projects.

### 2. Why is GeoMap qualified to assess projects?

The field of geoengineering is still new and evolving. As more and more projects are developed there is a need to provide information and assessments on these projects. GeoMap is not expected to be perfect, but to provide a starting point to help advance the ability to move from theory to practice.

### 3. Who will own and maintain the solution?

GeoMap will be independently owned and operated by an appropriate academic or non-profit organization.

### 4. Who are the intended users?

GeoMap is open and accessible to the public, but the primary audience will be climate research scientists and policy makers.

### 5. How does it work?

The GeoMap directory is an interactive website using an active Earth map that allows users to search for projects by location, by type and by project maturity.

Once found, users can access available information on projects, including location, scope, project team, status and other information.

Each project will have a GeoMap assessment rating created by the team to show the project's viability and impact.

### 5. What are the most important impacts and outcomes?

GeoMap has two primary impacts. One is to increase awareness of projects and information about them. The second is to provide an expert assessment of the projects to guide policy makers and the public about the projects viability and impact.

### 6. Are there any laws, regulations or guidelines this needs to conform with?

There are no laws, or regulations applicable to GeoMap. The GeoMap team reviewed best practices for project frameworks and assessment tools to develop the GeoMap Project Assessment tool.

### 7. How will GeoMap drive awareness and adoption of the solution?

The GeoMap team will share the content through social media, targeted outreach to the climate research community and on-going to climate project teams as identified.

8. What training is required to use the solutions?

No training is required to use the site. Climate project teams can follow instructions provided on how to register and upload project information. The GeoMap Assessment also has a detailed information section on how the assessments are developed and what each element means.

9. Are there additional features that will be built off the initial solution?

As policies and other pertinent resources are created and identified they will be added to the GeoMap site. GeoMap will be positioned as the go-to site for information on climate engineering.

10. What is the expected negative response to GeoMap?

Geoengineering is a potentially controversial site. The book, movie, TV show *Snowpiercer* is often used as a critical tag for climate altering projects. It is likely that people opposed to geoengineering and those that don't believe that climate change exists may find GeoMap and respond negatively to it. Project teams may oppose having their projects assessed. Additionally, as the space is developing there are many different perspectives within the scientific community who may oppose GeoMap.

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