

Conflict of Interest Policy: ERW Coordinated Research Network

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The Coordinated Research Network (CRN) aims to produce research that is trusted by the scientific community, policymakers, and the public. Separating research leadership from commercial interests helps ensure that results are independent and credible. This benefits the entire enhanced rock weathering (ERW) field, including project developers, by building the evidence base needed for market and policy confidence.

Conflict of Interest Definitions

For the purposes of this Conflict of Interest Policy, we define **Commercially-interested ERW organizations** as:

- ERW Project Developers
- Feedstock or remineralizer suppliers
- ERW MRV providers
- Carbon registries

A **financial conflict of interest** exists if an individual:

- Is an employee, director, officer, or Board member of a Commercially-interested ERW organization, **or**
- Derives more than 20% of their income from one or more Commercially-interested ERW organizations, **or**
- Owns any equity or stock options in a Commercially-interested ERW organization, regardless of size, **or**
- Has a revenue-linked compensation arrangement with a Commercially-interested ERW organization.

A **non-financial conflict of interest** may include, but is not limited to:

- A domestic partner or immediate family member having a financial conflict of interest as defined above.
- A researcher receiving substantial non-financial benefits (e.g., laboratory space, equipment access) from a Commercially-interested ERW organization.
- An institution receiving meaningful in-kind support from a Commercially-interested ERW organization.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Requirements

Applies to: Principal Investigators, Site Managers, Field Technicians, Lab Technicians, Site Host Institutions, Working Group members

All CRN participants and institutions (see 'Applies to' above) will be required to disclose potential conflicts of interest with Commercially-interested ERW organizations. Disclosures should include any and all financial relationships (including but not limited to income, equity, and consultant/advisory roles, etc.) with Commercially-interested ERW organizations as well as any

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non-financial conflicts of interest. This disclosure includes the items outlined in the financial conflicts of interest definition above. Any individual or institution who is intending to enter into an arrangement that constitutes a conflict of interest within 24 months of submitting an expression of interest must also disclose this information. Please err on the side of sharing any and all potentially relevant potential conflicts of interest.

Disclosing a conflict of interest does not necessarily disqualify a participant or institution. Cascade will review disclosures and may request additional information or clarification. **For any other questions about eligibility, please see the [FAQ](#).**

Disqualifying Conflicts of Interest

Applies to: Principal Investigators, Site Managers

An individual is ineligible to serve as Principal Investigator or Site Manager for a CRN site if they have a financial conflict of interest with a Commercially-interested ERW organization.

However, Principal Investigators (PIs) and Site Managers who are paid or unpaid advisors to Commercially-interested ERW organizations, but who a) retain their University (or other) affiliations and salaries, b) do not hold equity or options in the companies they advise, c) do not have revenue-linked compensation agreement with the companies they advise and d) do not derive more than 20% of their income from these companies should disclose any and all potential conflicts of interest according to the definitions above, but may ultimately be considered to not have a disqualifying conflict of interest.

Research Independence of CRN Sites:

ERW project developers and ERW feedstock providers possess valuable technical, scientific, and operational expertise that can greatly benefit the CRN. However, to ensure the scientific independence and credibility of CRN research, **Project Developers cannot serve as the lead research institution or hold Principal Investigator or Site Manager roles for a CRN site.**

Acceptable Modes of Project Developer Engagement

We welcome and encourage project developer involvement in modes that leverage their expertise while maintaining the independence of the CRN sites.

- **Propose Sites:** Project Developers may propose sites for the CRN that align with the [Site Selection Criteria](#), with research being conducted by an independent academic institution or research organization.
- **Contribute Expertise:** Project Developers may be invited to participate in Working Groups or other forums and can provide scientific, logistical, operational, and technical knowledge that will inform standardized operating procedures, experimental design, and site management that ultimately increases the value of this globally coordinated research for local contexts.