Coastal Blue Carbon

Blue carbon refers to the greenhouse gases sequestered, stored, and emitted by coastal wetlands, such as salt marshes, mangroves, and seagrass beds, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.



Blue Carbon ecosystems capture and store atmospheric carbon in the ground at rates up to

10x greater

than forests on a per area basis.

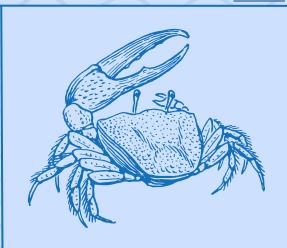
NOAA

Coastal wetlands in the contiguous
U.S store nearly

3 billion

metric tons of carbon dioxide in their soils.

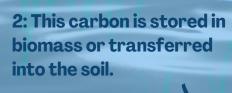
EPA

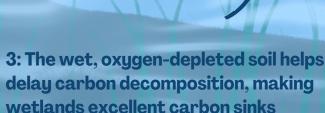


So how does it work?

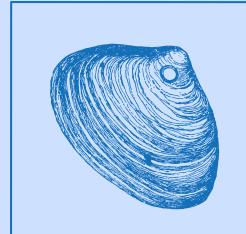


4: When wetlands are damaged or destroyed, this stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere.





What's at risk?



The contiguous U.S. has lost over

53%

of its wetland habitat in the last 200 years.

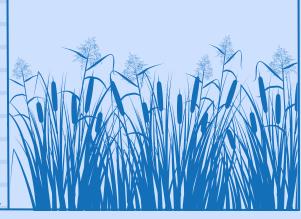
USFWS

The degradation of coastal ecosystems in the U.S. emits up to

3.5 million

metric tons of carbon dioxide every year.

EPA



What can we do?

Invest! Wetland restoration offers a place-based approach to addressing rising atmospheric carbon levels while also providing many benefits for wildlife and the local community.

For more information on blue carbon visit https://estuaries.org/bluecarbon/

