

Tao Climate Unveils Revolutionary Finalist Entry in Elon Musk's XPRIZE Carbon Removal Contest

Unique Partnership with Ukraine's Hemp Technology LLC Delivers Sustainable Housing While Removing Over 1,000 Tonnes CO₂e

DUBLIN, IRELAND, February 7, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Tao Climate, a trailblazer in sustainable solutions and a selected member of Google's Startups for Sustainable Development program, proudly announces its finalist entry to Elon Musk's XPRIZE Carbon Removal contest. In collaboration with project partner Hemp Technology in Ukraine, the project focuses on deploying hempcrete housing for 170 internally displaced people and war orphans in Lviv, Western Ukraine, while permanently and safely removing over 1,000 tonnes of CO₂.

Tao Climate, a member of the Berlin-based Greentech Alliance, leverages cutting-edge technology to grow hemp at scale, and make a positive impact on the environment by effectively removing CO₂ at scale. The collaborative project with Hemp Technology LLC, a Ukrainian hemp building company, and Hempire, which provided local materials for the project, underscores the power of nature, sustainable innovation, circular economy, and social impact, providing a compelling and effective solution to the climate crisis.

XPRIZE Carbon Removal is aimed at tackling the biggest threat facing humanity - fighting climate change and rebalancing Earth's carbon cycle. Funded by Elon Musk and the Musk Foundation, this \$100M competition is the largest incentive prize in history. □ Tao Climate and Hemp Technology's finalist submission signifies a bold step forward in the quest for scalable, impactful



The Ukraine project team builds hempcrete housing in Ukraine for internally displaced people and war orphans

solutions to the climate crisis. Tao Climate has already successfully passed several milestones in the competition to make it into the final.

The joint submission revolves around the construction of sustainable hempcrete housing for 170 internally displaced people and war orphans near Lviv, in western Ukraine. A third party has independently verified the safe and permanent sequestration of the captured CO₂. Hempcrete is a composite material made from hemp hurds, lime, and water. This centuries-old construction material not only provides resilient, efficient shelter but also offers unparalleled environmental benefits, including permanent carbon sequestration. Tao Climate's vision is to actively support Ukraine's sustainable reconstruction with hempcrete buildings, during and after the conflict.

While energy-intensive mechanical carbon removal solutions like Direct Air Capture (DAC) aim to mitigate climate change by extracting carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, they often face significant limitations when compared to the natural prowess of industrial hemp. One of the major drawbacks is the speed and scalability of the processes. DAC technologies require substantial energy inputs and intricate machinery, making the removal of CO₂ a slow and resource-intensive endeavour.

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Only hemp has the power to quickly remove CO₂ at megatonne and gigatonne scale. Elon Musk must appreciate that nature and photosynthesis are our most powerful tools in the fight against climate change”
Gary Byrnes, Tao Climate CEO

noteworthy, in hotter climates, industrial hemp can be harvested up to three times per year.



Sergiy Kovalenkov, Director of Hemp Technology, Ukraine, at the site of hempcrete accommodation construction near Lviv in western Ukraine

The conventional construction industry accounts for 8% of global emissions annually, with cement production being the main driver for the industry's negative effect on our climate. Industrial hemp emerges as a key player in the pursuit of carbon neutrality with the proven potential to minimise or even replace concrete usage and pave the way towards a sustainable construction industry. Notably, industrial hemp can also replace fossil fuels and fossil fuel products such as plastic.



Hempcrete housing in Lviv, western Ukraine, sequesters 1,000 tonnes of CO₂e captured from the air by hemp plants

This groundbreaking initiative not only showcases the transformative potential of hemp-based construction but also emphasises the efficacy of community-driven solutions to global challenges.

"At Tao Climate, we are unwavering in our commitment to harnessing the power of nature for a sustainable future," affirms Gary Byrnes, CEO of Tao Climate. "Our collaboration with Hemp Technology represents a remarkable synergy of innovation, vision, and social impact. Together, we present our finalist submission to the XPRIZE Carbon Removal contest, highlighting the vast potential of hempcrete housing to mitigate carbon emissions and uplift lives."

Sergiy Kovalenkov, Founder of Hemp Technology, emphasises, "This project exemplifies the power of collaboration and creativity in addressing complex global challenges. We are thrilled to partner with Tao Climate and contribute to the advancement of sustainable solutions through hemp-based construction, pioneering a new era of environmentally friendly housing that prioritises both people and the planet."

Felix Roick, COO of Tao Climate, states, "We have proven that our model works under the harshest of circumstances. What we have achieved in Ukraine is remarkable. With our technology, we can scale up and easily replicate it around the world. We're effectively removing CO₂ from the atmosphere while enabling sustainable housing for millions of people worldwide. It's a win-win for the planet and humanity."

You can view a video of our Xprize project here: <https://youtu.be/iVQIUekHu8w>

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ABOUT TAO CLIMATE

Tao Climate, a greentech software company, is committed to utilising technology for a positive, measurable impact on the environment and addressing the urgent challenge of climate change. Tao Climate's mission is to unite industrial hemp growers and makers worldwide, to capture and permanently sequester CO2. By offering high quality carbon credits for sale, Tao Climate generates additional funds for industrial hemp growers and makers globally, ultimately increasing hemp production and closing the UN Emissions Gap of 23Gt of CO2 per year. The company's proven model ensures the safe sequestration of captured CO2 for decades, in sustainable housing. Tao Climate delivers systemic solutions to the climate and housing crisis, at scale.

Tao Climate is proud to be a selected member of Google's Startups for Sustainable Development program, leveraging a unique and strong competitive advantage gained through its close relationship with Google. Tao Climate welcomes enquiries from companies that want to effectively manage their carbon footprints by building a better world.

CONTACTS:

Sergiy Kovalenkov
Hemp Technology
Email: sergiy@hempire.tech

Gary Byrnes
Tao Climate Limited
+353 87 249 3051
gary@taoclimate.com
Visit us on social media:

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