The circular carbon economy (CCE) is an integrated and inclusive approach to transitioning toward more comprehensive, resilient, sustainable, and climate-friendly energy systems. Amory Lovins famously said that people do not want energy; they want cold drinks and hot showers. The corollary in the circular carbon economy is that people do not want bio-energy and carbon utilization; they want a safe climate and an improved quality of life. As such, the circular carbon economy welcomes all carbon mitigation options that can help achieve climate goals.

The circular carbon economy builds on the principles of circular economy and applies them to managing carbon emissions: to reduce the carbon that must be managed in the first place, to reuse carbon as an input to create feedstocks and fuels, to recycle carbon through the natural carbon cycle with bioenergy, and, unique to circular carbon economy, to remove excess carbon and store it.

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