# Carbon capture initiative in St Ives halted over environmental concerns



Plans for a carbon capture initiative in St Ives, located on Cornwall’s north coast, have been halted due to concerns over potential environmental impact. The proposal, put forward by Planetary Technologies, aimed to investigate the effects of introducing magnesium hydroxide into the waters near St Ives Bay. This chemical was intended to help monitor changes in ocean acidity and levels of carbon dioxide.

The plan drew significant criticism from local environmental groups who voiced apprehensions about the unknown repercussions on marine life and the broader ecosystem. On Wednesday, Planetary Technologies announced that following the completion of their initial trial operations, they have opted not to move forward with a full-scale programme in Cornwall.

In a statement on the company’s website, they explained their collaboration with local utility South West Water, proposing to add a diluted form of magnesium hydroxide to the water flow at a treatment facility in Hayle. This treated water is released just outside St Ives Bay, with the objective of assessing whether the addition of this antacid could serve as a viable method for deacidifying the ocean.

Planetary Technologies noted that while their trials gathered valuable scientific data and insights, the overall outcome of the trials suggested a limit to commercial viability. The statement underscored the company's commitment to advancing science-led carbon removal, although they clarified that they are not currently running any additional trials in the UK.

St Ives, a picturesque town in Cornwall, has become a focal point for discussions regarding environmental and ecological stewardship, particularly as communities weigh the benefits of innovative technologies against potential risks to the environment.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.planetarytech.com/updated-company-overview-planetary-in-cornwall/> - This URL explains Planetary Technologies' mission and their activities in Cornwall, including their decision to not pursue a full-scale programme due to commercial infeasibility. It also provides insight into their work with South West Water and the use of magnesium hydroxide in St Ives Bay.
* <https://www.planetarytech.com/projects/cornwall/> - This URL details the specifics of Planetary Technologies' project in Cornwall, including their collaboration with South West Water and the objectives of adding magnesium hydroxide to the water flow. It also clarifies the company's decision not to continue with further UK trials.
* <https://saveourbays.org.uk/st-ives> - This URL highlights local environmental concerns about Planetary Technologies' geoengineering project in St Ives Bay, including criticism from groups like Save Our Bays about unknown environmental impacts and the sale of carbon credits.
* <https://www.planetarytech.com/updated-company-overview-planetary-in-cornwall/> - This page provides additional context on why St Ives Bay was chosen as a site for the project and the safety considerations taken by Planetary Technologies.
* <https://www.planetarytech.com/projects/cornwall/> - This link offers details about the trial's results and the scientific findings from adding magnesium hydroxide to the ocean, including how it was monitored and verified by third-party agencies.