

Carbon in Ecosystems

Biology

Where carbon is stored, and what happens when a store is disturbed.

Approximate global carbon stores.

Store	Relative size
Ocean (dissolved)	Largest by far
Soil and permafrost	Very large
Fossil fuels	Large, geological
Atmosphere	Smaller than soil
Living biomass	Smallest of these

Peatlands hold more carbon than all the world's forests, on a fraction of the area. Draining them releases it.