



EESI

Environmental and
Energy Study Institute

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CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

Direct Air Capture

Briefing Series: Scaling Up

Innovation to Drive Down Emissions

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

About EESI



Non-partisan Educational Resources for Policymakers

A bipartisan Congressional caucus founded EESI in 1984 to provide non-partisan information on environmental, energy, and climate policies



Direct Assistance for Equitable and Inclusive Financing Program

In addition to a full portfolio of federal policy work, EESI provides direct assistance to utilities to develop “on-bill financing” programs



Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

We recognize that systemic barriers impede fair environmental, energy, and climate policies and limit the full participation of Black, Indigenous, people of color, and legacy and frontline communities in decision-making



Sustainable Solutions

Our mission is to advance science-based solutions for climate change, energy, and environmental challenges in order to achieve *our vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.*

Polycymaker Education

Briefings and Webcasts



Live, in-person and online public briefings, archived webcasts, and written summaries

Climate Change Solutions



Bi-weekly newsletter with everything policymakers and concerned citizens need to know, including a legislation and hearings tracker

Fact Sheets and Issue Briefs



Timely, objective coverage of environmental, clean energy, and climate change topics

Social Media (@EESIOnline)



Active engagement on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube



Upcoming Briefings & Series



Living with Climate Change

Polar Vortex – April 13

Sea Level Rise – May 18

Wildfires – June 13

Extreme Heat - TBA

Scaling Up Innovation to Drive Down Emissions

Green Hydrogen – April 27

Direct Air Capture – May 25

Electric Vehicle Charging – June 02

Offshore Wind Energy - TBA

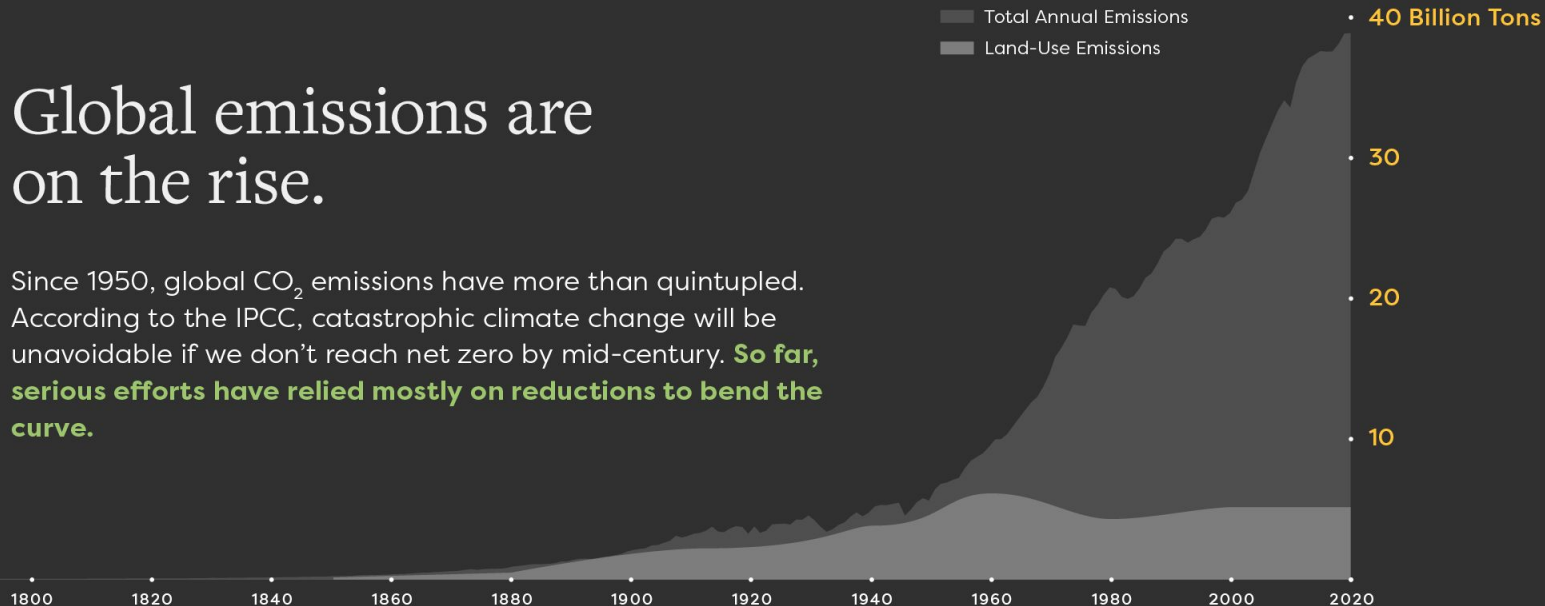
Reversing two centuries
of carbon emissions.

 Carbon180



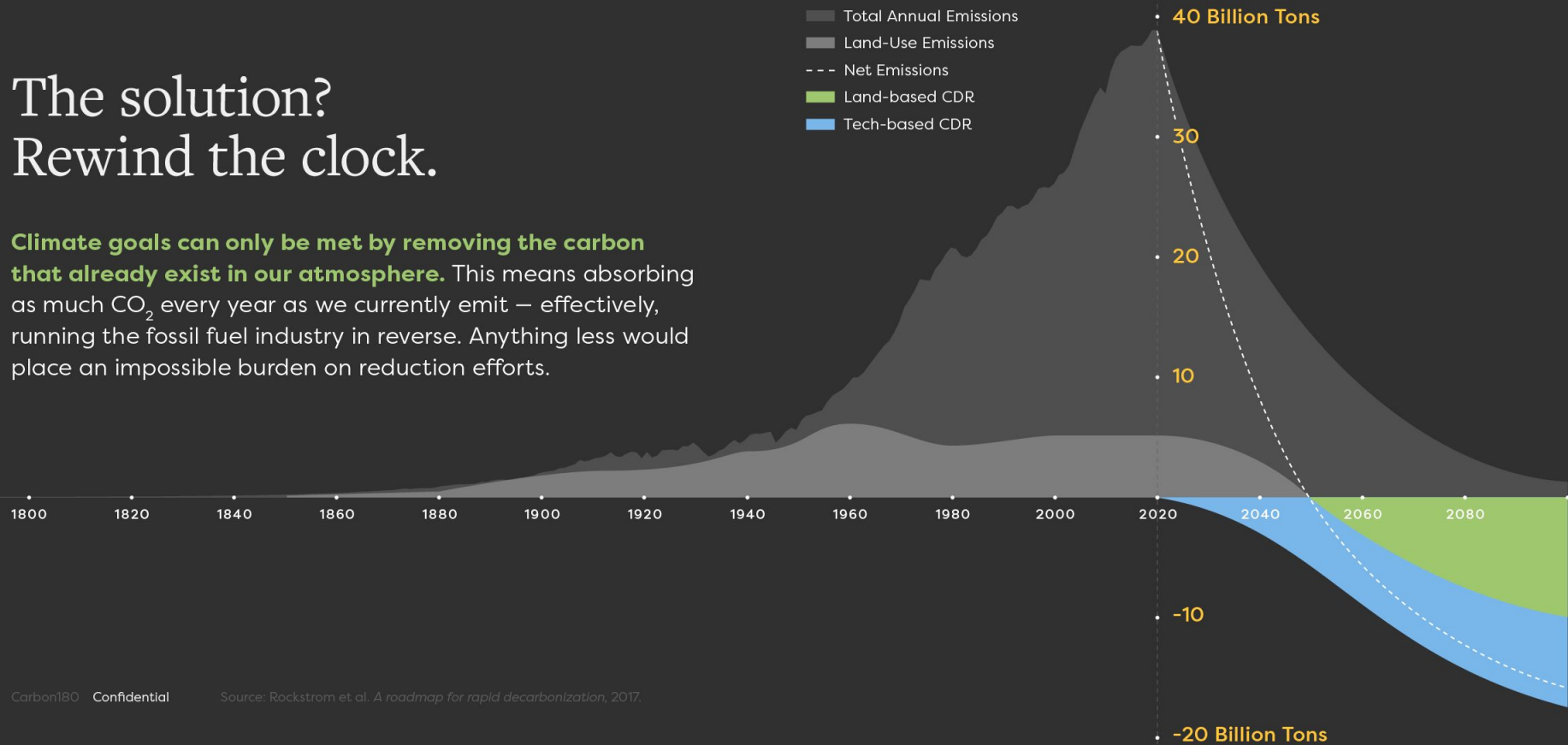
Global emissions are on the rise.

Since 1950, global CO₂ emissions have more than quintupled. According to the IPCC, catastrophic climate change will be unavoidable if we don't reach net zero by mid-century. **So far, serious efforts have relied mostly on reductions to bend the curve.**

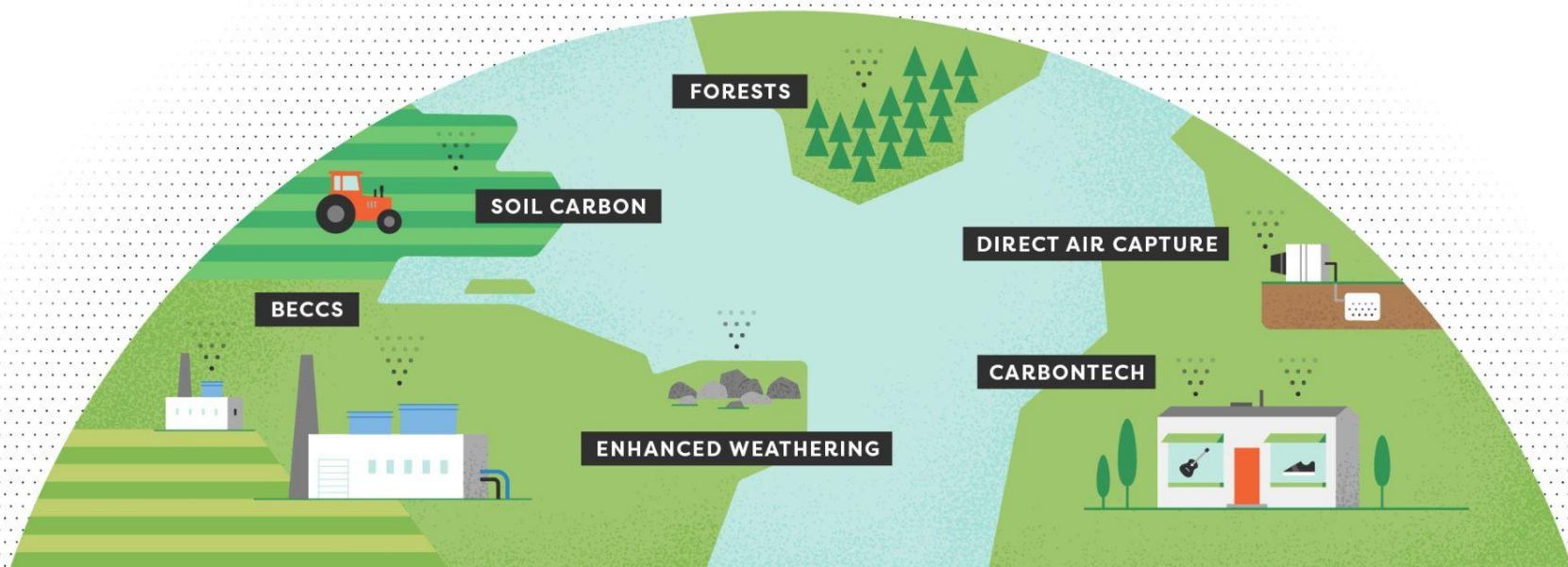


The solution? Rewind the clock.

Climate goals can only be met by removing the carbon that already exist in our atmosphere. This means absorbing as much CO₂ every year as we currently emit – effectively, running the fossil fuel industry in reverse. Anything less would place an impossible burden on reduction efforts.

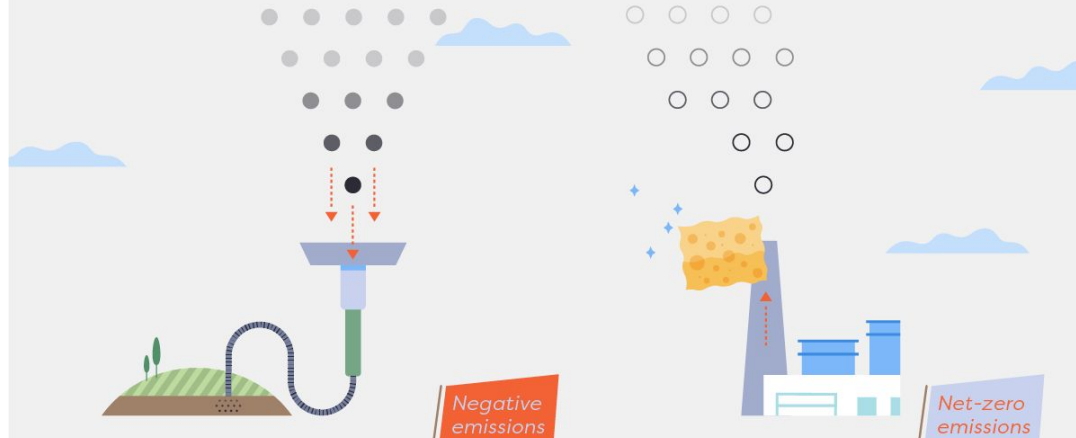


Solutions are within reach.



Carbon removal is not carbon capture

Though the confusion isn't farfetched. Both climate solutions clean up carbon pollution – but differ significantly in methods and impacts.



Carbon removal

“Sucks” existing CO₂ from the air using land-, ocean-, and tech-based pathways, rather than preventing emissions at the source

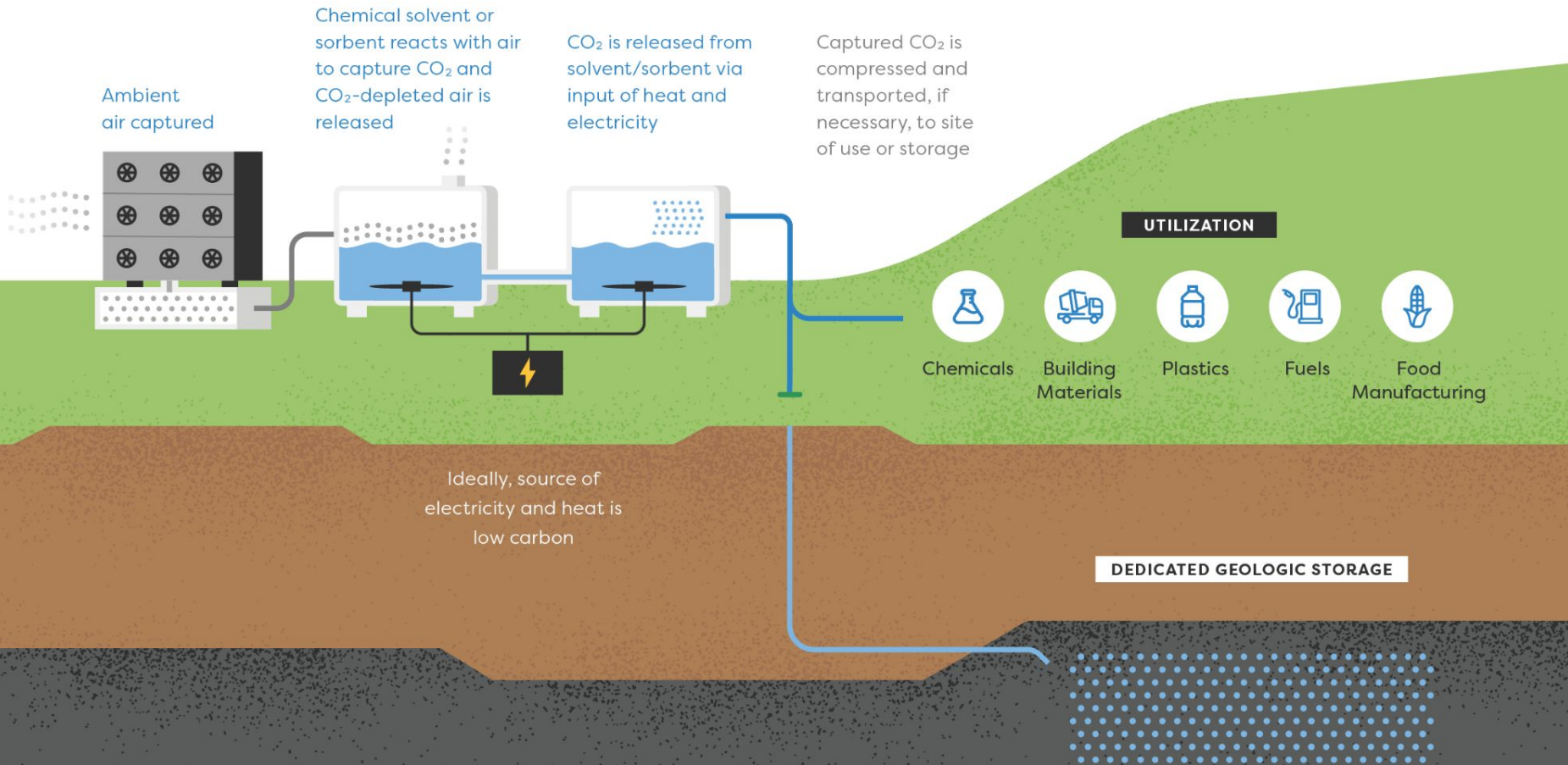
Can target *legacy emissions* and address climate impacts on frontline communities

Carbon capture

“Scrubs” CO₂ from a *point source* – a localized source of emissions, such as a power plant or industrial facility

Lowers or zeroes out the footprints of traditional, carbon-intensive industries

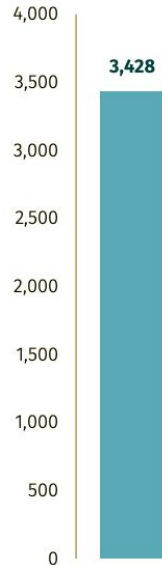
Direct air capture



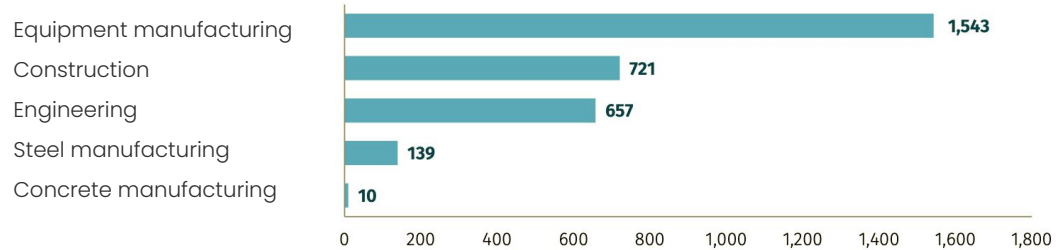
Job Creation

The majority of jobs are associated with design, engineering and construction of the plant as well as the manufacturing of plant equipment. A typical DAC plant requires 278 workers to maintain and operate the facility once it's constructed.

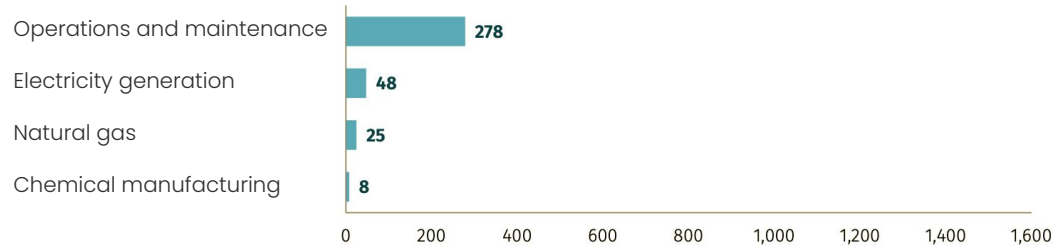
TOTAL JOBS



JOBS FROM PLANT INVESTMENT



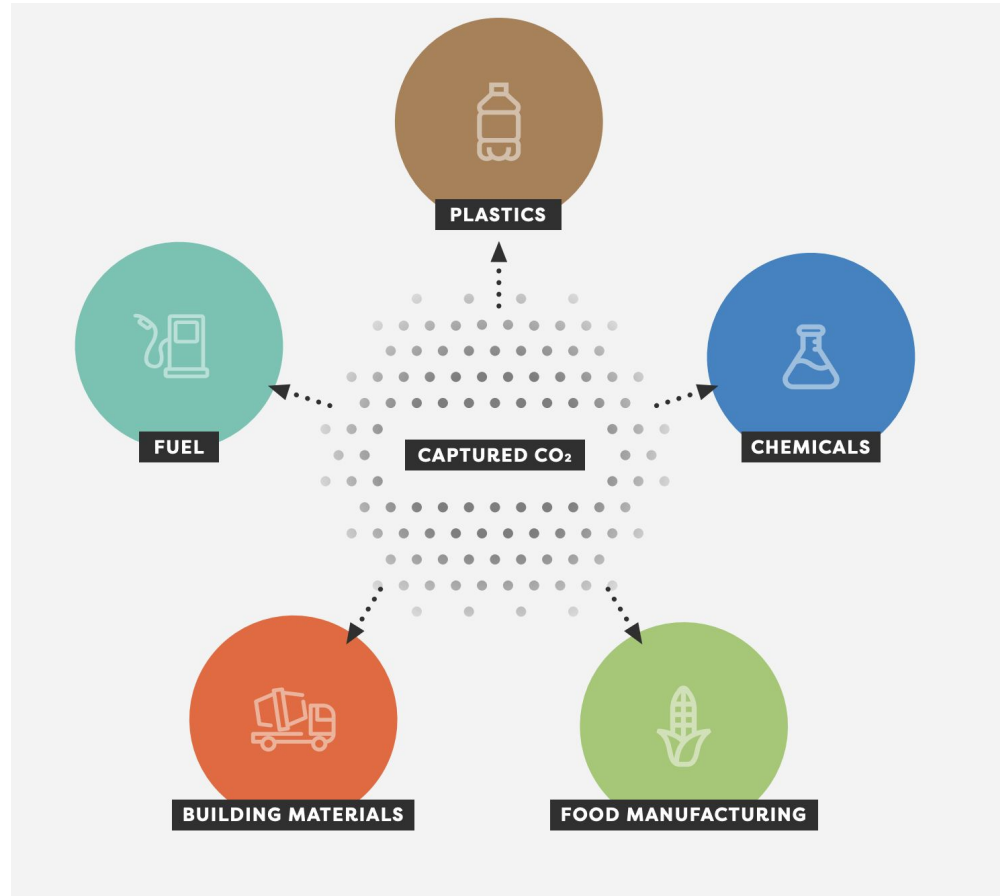
JOBS FROM PLANT OPERATIONS



Source: IMPLAN Group, Keith et al. 2018. NAS, AISC, Rhodium Group analysis. Note: All values reflect DAC plant median cost and performance estimates. Values will vary depending on technology type and configuration.

A \$1T Opportunity

Carbon180's market-sizing report estimates a \$1T total available market in the US for product derived from CO₂ – and \$6T globally.



Where we are today

Direct Air Capture MAPP ▾

- DAC Catalysts
- DAC Plants
- COMMERCIAL DEPLOYMENT
- DAC Demonstrations
- RESEARCH/ PROOF OF CONCEPT



Startup Progress



Heirloom

\$53M Series A



climeworks

\$650M Round

XPRIZE[®]

287 Teams – 6 DAC
companies in shortlist



✦ Frontier

An advance market commitment to accelerate carbon removal

Frontier is an advance market commitment to buy an initial \$925M of permanent carbon removal between 2022 and 2030. It's funded by Stripe, Alphabet, Shopify, Meta, McKinsey, and tens of thousands of businesses using Stripe Climate.

Buyers

[Get in touch](#) →

Suppliers

[Get in touch](#) →



stripe

Alphabet

 **shopify**

 **Meta**

McKinsey
& Company

Barriers to Scale



High Costs

Current capture costs are \$200-\$600/ton of CO₂, but need to be much lower to be deployed at scale.



Durable Markets

Private sector companies are starting to purchase DAC tons, but long-term, high quality markets are necessary



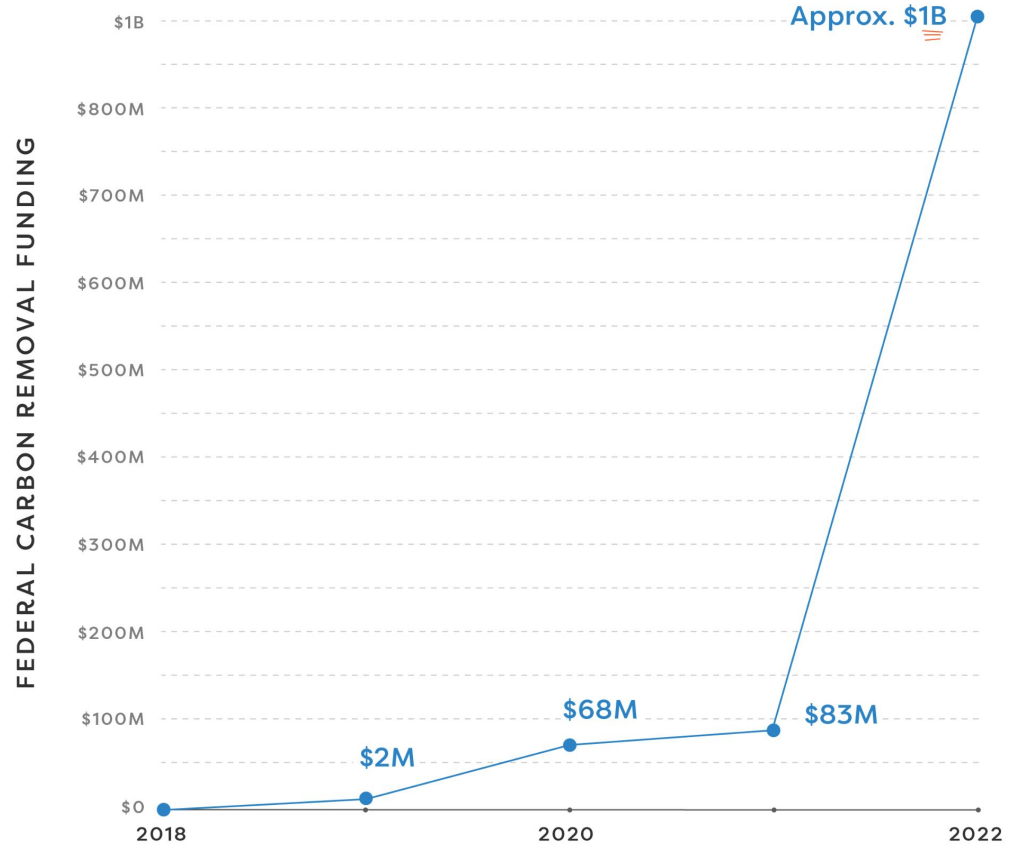
Shared Infrastructure

Many smaller DAC companies face barriers developing geologic and energy infrastructure

Policy Opportunities

\$1 Billion in FY22

Funding for CDR has increased more than 1500% in just two years.



New Policy Action

\$3.5B for DAC Hubs

Supports 4 regional, million-ton-scale direct air capture and storage hubs across the US

SCALE Act

Provides financing and implementation support for CO₂ transportation and storage networks

Funding for EPA Class VI

Expanding the agency's capacity to permit CO₂ storage

CDR RD&D Legislation

Engaging in efforts to secure next-level support for CDR RD&D + improve cross-agency coordination

ESIC Act

Investment tax credits supporting direct air capture alongside other clean energy technologies

Procurement

Leveraging state wins to scale federal purchasing of carbotech materials and new legislation on direct air capture procurement

Policy Opportunities



Updated 45Q

Increasing the DAC-to-storage 45Q tax credit, reducing the capture thresholds, and instituting direct pay



Federal Procurement

Creating a long-term, durable market for DAC to scale + setting standards



Modernize Regulation

Ensure we have the necessary regulations that both protect communities and work for startups



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Fossil Energy and
Carbon Management

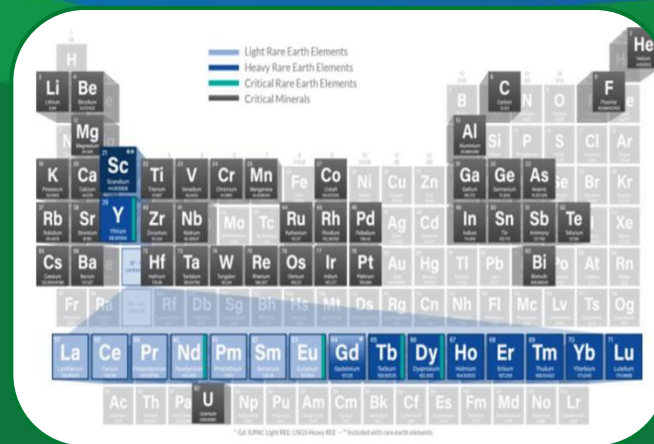
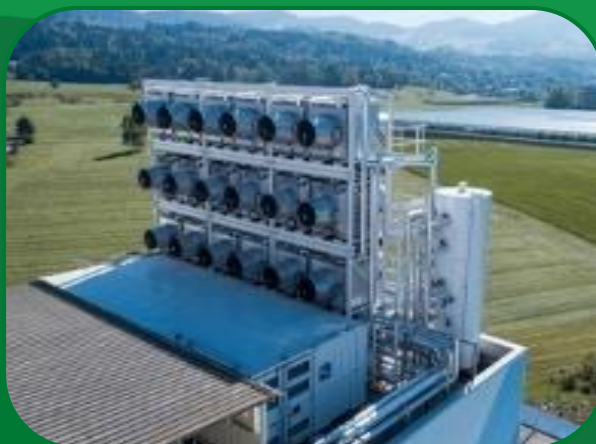
Direct Air Capture

Opportunities, Challenges, and Role of Policy

Dr. Jennifer Wilcox

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

May 25, 2022



Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management

Advancing Carbon Management Approaches Toward Deep Decarbonization

Priorities: Point-source carbon capture, carbon dioxide conversion, carbon dioxide removal (CDR), and reliable carbon transport and storage

Advancing Technologies that Lead to Sustainable Energy Resources

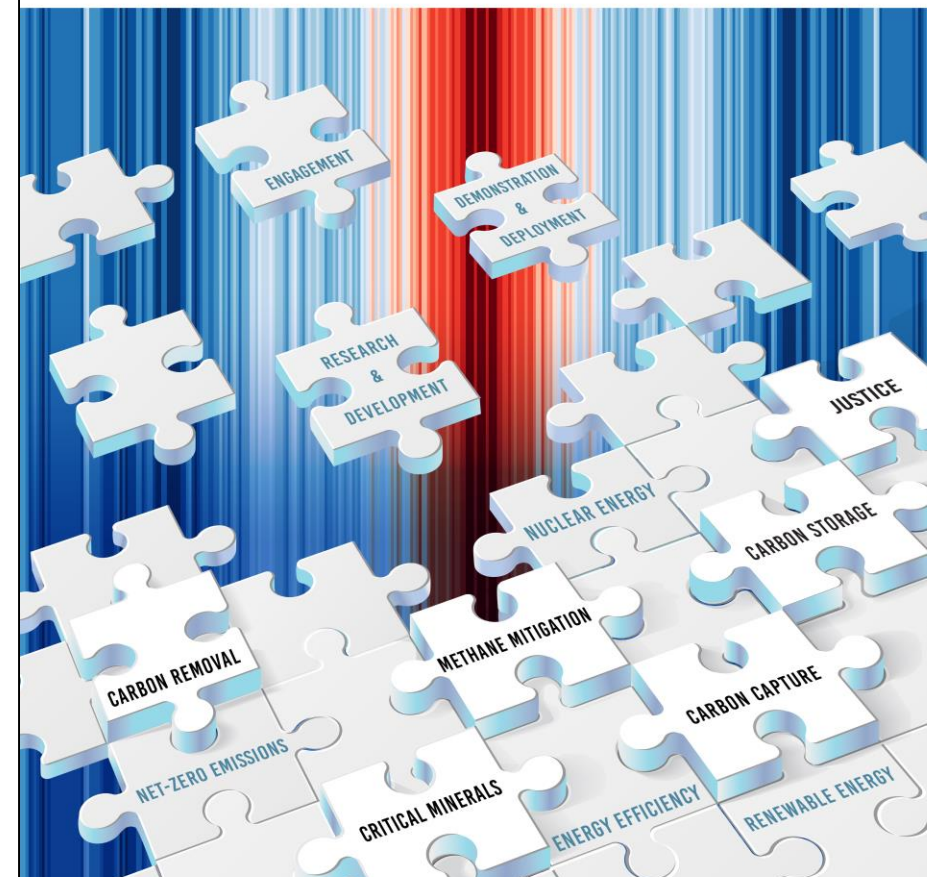
Priorities: Hydrogen with carbon management, domestic critical minerals (CMs) production, and methane mitigation

Advancing Justice, Labor, and Engagement

Priorities: Justice, labor, and international and domestic partnerships

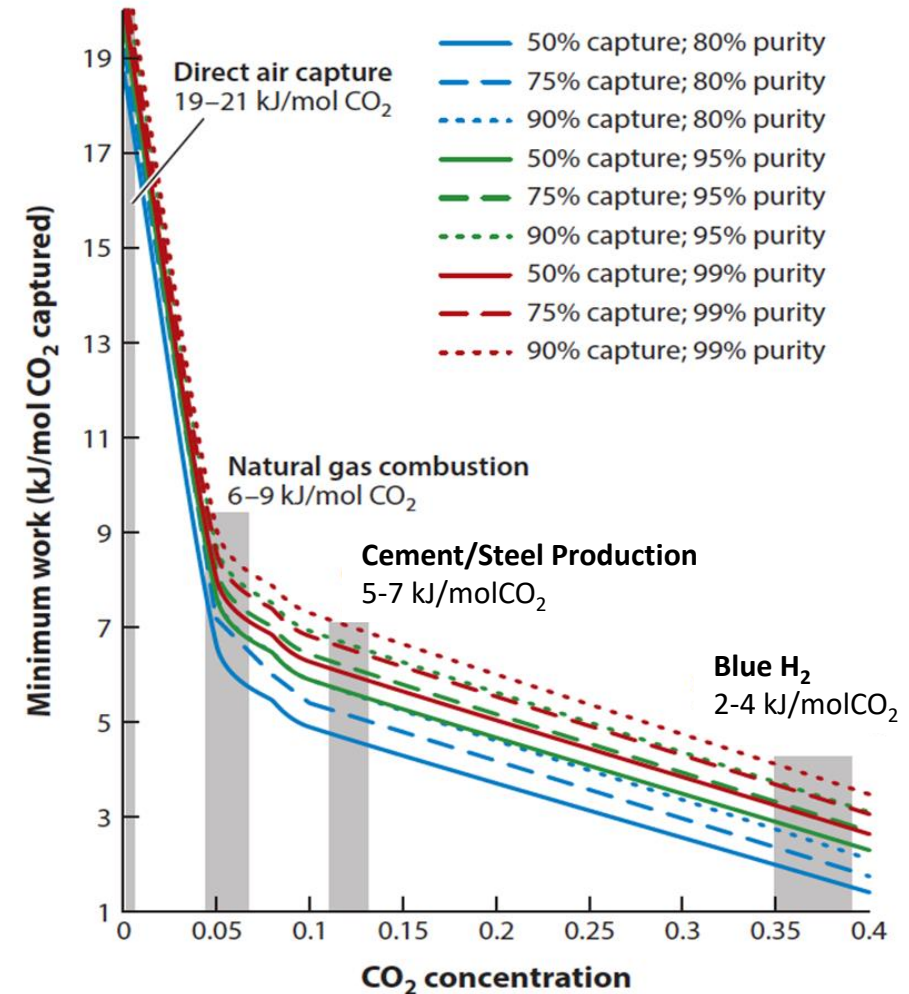
STRATEGIC VISION

The Role of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management in Achieving Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions

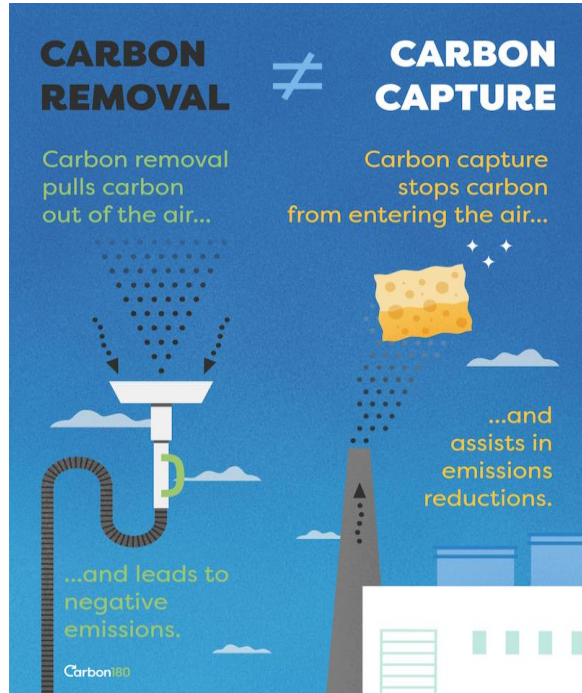


CCS and CDR Need to Be Done In Parallel

- Minimum work for separation may be derived from combined 1st and 2nd laws of thermodynamics
- Energy scales with dilution – > 3× more energy to do DAC vs exhaust streams
- 300× greater contactor area for CO₂ separation to do DAC vs exhaust
- High purity is desired for transport
- Direct air capture should not be seen as a replacement for avoiding carbon



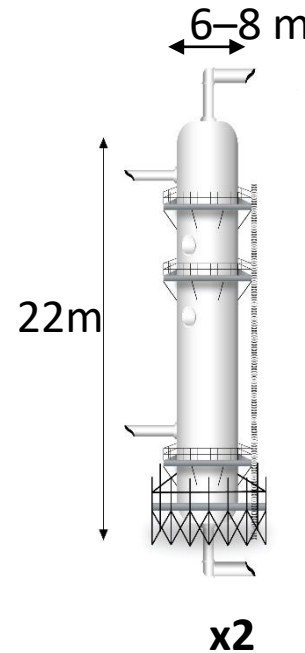
Distinction Between Point-Source Capture and Direct Air Capture



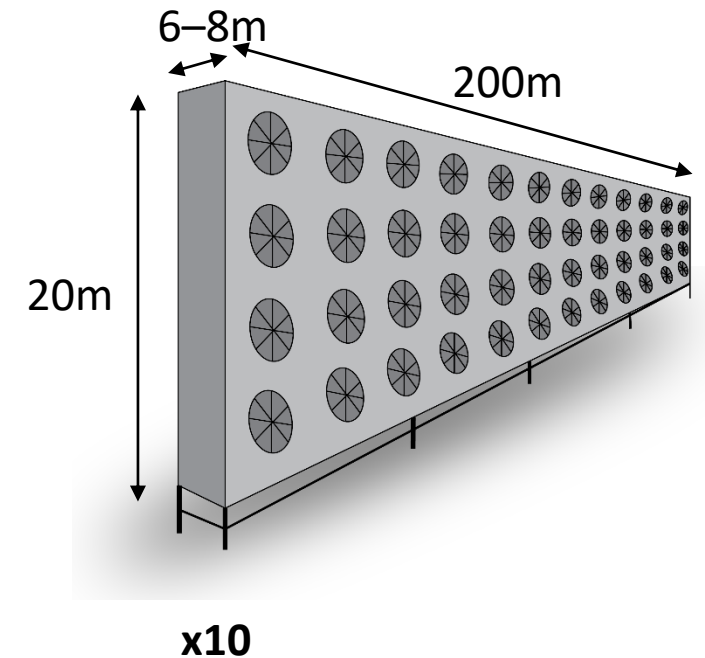
Source: <https://grist.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/carbon180-carbon-removal-is-not-carbon-capture.png>

Different designs and various technologies lead to different impacts, energy, land, and water requirements

Power Plant
MEA Scrubber



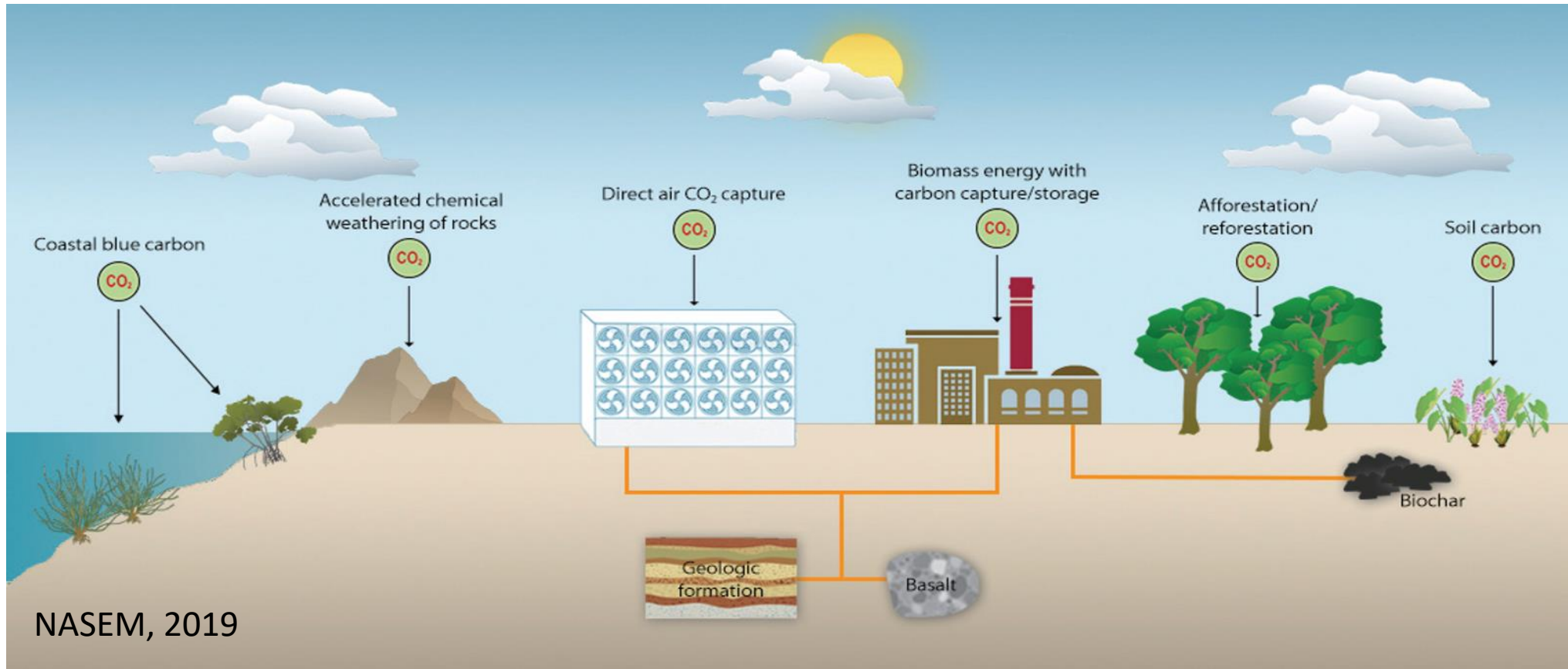
DAC Contactor



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Fossil Energy and
Carbon Management

Carbon Dioxide Removal and Importance of MRV



Carbon Negative

Durable and scalable carbon dioxide removal under \$100/net metric ton within a decade



Fossil Energy and Carbon Management

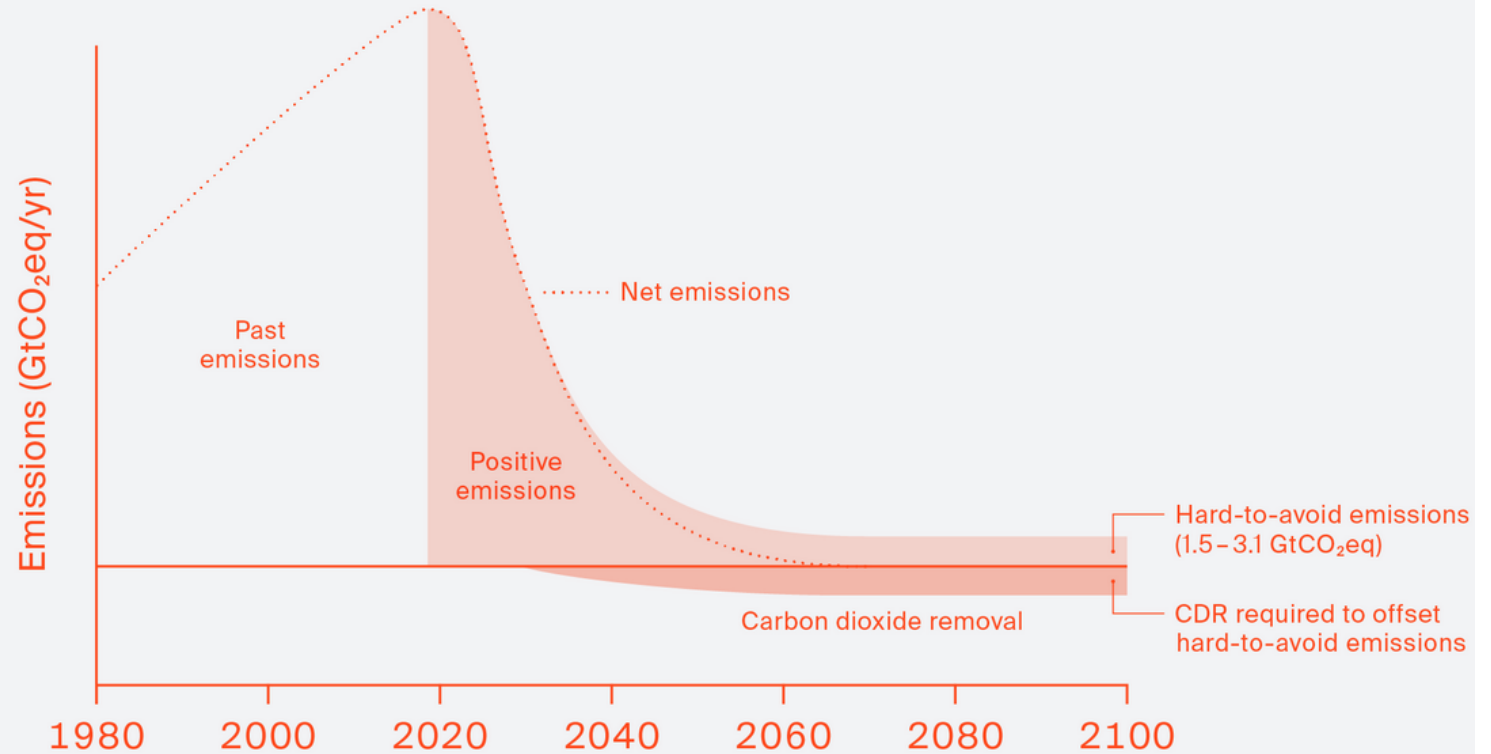
fecm.energy.gov

Net-Zero and Role of Carbon Dioxide Removal

Figure

1.1 →

Schematic of hard-to-avoid emissions and the CDR needed to offset them. Adapted from a figure produced by Glen Peters (2020)



CDR Primer, 2021

Recent FECM awards focus on coupling DAC to Existing Utilities

- As a leader in advancing carbon management technologies, FECM is researching and investing in DAC technologies to help scale them up for the commercial market
- DAC coupled to durable storage for carbon dioxide removal is energy intensive, relying on both heat and electricity inputs
- FECM recently awarded \$11 million (federal) for 4 FEED studies leveraging existing sources of clean heat for DAC – nuclear, geothermal, and industrial waste heat



DAC coupled to nuclear heat: \$3.4m (\$2.5m federal) FEED study led by Battelle with AirCapture, Carbonvert, Sargent & Lundy, Southern Company, and the University of Alabama to be located at Southern Company's Joseph M. Farley nuclear power plant in Columbia, AL. Image: [NRC](#)



DAC coupled to nuclear heat and power: \$3.1m (\$2.5m federal) FEED study led by Exelon with Carbon Engineering, Worley Group, 1PointFive, Univ. of Illinois, and PNNL to be located at Exelon's Byron Generating Station for 250k net tons CO₂/year captured with permanent storage. Image: [CE](#)



DAC coupled to geothermal energy: \$3.1m (\$2.5 federal) FEED study led by UIUC with Climeworks, Ormat, Sentinel Peak, Visage Energy, LLNL, and Kiewit to be located at an Ormat geothermal facility in California. Image: [Ormat](#)



DAC coupled to steel plant waste heat: \$4.3m (\$3.5m federal) FEED study led by Univ. Illinois to be integrated with US Steel's Gary Works in Indiana, with CO₂ to be trucked to a ready-mix concrete plant to be mineralized into calcium carbonate. Photo: Adobe [296734139](#)

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

> **\$10 billion** in new carbon management funding over 5 years through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).

Carbon Dioxide Removal - Direct Air Capture

Regional Direct Air Capture Hubs: \$3.5 billion
DAC Technology Prize Competition: \$115 million

Carbon Dioxide Utilization and Storage

Carbon Storage Validation and Testing: \$2.5 billion
Carbon Utilization Program: \$310 million

Front-End Engineering Design Studies

Pipeline Infrastructure: \$100 million

Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure

Loan Programs Office: \$2.1 billion

Carbon Capture Demonstrations and Large Pilots

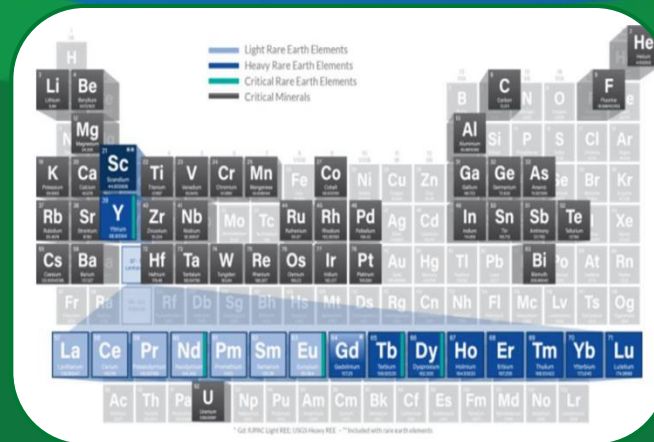
Integrated Systems: \$3.5 billion



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Questions?





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ASSESSING IMPACTS OF DAC TO ENABLE RESPONSIBLE SCALING

EESI Briefing on Direct Air Capture

May 25, 2022

KATIE LEBLING, WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

WHY FOCUS ON RESPONSIBLE SCALING?

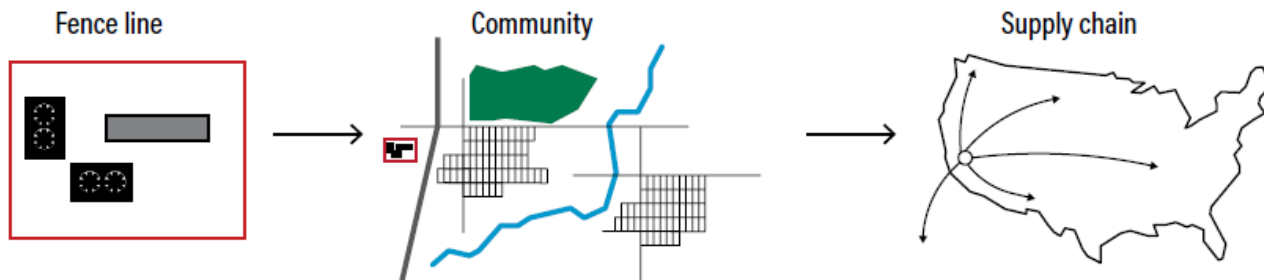
- We will likely need DAC at a large scale
- DAC is a new industry, unfamiliar to most
- Like all infrastructure, need to consider local impacts beyond DAC's needed carbon removal
- To not repeat historical inequities related to infrastructure development



KEY TAKEAWAY

WRI research finds that overall, DAC plants are expected to produce zero or almost zero onsite emissions that could negatively impact human health or the environment

CATEGORIZING IMPACTS



	Local	Distributed
One time: Pre-plant	Construction of plant (one time), construction material production, transport, labor	Production of capture media, production of select construction materials, production of energy infrastructure
Ongoing	Energy usage (fossil), chemical leakage or drift, transport of materials to/from plant, energy production, CO ₂ use-related activities,* management of captured CO ₂ ,* end-treatment of plant materials	Distant supply chain stresses; production of capture media; production of electricity, transport, and management of captured CO ₂ ,* end-treatment of materials*
One time: Post-plant	Decommissioning, destruction, post-site maintenance and remediation, destruction and disposal transport, economic loss, discontinuation of CO ₂ use-related activities,* end-treatment of materials, residual infrastructure, post-management site care	Economic loss, end-treatment of plant materials, residual infrastructure, post-management site care

IMPACTS ARE PROJECT SPECIFIC

DAC system and energy source	DAC plant (km ²)	Energy source (km ²)	Total for 1 MtCO ₂ /yr scale plant (km ²)
Sorbent: geothermal	0.5	7.0	7.5
Sorbent: solar PV	0.5	34.2	34.7
Sorbent: wind	0.5	65.6	66.0
Sorbent: NG with CCS	0.5	-	0.5
Solvent: NG with CCS + geothermal	0.4	1.5	1.9
Solvent: NG with CCS + solar PV	0.4	7.1	7.5
Solvent: NG with CCS + wind	0.4	13.6	14.0
Solvent: NG with CCS	0.4	-	0.4

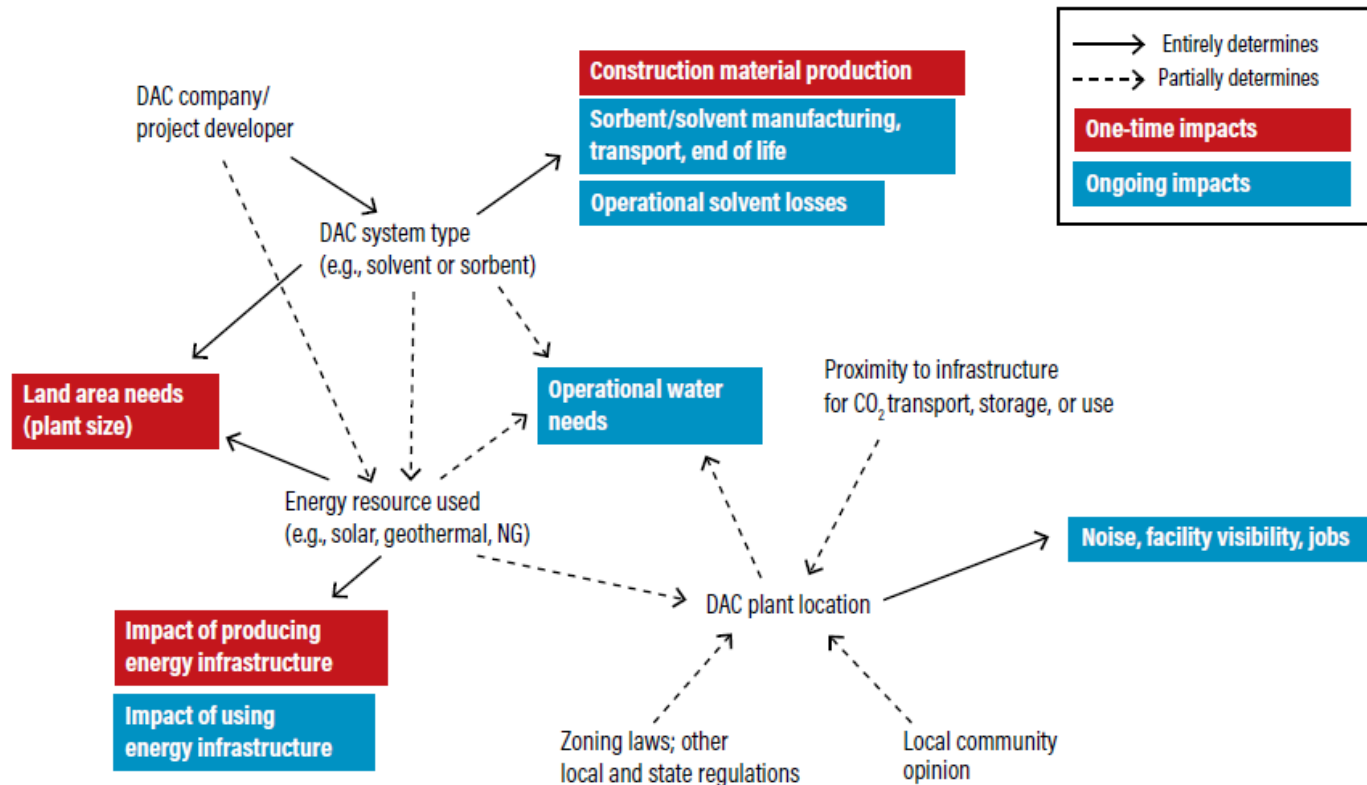
Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding

EXPECTED IMPACTS AT SCALE

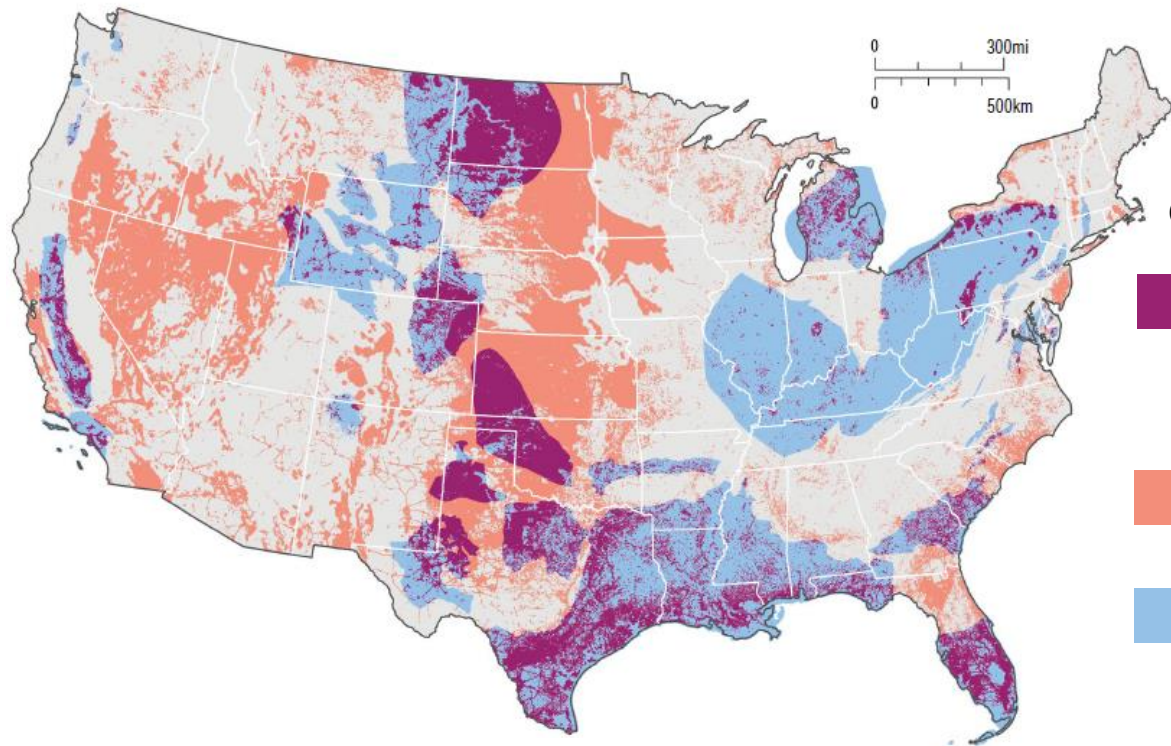
DAC at a half-billion tonne scale would be expected to use:

Resource/ material	Share of	U.S. or global total
Energy	4.4%	U.S. primary energy supply
	3.8%	U.S. projected 2050 energy supply (EIA reference case)
Construction materials	Up to 3%	U.S. annual cement production (for concrete)
	Up to 4%	U.S. annual steel production
	Up to 8%	U.S. annual PVC production
Chemicals	19%	Global annual solvent (KOH) production
	37%	Global annual production of chemicals used in sorbents




IMPACTS ARE INTERCONNECTED



DAC IMPACTS & SITING PROCESSES



Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) systems

-  Complete CDR system: potential for deployment of energy (solar, wind, geothermal) and geologic sequestration co-located
-  Incomplete CDR system: potential for deployment of energy only
-  Incomplete CDR system: potential for deployment of geologic sequestration only

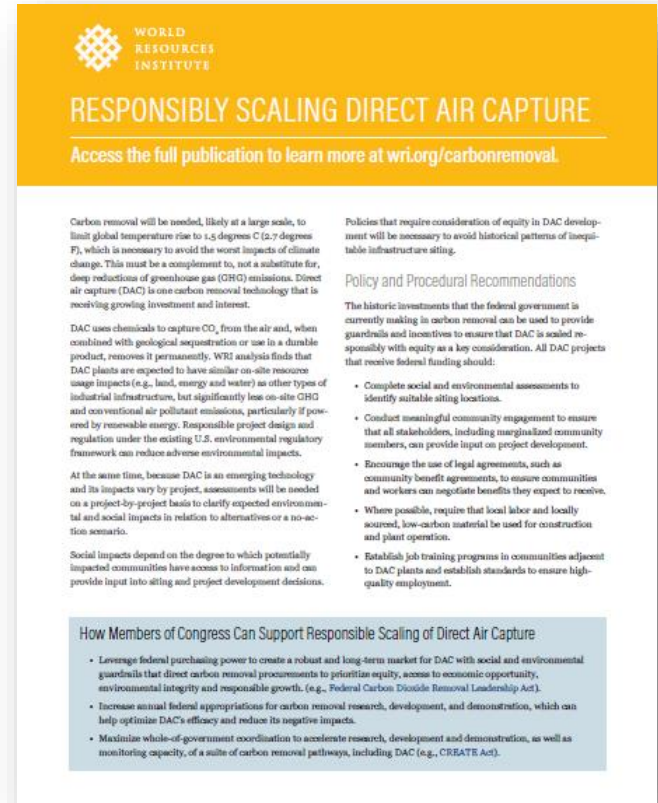
EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTING BENEFITS

- Global benefit: CO₂ removal
- Potential local benefits:
 - High-quality employment opportunities
 - Job training and apprenticeship programs
 - Other local investment tailored to community needs



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Procedural
 - Social impact assessment (SIA)
 - Legal benefit and workforce agreements
- Policy
 - Meaningful community engagement
 - Local labor, local low-carbon materials
 - Encourage use of SIAs and legal agreements with communities





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THANK YOU!

Links to: [Paper](#), [article](#), [2-pager](#)

Questions or comments: katie.lebling@wri.org

Scaling Up-Direct Air Capture (DAC): Learnings From Traditional Capture Projects

Kevin C. OBrien, PhD

Director, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

Director, Illinois State Water Survey

Briefing Panel: Environmental and Energy Study Institute

May 25, 2022

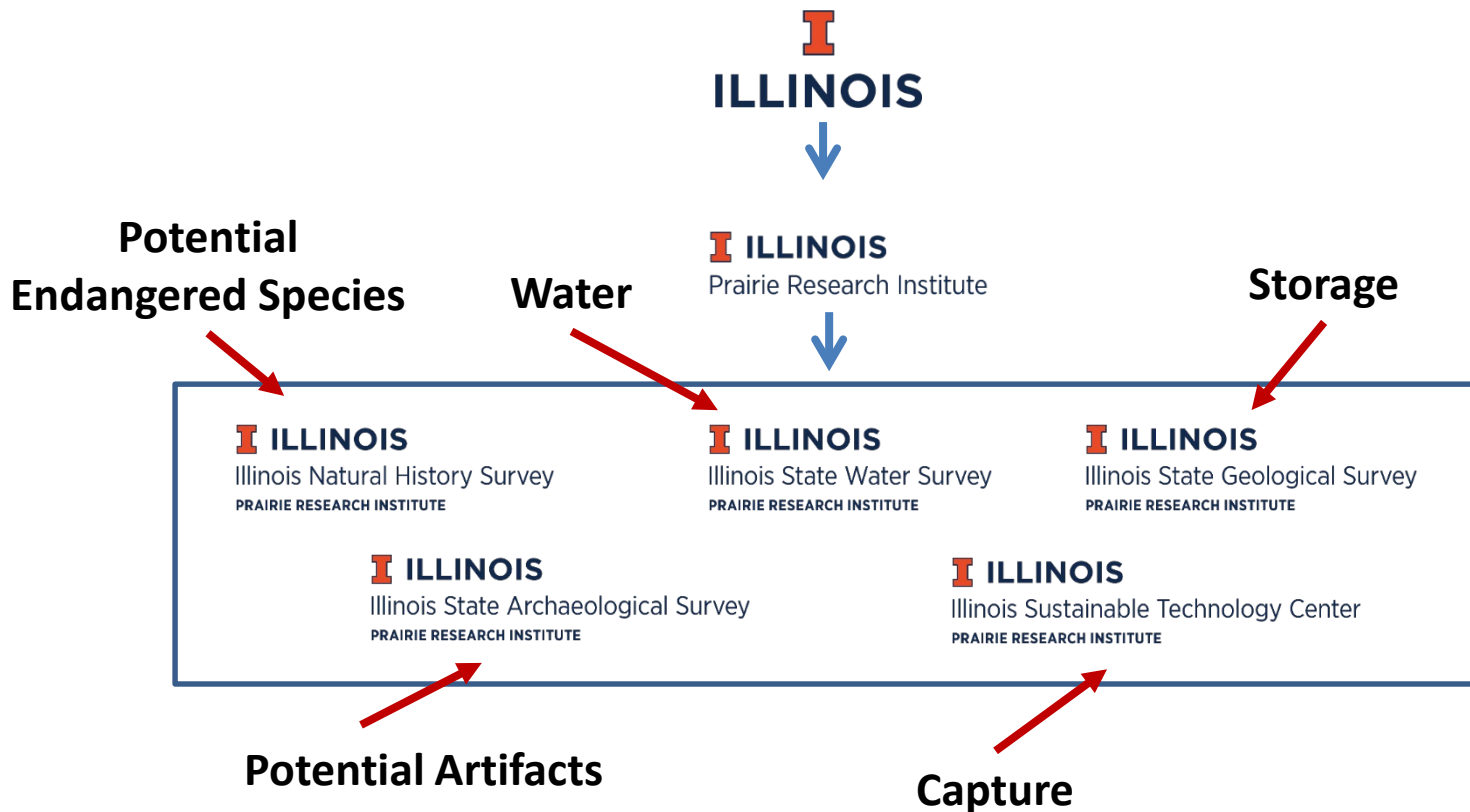
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Skilled in transitioning from lab scale to build/operate scale

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS / PRI: LEADER IN CAPTURE R&D

Prairie Research Institute (PRI): Addressing Societal Issues



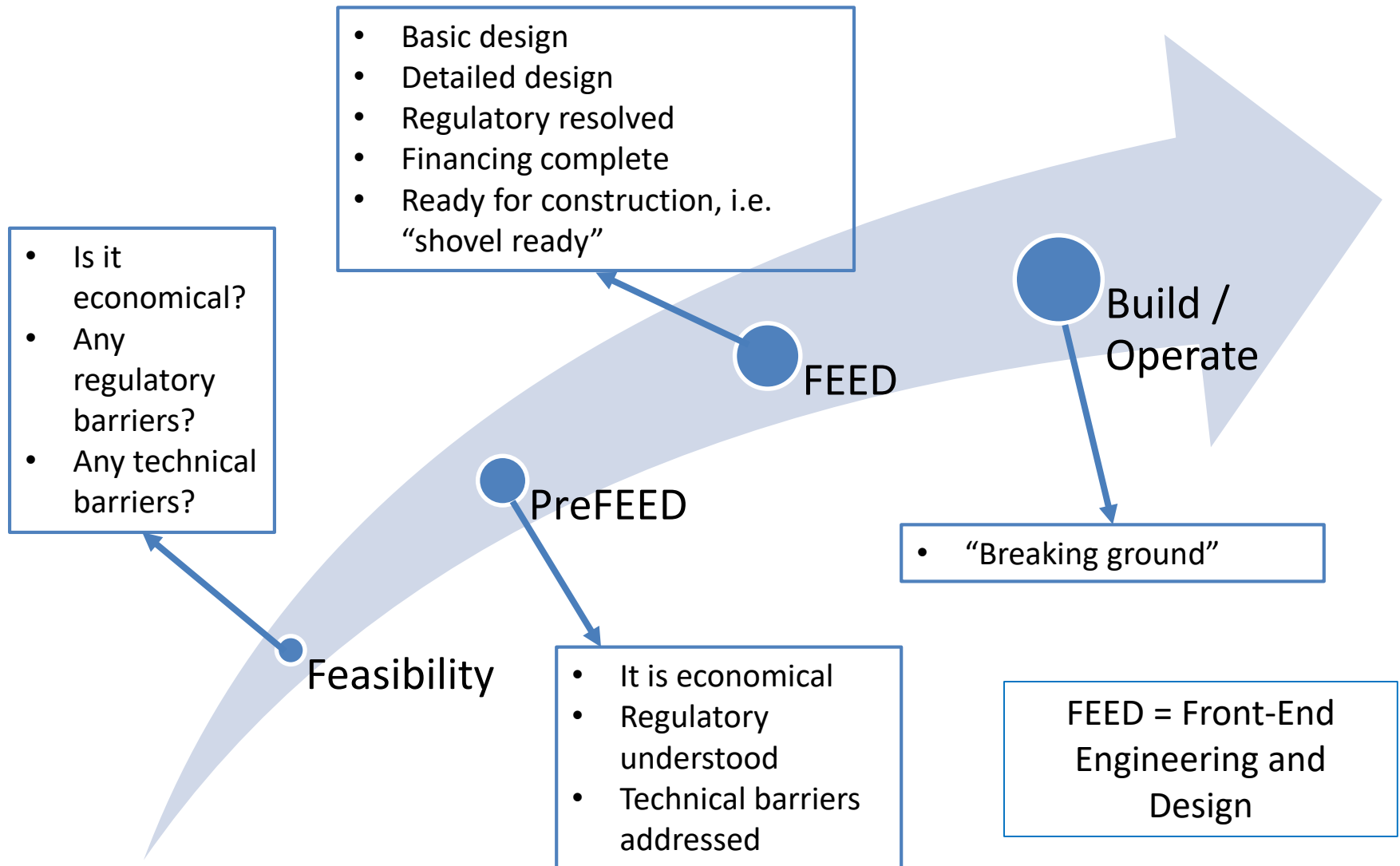
UIUC / PRI Network

Multi-organizational team is required

- Relationships and access to host sites in the region / US
- Network of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) firms, OEMs, etc.
- Infrastructure in place (financial, project management, etc.) to meet US Department of Energy (DOE) requirements
- Typically functions as “prime” for projects
- “Agnostic” approach to technology, i.e. willing to work with any technology as long as it works

Pathway to Scaling-Up Capture Technologies

Traditional Capture Provides Good Lessons Learned for DAC scale-up



UIUC Project Portfolio

Color code: **Complete** / In Process

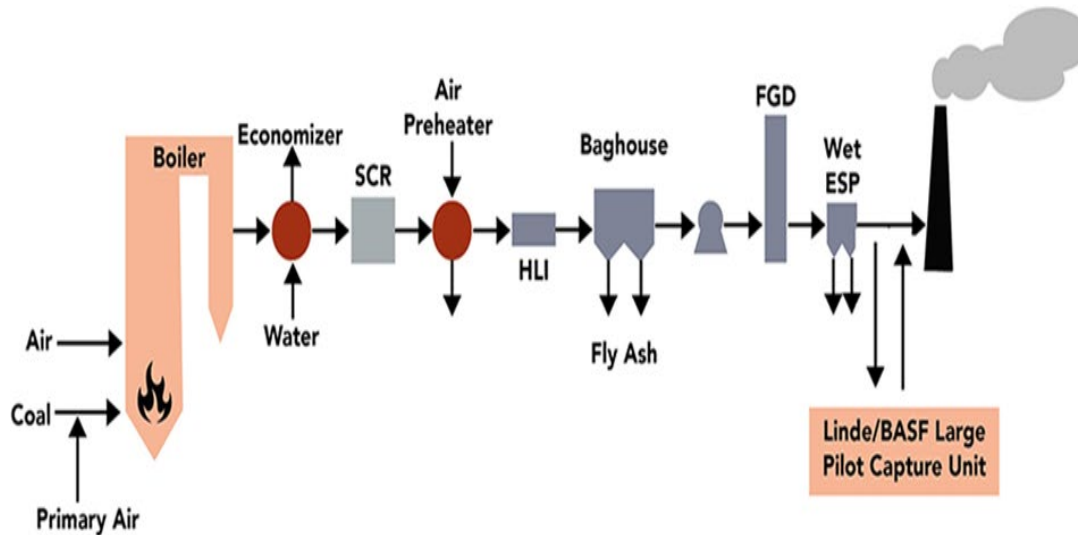
Lab	Small Pilot	Large Pilot / Full Scale
Next generation DAC materials	0.5 MW Capture w/Mixed Salts	816 MW capture plant (largest capture FEED in the world)
	40 kW – Biphasic Capture System	10 MW – Build / Operate (largest capture pilot in the world)
	0.5 MW aerosol reduction technologies	350 MW –Capture, energy storage, algae, hybrid coal/NG
	FGD blown-down water recycle	1 MW- Build/operate Utilize CO2 from flue gas for algae growth
		Capture from Cement Plant (largest single kiln in North America)
		Direct Air Capture (DAC) + renewables 100,000 tCO2/yr, 3 sites
		Direct Air Capture (DAC) + geothermal 5,000 tCO2/yr.
		Direct Air Capture (DAC) + nuclear 5,000 tCO2/yr.
		DAC + excess heat from steel plant+ utilization of CO2 for cement applications (DACU) 5,000 tCO2/yr.
		400 MWh energy storage using NG

Scale-up studies and considerations

DIRECT AIR CAPTURE (DAC)

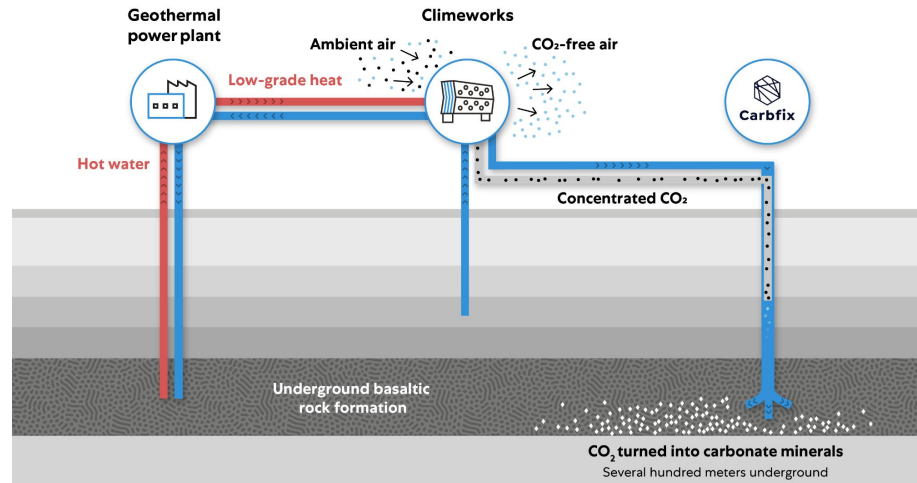
Some Engineering Scale-Up Considerations

Post combustion vs DAC



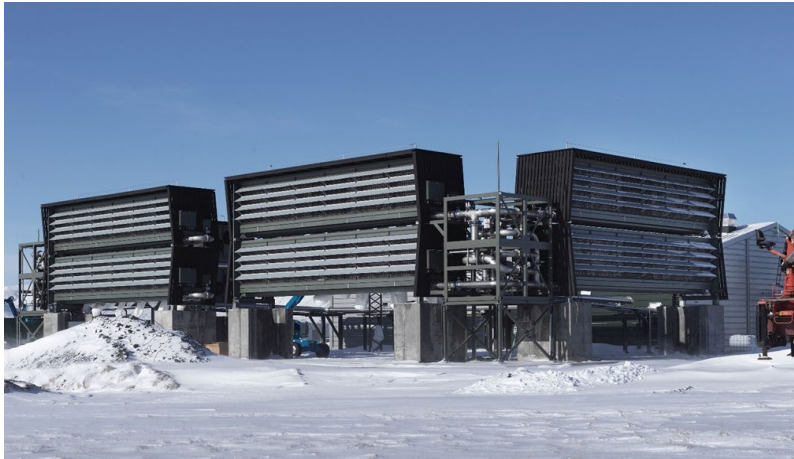
- Capture unit located before stack
- Heat / power from plant drives capture unit
- Capture CO₂ from flue gas
- CO₂ levels ~11% in flue gas
- Residuals could be present: NO_x, SO_x, etc.
- Industrial > 100,000; power generation >1,000,000 tCO₂/yr. captured

- Capture unit location flexible
- Heat / power can be from multiple sources
- Capture CO₂ from atmosphere
- CO₂ levels in ppm range
- Residuals seen in post combustion not present



Direct Air Capture-Based Carbon Dioxide Removal with Low-Carbon Energy and Sinks

US Department of Energy (DOE) Funded Project



Louisiana

California

Wyoming



Goals:

- Initial engineering design for system that captures 100,000 tCO₂/yr..
- Evaluate effect of various climates within the US on engineering design for three sites
- Estimate cost and timeline for construction of facility
- Technoeconomics, Life Cycle Analysis, and Business Case at all three host sites

Total Project Funding: \$3.1 MM
Project Duration: 18 months



Effect of Power Source and Climate on DAC Design

Evaluates impact of various factors on scale-up

Site Location	Volume CO ₂ Captured (tCO ₂ /yr.)	Power Source	Existing vs New Power Source	Operator	Climate	Storage Site	Transport to Storage Site
Louisiana	100,000	Solar (SunPower)	New	Gulf Coast Sequestration	Hot & Humid	Deep Subsurface Rock	Co-located with DAC
California	100,000	Geothermal	Existing	Ormat	Hot & Dry	Saline Aquifer	Rail / Pipeline
Wyoming	100,000	Waste Heat (Gas plant) & Wind	Existing	North Shore Exploration & Production, LLC	Warm & Dry / Cold & Dry	Depleted Oil & Gas Reservoir	Co-located with DAC

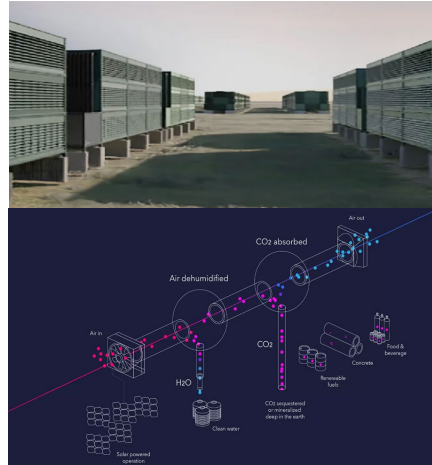
Direct Air Capture + Utilization = DACU

Waste heat from Steel plant and utilize captured CO₂ for cement



US Steel Gary Works Facility Host Site
Aerial View

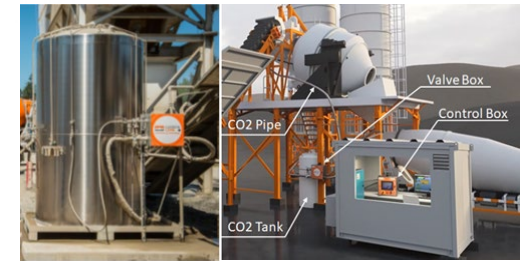
Waste Heat



Captured CO₂



CarbonCure's CO₂ Dosing Tank and Utilization System



CO₂ incorporated into cement



OZINGA

5,000 tCO₂/yr.

Total Project Funding: \$ 3.5 MM

Project duration: 18 months

Strategies / Tools to Assist in DAC Scale-up

Many under development by NETL / DOE

- Use FEED study results to drive R&D funding
 - Uncover the technology “gaps” that inhibit scale-up
- Build pilot scale systems to accelerate learnings
 - Building systems has demonstrated for many energy technologies the ability to transition on the “learning curves^{1,2}”
- Technoeconomic Analysis (TEA) standards for DAC
 - Patterned after those established for Post Combustion Capture³
- Standardized scale-up pathway
 - Equivalent for post combustion: bench-scale / lab-scale / small pilot / large pilot / demonstration

¹ Edward S. Rubin; Margaret R. Taylor; Sonia Yeh; David A. Hounshell, Learning curves for environmental technology and their importance for climate policy analysis, Energy 29 (2004) 1551-1559

² T. Wiesenthal, P. Dowling, J. Morbee, C. Thiel, B. Schade, P. Russ, S. Simoes, S. Peteves, Technology Learning Curves for Energy Policy Support, ISBN 978-92-79-25676-9, 2012

K. Schoots, M. Londo

³ COST AND PERFORMANCE BASELINE FOR FOSSIL ENERGY PLANTS VOLUME 1: BITUMINOUS COAL AND NATURAL GAS TO ELECTRICITY (Sept. 2019, NETL-PUB-22638)

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Organization	Name
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Dirk Nuber, Daniel Sutter, Karina Veloso	Climeworks
Vinod Patel, Jason Dietsch, Chinmoy Baroi	Prairie Research Institute / University of Illinois
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Colin Williams	Gulf Coast Sequestration
Brian Meichtry	SunPower
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