

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE IS A FALSE SOLUTION FOR THE CLIMATE AND OUR COMMUNITIES

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE, OR CCS, is a dangerous delay tactic championed by the fossil fuel industry and other polluters to continue business-as-usual while taking resources away from the needed transition to clean, cheaper renewable energy.

CCS is touted as a process to divert some of the carbon dioxide released from smokestacks. This CO₂ is compressed, pushed under high pressure through pipelines, and ironically then used to pump more oil out of the ground — which when burned produces more CO₂. Other problematic uses include making synthetic CO₂-emitting fuels and polluting plastics and storing CO₂ underground, typically in oil and gas fields that have a long history of leaks and blowouts.

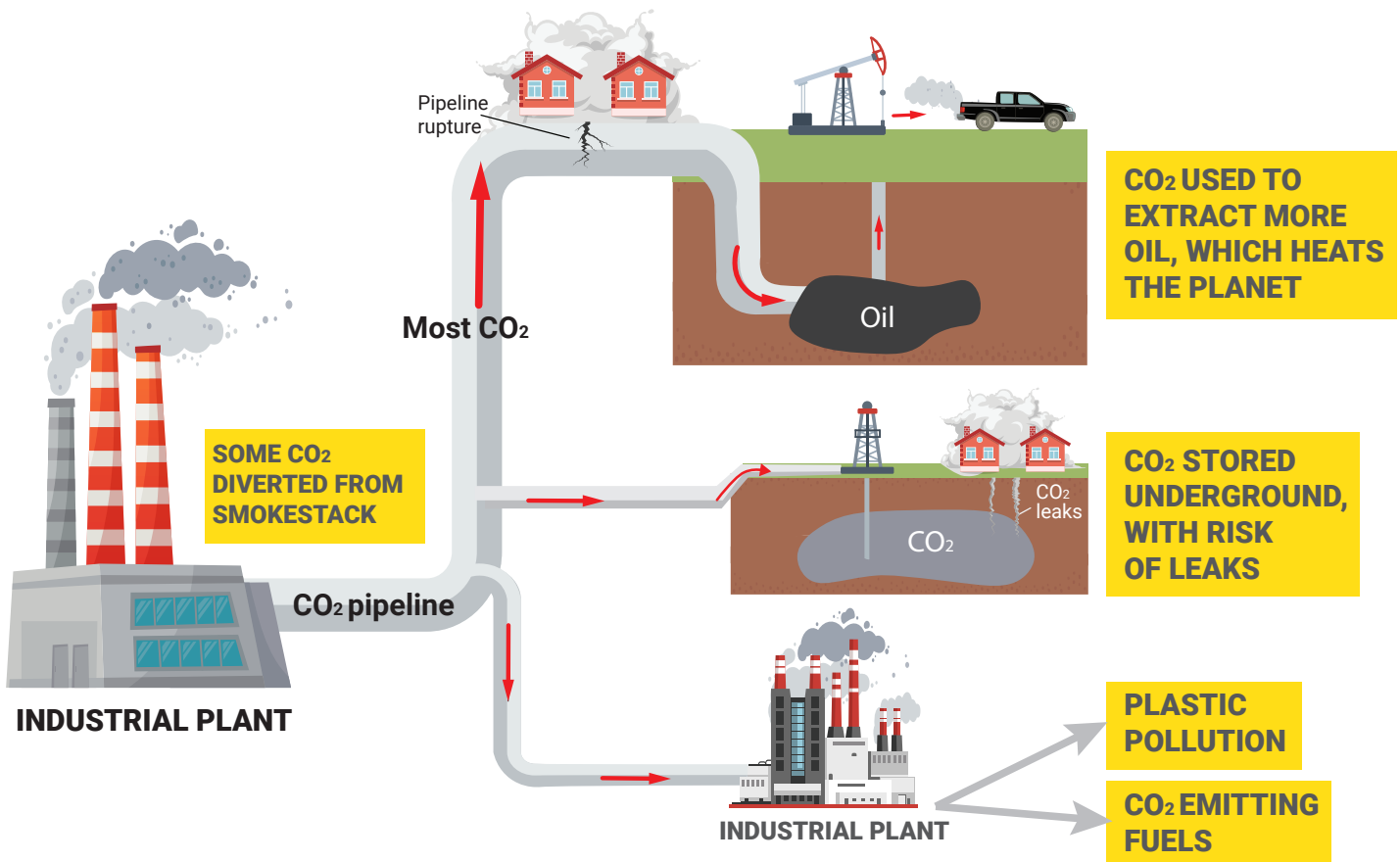
BIOENERGY WITH CCS (BECCS) IS ALSO A FALSE SOLUTION

Bioenergy facilities incinerate trees and crop biomass — which provide natural carbon storage — to make electricity or fuels, releasing CO₂ and toxic air pollutants. BECCS projects propose to capture some of this CO₂ with CCS. BECCS projects have not shown that they are carbon negative or carbon neutral, as industry proponents claim.

CCS has consistently proven to be exceptionally unsafe, ineffective, economically unsound, and unnecessary, despite decades of development and billions of dollars of investment.

Bioenergy with CCS, or BECCS, comes with the safety, health, and climate dangers of CCS. And, given the heavy land use, resource requirements, and logging needed to feed BECCS facilities, it adds unacceptable harms to biodiversity and ecosystems, the climate, food and water security, and human rights.

WHERE DIVERTED CARBON ENDS UP



CCS IS A DIRTY ENERGY INDUSTRY DELAY TACTIC. The science is clear that we must rapidly phase out fossil fuel production and use — and stop using all carbon-emitting fuels like biofuels — to avoid the worst damages of the climate crisis. It should come as no surprise that the fossil fuel and bioenergy industries are pushing delay tactics to keep their dirty business afloat.

UNSAFE: CCS THREATENS THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND ADDS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE. Black, Indigenous and communities of color already overburdened by fossil fuel and bioenergy pollution are again being targeted for CCS infrastructure. CCS poses significant new health, safety, and environmental risks from toxic air pollution, pipeline ruptures, and leaks from underground CO₂ storage that can sicken and even kill people.

INEFFECTIVE: CCS IS NOT A CLIMATE SOLUTION. In addition to rapidly phasing out fossil fuels, we must remove some existing CO₂ from the atmosphere to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is called “carbon dioxide removal” or CDR. CCS does not remove existing CO₂ from the atmosphere. In practice, it at best diverts a fraction of additional CO₂ pollution produced from burning fossil fuels and other dirty fuels. Worse still, in the United States, virtually all the carbon diverted by CCS (95%) is used to extract oil, adding to the climate crisis. Any CO₂ that is stored underground risks inevitable leakage back into the atmosphere, based on the long track record of fossil fuel industry leaks and blowouts.

ECONOMICALLY UNSOUND: CCS IS NOT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE AND WILL COST BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN SUBSIDIES. It's extremely expensive. Energy made using CCS and BECCS cannot compete with solar and wind energy, which are the most affordable electricity sources for most of the country. Likewise transportation fuels made using CCS and BECCS cannot compete with vehicle electrification. The public is already paying for CCS through taxpayer subsidies, and the fossil fuel and bioenergy industries are pushing for billions more dollars of public money to prop it up.

UNNECESSARY: CCS IS NOT NEEDED TO MEET THE INTERNATIONAL PARIS AGREEMENT CLIMATE LIMITS. There is no need to pin our hopes on unsuccessful, unproven, and nonviable CCS and BECCS strategies in order to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C. We can meet the 1.5°C climate limit by investing in what works: (1) phasing out fossil fuels with an equitable transition to clean, renewable energy and (2) enhancing natural CO₂ removal from the atmosphere by protecting forests, wetlands, and other carbon-rich ecosystems.

DON'T FALL FOR DIRTY ENERGY INDUSTRY DISINFORMATION. Fossil fuel and bioenergy companies are waging a deceptive PR campaign to promote CCS and keep the money flowing to their shareholders.

CCS FACES WIDESPREAD OPPOSITION from frontline communities, scientists, and hundreds of environmental justice, climate, and environmental groups, including the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the 1,500-group Climate Action Network.

CCS ENDANGERS PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY:

There are many ways that CCS can go wrong. In just one example, in 2020 a CO₂ pipeline ruptured in rural Mississippi:

- 300+ people were evacuated
- 45 people were hospitalized
- Victims were found unconscious, foaming at the mouth and acting like ‘zombies’



WE NEED REAL SOLUTIONS. CCS and BECCS are not viable or just climate solutions. We must invest in an equitable transition to clean, renewable solar and wind energy, battery storage, and electric vehicles that upholds environmental justice, ensures no worker or community is left behind, and ends fossil fuels and other dirty energy.