

DANGEROUS DISTRACTIONS - Diverting attention from real solutions by promoting technologies, offsets and other distractions that delay real action and pose risk and harm to people and ecosystems.



Carbon Capture and Storage CCS

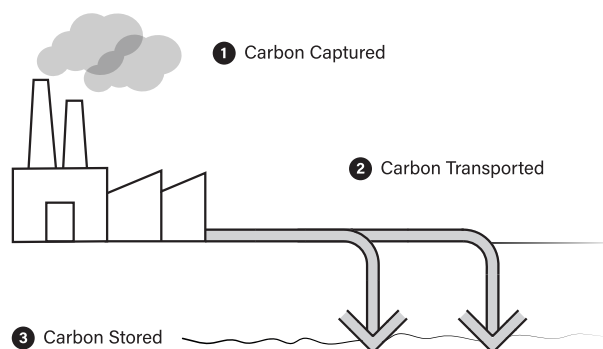
Beyond its use to legitimise continued fossil fuel production, CCS is also deeply problematic in its role as an enabling technology for carbon removal technologies such as Direct Air Capture (DAC) or Bioenergy with CCS (BECCS) and is used to greenwash fossil gas infrastructure, including "blue" hydrogen or ammonia.



Danger Alert: CCS does not address the core drivers of the climate crisis or meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby allowing those underlying drivers to persist while introducing significant new risks.

What is Carbon Capture and Storage CCS?

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) and **carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS)** are processes designed to collect or "capture" carbon dioxide generated by high-emitting activities like coal- or gas-fired power production or plastics manufacturing. Those captured emissions are then transported to sites where they are used for industrial processes or stored underground.



Why is CCS a key controversy at COP 28?

At COP28, the role of CCS in meeting climate goals is likely to be central to the mitigation negotiations. Governments who are not interested in a full phase out of fossil fuels will try to maintain and expand loopholes such as wordings that only cover phase-out of "unabated fossil fuels".

This obscure wording is an attempt by fossil fuel interests to legitimise fossil fuels that are claimed to become 'abated' by CCS. This is also fully aligned with the attempt of many governments of fossil fuel rich countries, including the COP28 presidency and many industrialised countries, at narrowly framing the problem to be fossil fuel emissions not fossil fuels and the answer to be 'carbon management' to avoid a focus on phasing out fossil fuels altogether.

A COP decision that legitimizes the use of "abatement" technologies risks locking the world into a fossil fuels track that leads to overshoot, the crossing of catastrophic tipping points, and unimaginable loss and damage.

CAN's core demands on the Energy Package for COP 28

- ▶ A Just and Equitable Phase out of ALL Fossil Fuels: Fair, Fast, Forever & Funded
- ▶ No new fossil fuels project and no support for dangerous distractions such as CCS
- ▶ A just & equitable pathway to 100% renewables by 2050, starting with at least deployment of 1.5 TW of renewables annually by 2030 and doubling of yearly energy efficiency gains by then.
- ▶ Adoption of a framework to promote a just, equitable and rapid transition to new, people-centred 100% renewable energy systems, that provides reliable and affordable access to clean energy for all
- ▶ Mobilisation of grants-based public funds at the scale of trillions in order to fund a just, rapid & equitable transition.

The Fallacy of CCS

To tackle the urgent climate crisis, we need real strategies, real commitment, real solutions, real funding, and REAL ZERO for an urgent just transition. **NOW.**

DANGEROUS DISTRACTIONS

- 1** The fossil fuel industry wrongly states that CCS is a necessary tool to tackle the climate crisis, overlooking its harms, challenges and limitations.
- 2** False claims suggest that CCS has shown full success already, but that is far from the truth.
- 3** Deceptive portrayal of the technology as an easy-to implement and affordable "techno-fix."
- 4** Misleading claims assert that implementing CCS extensively is safe and technically achievable, ignoring the uncertainties and risks involved in its widespread application.
- 5** Incorrect statements suggest that capturing emissions from fossil fuels can neutralise their negative impacts.
- 6** Deceptive use of claims that CCS is crucial for reducing emissions from heavy industries to normalise the concept overall

DEBUNKED

CCS does not address the core drivers of the climate crisis or meaningfully reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and distracts from real climate solutions. Meanwhile, the fossil fuel industry has succeeded in capturing subsidies, not emissions.

CCS has a proven track record of failure and cannot deliver meaningful mitigation at the scale and pace needed to limit warming to 1.5°C. In fact, CCS exacerbates global warming by boosting oil production and prolonging the fossil fuel era.

CCS at the scale promoted and promised by fossil fuel interests would require infrastructure (e.g. capture equipment at every pollution point/chimney, pipelines, ports, injection wells, safety equipment etc.) that would match that of current fossil fuel infrastructure. It would be extremely challenging, time consuming and costly to construct. Constructing people-centered and environmentally sound 100% renewable energy systems is much cheaper, faster and safer.

Current CCS deployment and capture rates are dwarfed by the scale of global emissions. Despite having been around for decades, CCS facilities currently capture less than 0.1 % of global emissions. There is no evidence that CCS could ever work at the scale promised. Meanwhile, CCS generates additional non-climate risks, impacts, and costs associated with equipment and infrastructure, such as use of toxic substances, explosions or leakage .

CCS does not eliminate the harmful carbon emissions from the underlying source, leads to greater overall greenhouse gas emissions by enabling that source to continue operating rather than being replaced altogether and by requiring considerable extra energy to drive the CCS system itself.. In addition: CCS does nothing to address the human rights, health, biodiversity and other harms and environmental injustices associated with fossil fuel extraction and use.

CCS is increasing the freshwater use of facilities using fossil fuel for combustion by up to 30% more for the same amount of energy used in non-CCS coal or gas plants based on its energy penalty. CCS is doing nothing to decrease smog stack emission of conventional air polluting gases that kill about 4 million people annually.

The claim that **CCS** might be needed to deal with so-called 'hard to abate' emissions mostly serves as a distraction from the need to fully focus on rapid and equitable phasing out of fossil fuels. The 'hard-to-abate' argument conveniently normalizes CCS and makes it sound more benign. Furthermore, what is considered 'hard-to-debate' depends on political and economic assumptions that have implications for global equity. The actions necessary to achieve climate objectives have to be transformative, leverage emerging sustainable alternatives, and not assume or lock in overconsumption by the wealthy.

CAN International's position on CCS

- ▶ CAN prioritizes ambitious climate mitigation to meet targets under the Paris Agreement.
- ▶ CAN is concerned that CCS risks distracting from the need to take concerted action across multiple sectors in the near-term to dramatically reduce emissions.
- ▶ CAN does not consider currently envisioned CCS applications as proven sustainable climate solutions. It is therefore imperative that actions to reduce emissions are maximised, without any assumptions that CCS will play any role..
- ▶ All government subsidies, loans, grants, tax credit, incentives, and financial support for fossil fuels and technologies that use or otherwise support the continued use of fossil fuels, including CCS, should be phased out as soon as possible.

Commit To Real Actions And Real Solutions

As COP28 convenes, it is essential for everyone to critically evaluate and challenge the fossil fuel interests' narrative around CCS. While it is presented as a key solution, its limitations and detraction from effective climate action render it a key dangerous distraction. Governments must focus on promoting tangible, immediate solutions and drastically ramp up global efforts to align with the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C through just and equitable transitions away from fossil fuels. Any outcome that casts doubt on the need to phase out all fossil fuels fast, fair and forever must be denounced. This means rejecting the use of an "unabated" qualifier or an outcome that centers on "fossil fuel emissions".

[More on CCS and CAN's position](#)

