

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Fossil Energy

# Negative Emissions Overview

Maryland Energy Institute  
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## IPCC 1.5

What are negative emissions and why are they important?

How is carbon captured (technology overview)?

What can you do with captured carbon? Explain net-zero (fuels, chemicals) vs. negative (sequestration, permanent materials).

Recent history of federal CCUS/CDR programs.

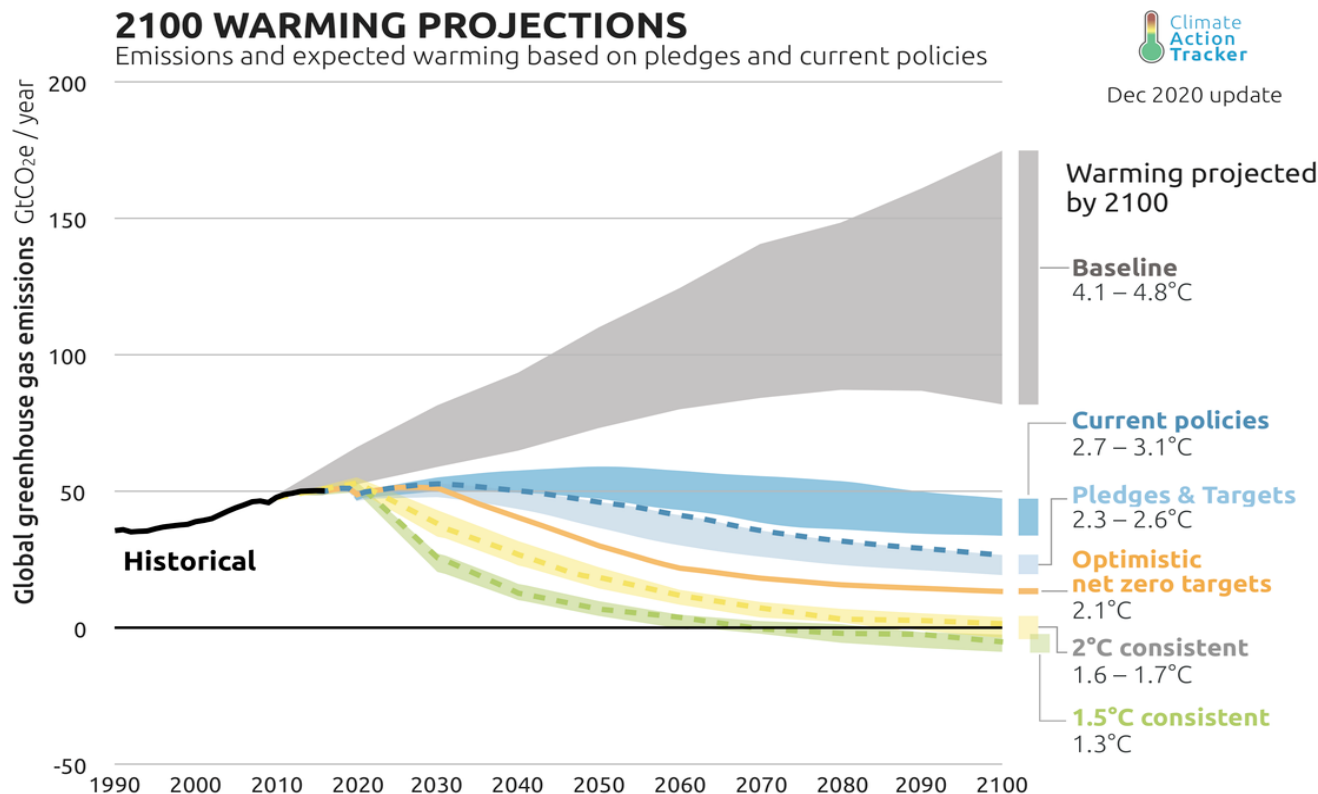
Anticipated federal R&D spending and focus areas in CCUS/CDR

Comments on the State of the Art. Where are the gaps / R&D opportunities?

Q&A



# STATUS QUO NOT SUFFICIENT



The current challenges with direct air capture solutions amongst established and emerging companies:

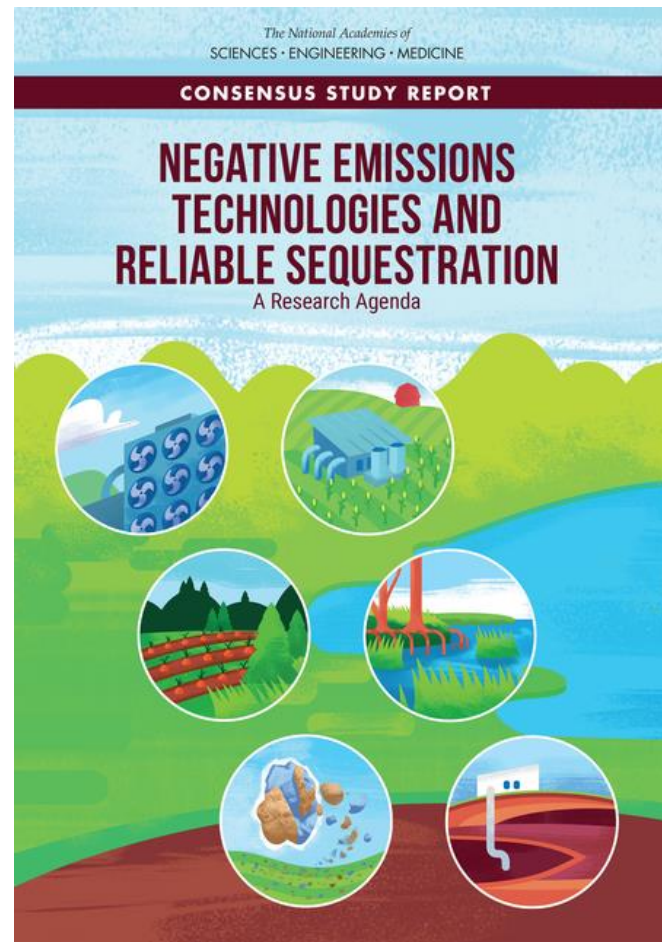
1. **Expensive**
2. **Require new manufacturing infrastructure for capture agents**
3. **Face gigaton scalability challenges**



# NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (NAS) REPORT ON NETs

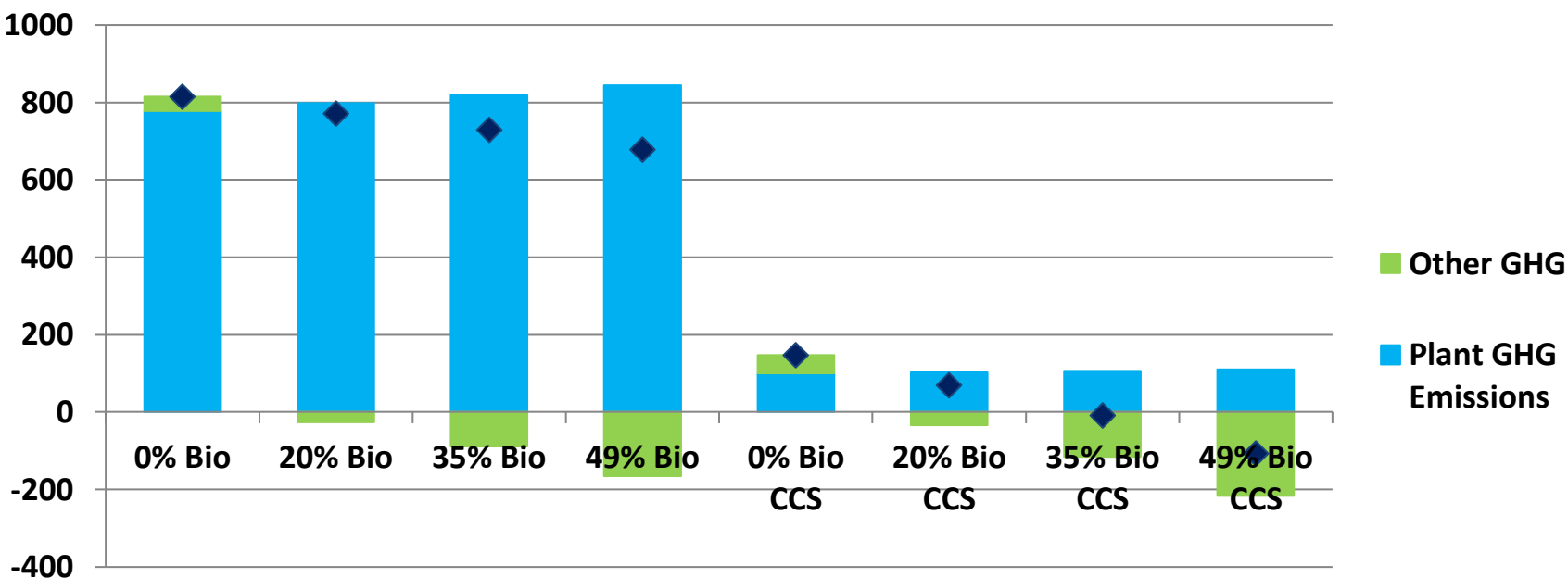
- **2017 - Co-funded by DOE-FE, EPA, NOAA, USGS, and private funders.**
- **2018 NASEM report released**
- **Defined six areas of NETs:**
  - Coastal Blue Carbon
  - Terrestrial Carbon Removal & Sequestration
  - Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Sequestration (BECCS)
  - Direct Air Capture (DAC)
  - Carbon Mineralization of CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Sequestration of Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> in Deep Sedimentary Geological Formations

## FE-related efforts



# LIFE CYCLE GHG EMISSIONS CONTRIBUTION

Global Warming Potential [100-yr] (kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/MWh)



- Carbon-neutral or –negative coal-fired electricity can be achieved by adding both biomass and CCS to PC systems
  - Neutrality occurs near 35% Biomass with 90% CCS
- Adding biomass decreases GHG emissions but increases other environmental impacts to air and water



# CARBON MINERALIZATION OF CO<sub>2</sub>/ENHANCED WEATHERING

- **NAS defines as both surface and subsurface**
- **Surface/Ex situ: reactive minerals (e.g., exposed rocks, mine tailings and alkaline industrial wastes)**
  - DOE-FE and NETL early research on utilization of magnesium silicate and calcium silicate minerals in surface processes
- **Subsurface (included within Carbon Storage Program)**
  - Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships – Carbon Storage Atlas - characterization efforts
  - Projects with PNNL, Yale, University of Washington, Virginia Tech on potential subsurface response/interactions of mafic/ultramafic rocks with CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Big Sky RCSP – 1,000 ton injection project in Wallula, WA
  - CarbFIX project in Iceland – Columbia University
  - CarbonSAFE Phase 1 Project – Cascadia basin in offshore Washington state and British Columbia – Columbia University





# Carbon Dioxide Separations

## Leveraging R&D for multiple applications

Coal Power Plant

11-14% CO<sub>2</sub>



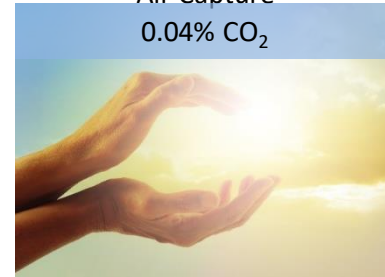
Gas Power Plant

4-6% CO<sub>2</sub>



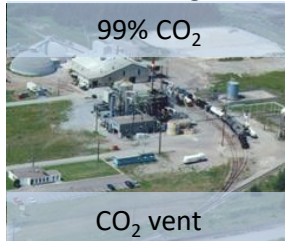
Air Capture

0.04% CO<sub>2</sub>



NG Processing Plant

99% CO<sub>2</sub>



CO<sub>2</sub> vent

Ammonia Plant

99% CO<sub>2</sub>



Stripping vent

Ethanol Plant

100% CO<sub>2</sub>



Distillation gas

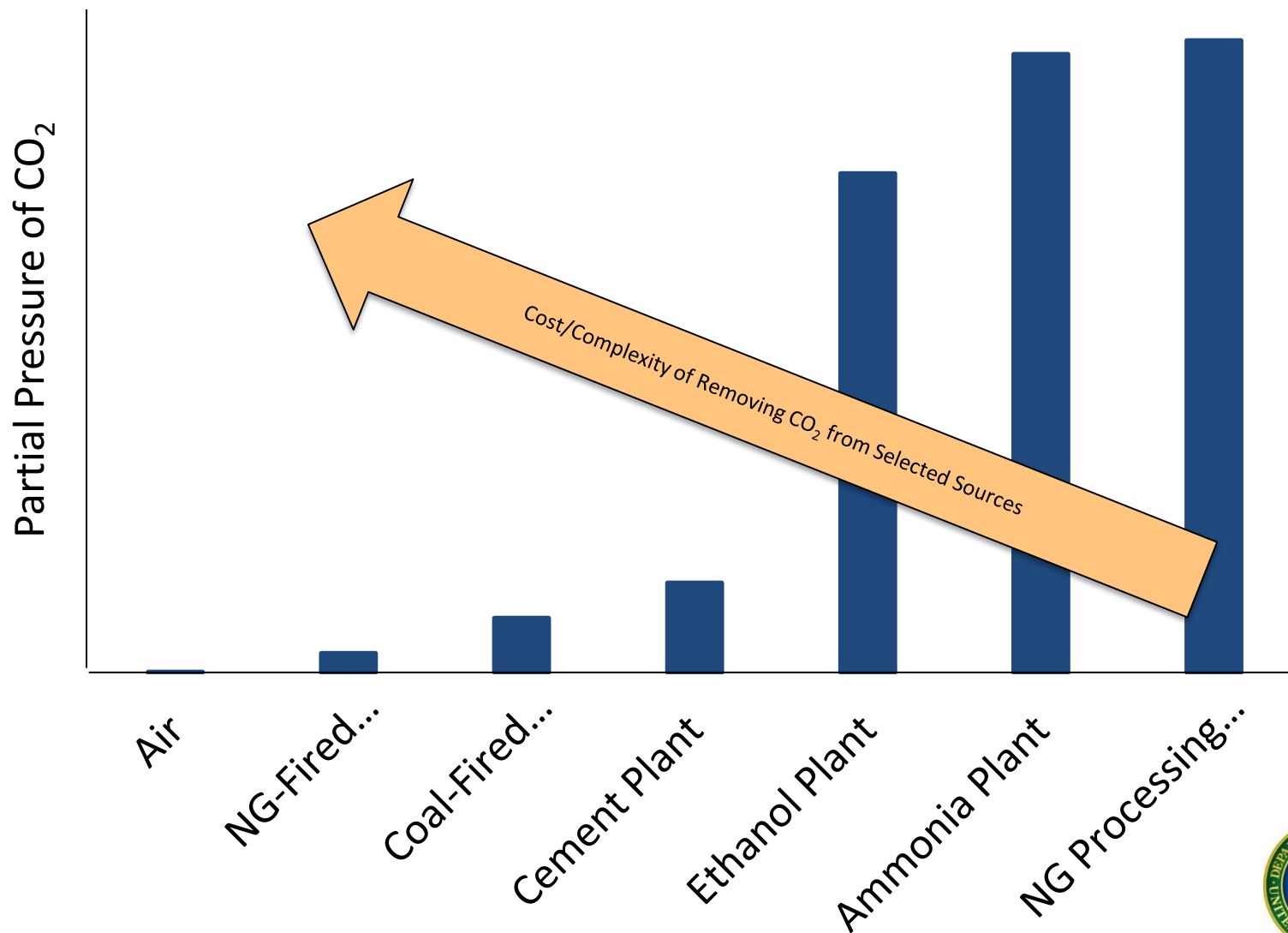
Cement Plant

~22.4% CO<sub>2</sub>



Kiln off-gas

Cost of Capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from Industrial Sources, January 10, 2014, DOE/NETL-2013/1602



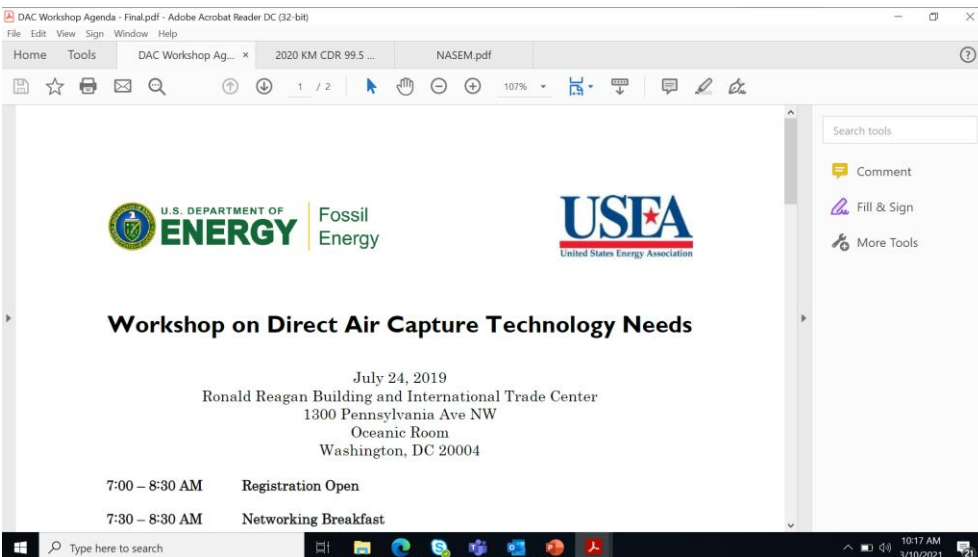


# PIONEERS AND DOE-FE DAC – WORKSHOP



Klaus Lackner – Center for Negative Carbon Emissions - ASU

- July 24, 2019, FE and USEA convened a workshop, *Workshop on Direct Air Capture Technology Needs*.



# Carbon Dioxide Capture

- ***Materials***

- Solvents
- Sorbents
- Membranes



- ***Processes***

- Absorption/Desorption
- Fluidized, moving or fixed bed, TSA/VSA/PSA



# CARBON CAPTURE VS CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL

	Point Source Capture	Carbon Capture Removal
Materials	Solvent, sorbent, membranes	Similar
Costs	\$	\$\$\$
Incentives	45Q	45Q & LCFS
CO <sub>2</sub> end use	EOR, Saline, utilization	EOR, Saline, utilization
Challenges	Capital	Pressure drop
Process	Absorber/Regenerator	Air Contactor
		Waste heat, modular



Courtesy of Carbon Engineering



# ONE POSSIBLE APPROACH FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL GEN DAC AND UTILIZATION – DRAFT

Direct  
Air  
Capture

**2020**

Transformational  
R&D

**2027-2029**

Initiate pilot scale tests  
for transformational  
technologies

**2027-2030**

FEED studies for  
Integrated  
transformational  
Gen DAC and  
Utilization Projects

**2035**

Advanced technologies  
available for broad  
commercial-scale  
deployment

Carbon  
Utilization

**2018**

2<sup>nd</sup> gen R&D

**2022-2026**

2<sup>nd</sup> Gen pilots  
across multiple  
utilization  
pathways

**2029-2032**

Integrated DAC-  
Utilization 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Gen Demos

Carbon  
Storage

net-zero (fuels, chemicals) vs. negative (sequestration, permanent materials).

# ENERGY LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS (LCA)

- Cradle-to-Grave Environmental Footprint of Energy Systems



## What is Life Cycle Assessment/Analysis (LCA)?

LCA is a technique that helps people make better decisions to improve and protect the environment by accounting for the potential impacts from raw material acquisition through production, use, end-of-life treatment, recycling and final disposal (i.e. cradle-to-grave).





# THE NETL CO2U LCA GUIDANCE TOOLKIT



[netl.doe.gov/LCA/CO2U](https://netl.doe.gov/LCA/CO2U)

## GUIDANCE DOCUMENT



Analysis requirements and instructions for using the supporting data and tools

**Starting point for understanding LCA requirements**

## OPENLCA MODEL TRAINING



Provided to funding recipients to aid in modeling an LCA in openLCA

**Training videos and live webinars will be available as developed at**  
[www.netl.doe.gov/LCA/CO2U](https://www.netl.doe.gov/LCA/CO2U)

## SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT SUPPORT



Available to funding recipients for all phases of the LCA from conception to documentation

**Contact us with questions at**  
[LCA@netl.doe.gov](mailto:LCA@netl.doe.gov)  
(for NETL Project Recipients)

## Upcoming Knowledge Sessions (Tentative Schedule)

Webinar 1: **October 2021**

Webinar 2: **November 2021**

Webinar 3: **January 2022**





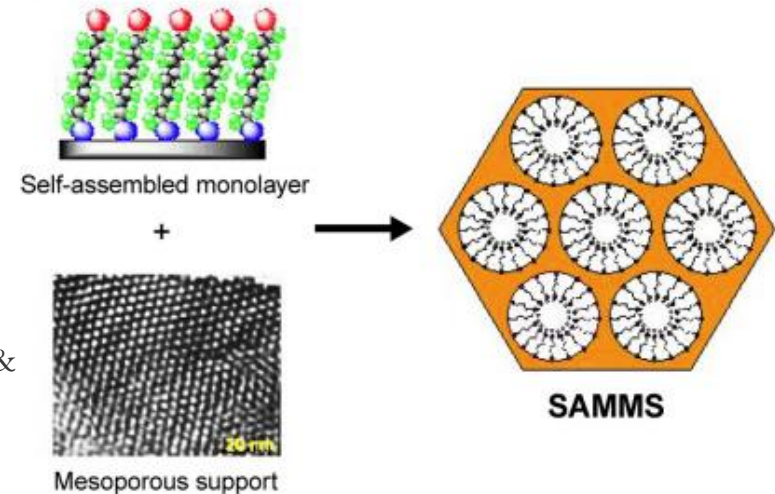
Evaluate a Hybrid Direct Air Capture system (HDAC) that integrates PNNL's advanced CO<sub>2</sub> removal technology based on a novel solid sorbent known as self-assembled monolayers on mesoporous supports (SAMMS) & a high-performance desiccant to simultaneously capture CO<sub>2</sub> & water from the air

## Objectives

- Conduct a detailed design for a 3000 CFM Hybrid DAC (HDAC) unit
- Fabricate desiccant beds & incorporate sorbent
- Conduct parametric & long-duration testing of complete HDAC unit on San Diego State University - Brawley Campus
- Complete TEA and LCA to demonstrate cost impacts of the technology & amount of carbon negativity provided

## Relevance and Outcomes/Impact

- Reduced OPEX (zero water consumption & use of low-grade heat)
- Combining potable water generation & CO<sub>2</sub> capture in a single device with unique energy conserving features of proposed design enables an improved
- Ability to operate in regions with low- or zero water availability & below freezing temperatures



SAMMS is hybrid of self-assembly techniques and mesoporous materials

IWVC

# AOI2 - GLOBAL THERMOSTAT OPERATIONS, LLC

**Develop a continuous motion DAC system that employs commercially-available monolith contactors & solid amine adsorbent with temperature swing desorption**

## Objectives

- Develop & validate mechanical components of DAC system
- Develop a phenomenological & systems level model of process to refine steps in cycle & support process development
- Fabricate process components & deliver to the Global Thermostat Technology Center for integration with mechanical system for testing
- Operate continuously for 1 month to collect on-stream data

## Relevance and Outcomes/Impact

- Use of continuous process allows plant components to operate at steady state & reduces complexity required for starting & stopping system, leading to shorter cycle times, greater plant reliability, lower instantaneous utility demands, & lower CAPEX
- Process employs shallow honeycomb monolith contactors (~15 cm deep) that permit low pressure drops (100's of Pa) at gas approach velocities of 3-5 m/s while still maintaining a high geometric surface area per unit volume



# AOI2 - ELECTRICORE + SVANTE+ CLIMEWORKS

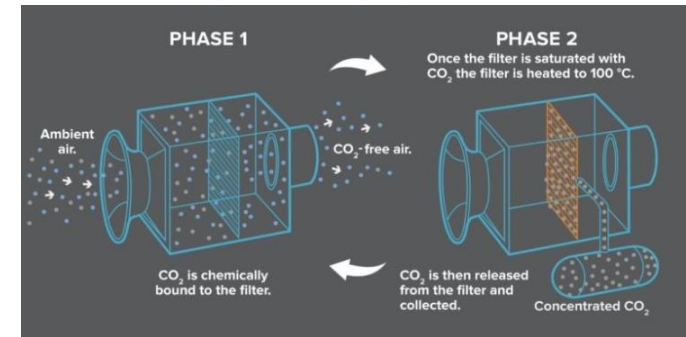
Design & construct an integrated DAC system that combines Climeworks' adsorption & temperature-vacuum swing desorption process with Svante's transformational structured adsorbent laminate material; test 30 kg/day pilot unit at a renewable energy facility in California

## Objectives

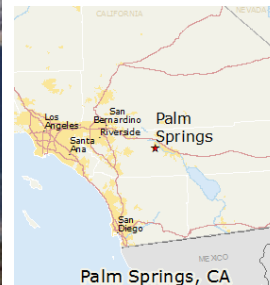
- Complete a process flow design for the integrated DAC system based on a solid adsorbent with regeneration using vacuum & temperature swing desorption
- Optimize sorbent structure & sorbent manufacturing method
- Build, install & operate the system at Wintec Energy wind farm located in Palm Springs, CA

## Relevance and Outcomes/Impact

- Cost reduction will be enabled by using advanced adsorbents in conjunction with optimization in process design (reducing pressure drop & improving heat recovery)
- Program will validate current state of the art DAC systems and sorbent materials & provide DOE & industry a benchmark

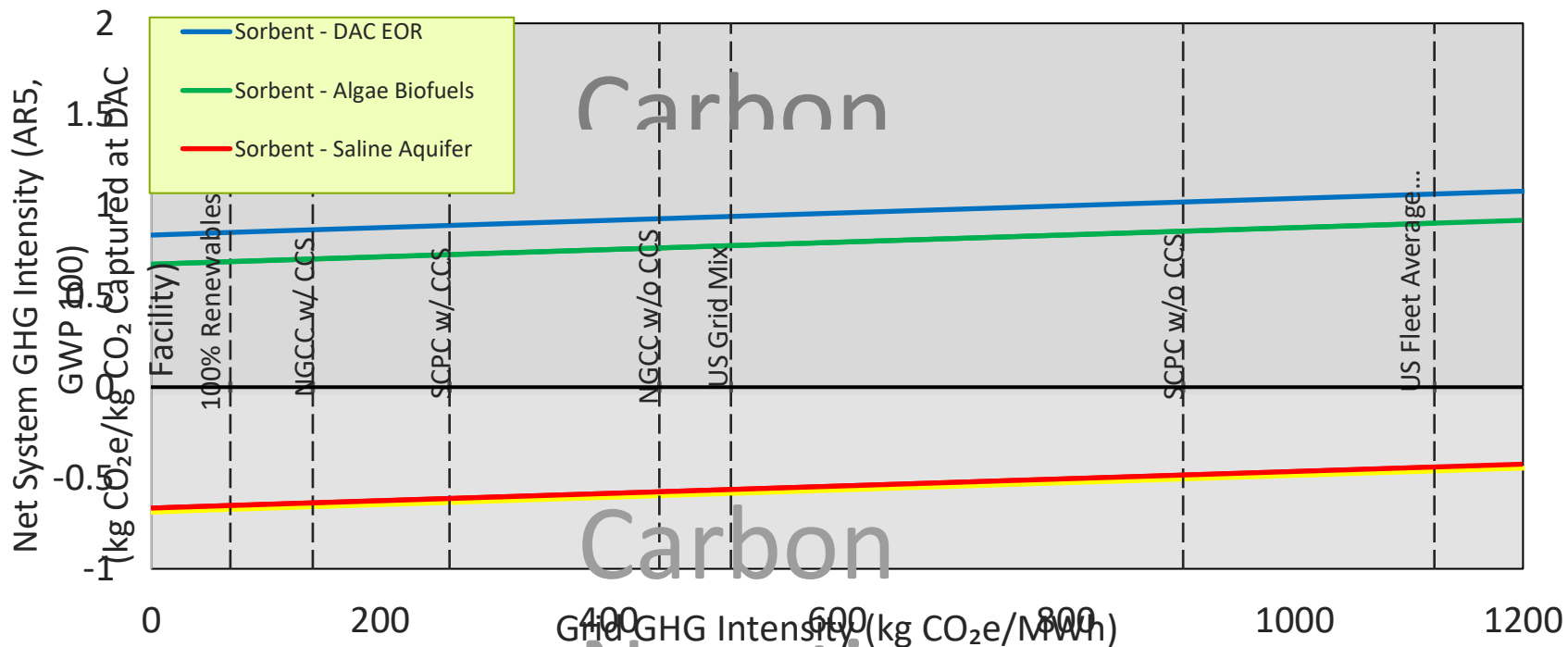


Climeworks' direct air capture technology



# SORBENT-BASED DAC – NET GHG EMISSIONS

## Cradle-to-Grave Impacts for Saline Aquifer Storage, EOR, & Algae Biofuel Production



Y-axis values below zero indicate life cycle carbon negative emissions. Results that are greater than zero indicate life cycle carbon positive emissions, as these results indicate that they emit more CO<sub>2</sub> than is removed from the atmosphere.

These values represent uncertain point estimates of nascent technology that may significantly change with development



# FY21 DOE DAC/NETS APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

**EERE:** \$ 1 0,000,000 to support RD&D projects to advance the development and commercialization of DAC technologies. The program is directed to continue collaboration with the Office of Science and the Office of Fossil Energy in this area.

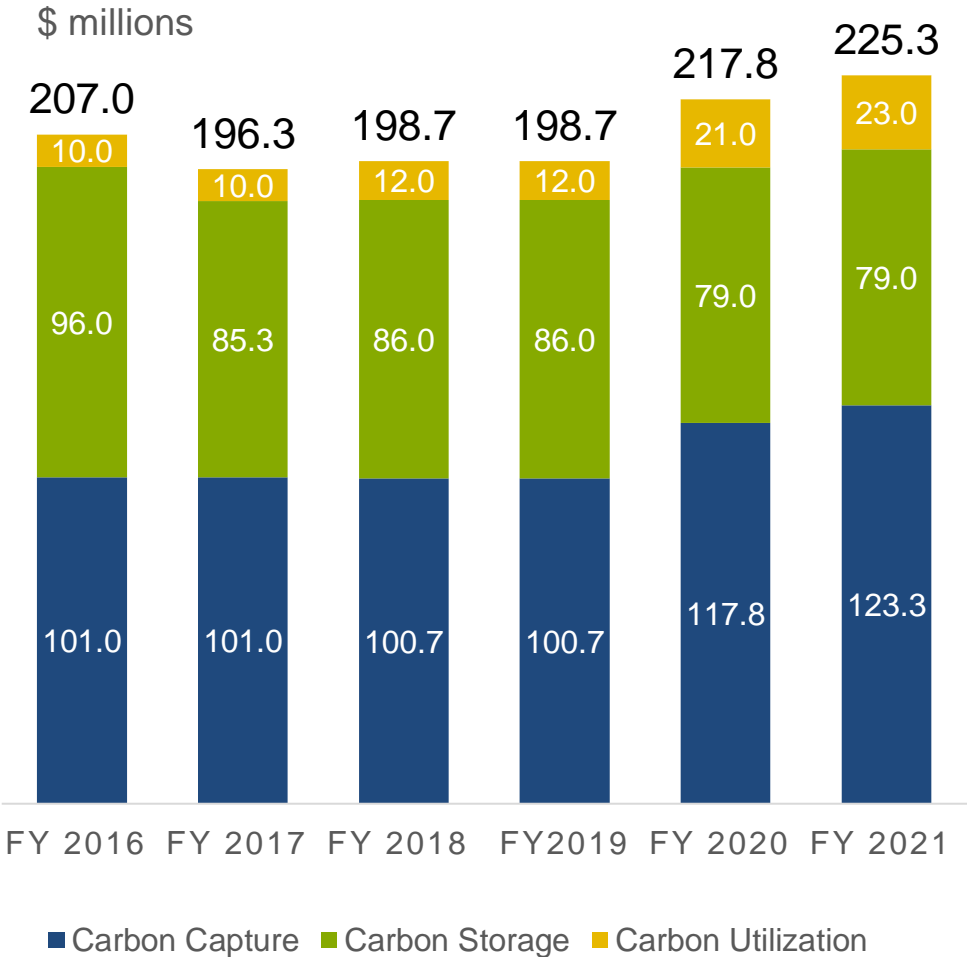
**Science:** Negative Emissions Technology.-The agreement provides not less than \$22,500,000 in BES and Biological and BER for R&D of NETs, including not less than \$7,500,000 for DAC. The Office of Science is directed to continue to collaborate with the Office of Fossil Energy and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to support research, development, and demonstration projects to advance the development and commercialization of carbon removal technologies on a significant scale.

**FE:** Development of negative emissions technologies, including not less than \$40,000,000, with not less than \$15,000,000 for DAC

Department of Defense



# ANNUAL CCUS APPROPRIATIONS 2016-2021

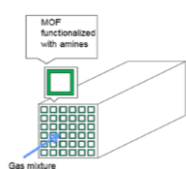




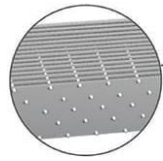
# AOI 1 – BENCH-SCALE TESTING OF MATERIAL OR SYSTEMS (TRL 3)

## Structured Material Systems

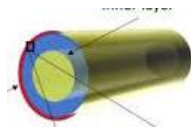
Simulated Exhaust / Batch Operation



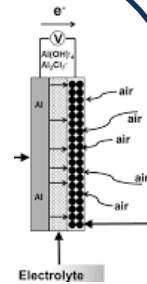
Monoliths



Laminate Structures



Membrane Bundles



Electrode

### Input

#### DAC Composition

- CO<sub>2</sub> Working Capacity
- CO<sub>2</sub> Uptake kinetics
- CO<sub>2</sub> desorption Kinetics
- Sensible Heat
- Surface area

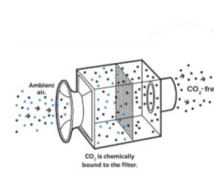


### Success Criteria

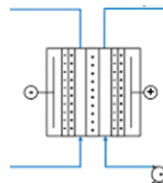
- Lower Pressure Drop
- Increase Space Velocity
- Increase CO<sub>2</sub> capture efficiency
- Lower Heat Duty
- Lower Capacity Fade
- Increase Volumetric Productivity
- Preliminary & final TEA
- TRL 3

## Component Designs

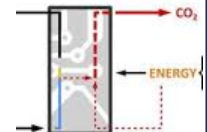
Simulated Exhaust / Batch Operation



Air Contactors Design  
(Sorbents / Solvents systems)



E-chem cells Design



Desorbers Design

### Success Criteria

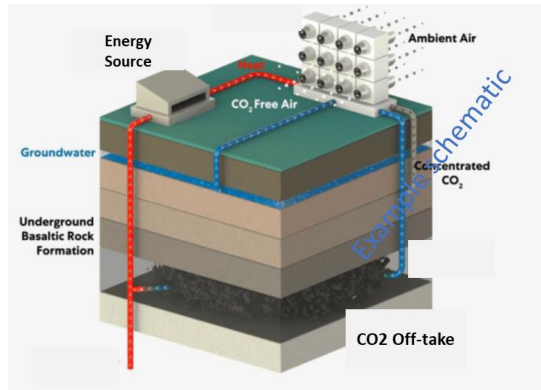
- Lower Pressure Drop
- Lower Heat Duty
- Increase Volumetric Productivity
- Preliminary & final TEA
- Lower component cost
- TRL 4

Up to 5 awards (24 months)... \$1,500 K<sub>DOE share</sub> / award; 20% Cost Share (AOI 1)



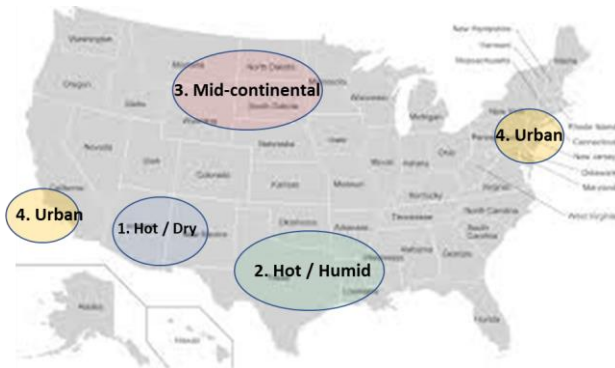
# AOI 2 - INITIAL ENGINEERING DESIGN OF CCUS DAC SYSTEM (TRL 6)

## CCUS System for DAC



100,000+ tonne/yr. net CO<sub>2</sub> from air.

## Geographical pre-defined areas with distinct environmental/air quality conditions



## Input:

- DAC Technology (TRL 6)
- Each application will select three distinct host sites from the pre-defined geographical areas
- Energy Source (Fossil or renewable & Energy storage)
- CO<sub>2</sub> Storage or Utilization Pathway

## Output:

Initial engineering analysis for **three individual** case studies including:

- Energy source integration including CO<sub>2</sub> capture from fossil-fuel based BOP
- CO<sub>2</sub> utilization & storage pathways
- Business case analysis (i.e. LCFS / 45 Q credits)
- TEA, LCA

Up to 3 awards (18 months)... \$2,500 K DOE share / award; 20% Cost Share (AOI 2)



A photograph taken from space showing the Earth's horizon. A bright sun is rising directly behind the horizon line, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The Earth's surface is visible below, showing a mix of blue oceans, white clouds, and green landmasses. The sky above the horizon is a deep, dark black.

# Thank You

## Questions?

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