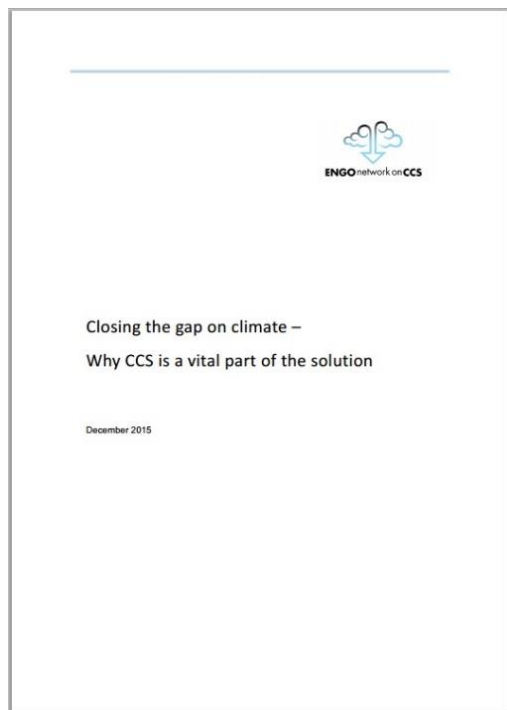




IEAGHG Information Paper: 2015-IP34; ENGO Support for CCS

A new report entitled “Closing the Gap on Climate: Why CCS is a Vital Part of the Solution” was released by members of the ENGO Network¹ at COP21. The report is an update of an earlier 2012 report², issued by the same group takes into account developments since the IPCC SRCCS³, and references the literature included in the IJGGC update of the SRCCS⁴.



The full report can be found at: http://www.EngoNetwork.org/ENGO_Report_FINAL.pdf
Key report conclusions in the report are:

- With a host of operating projects as living proof, CCS technology is a reality now and not a theoretical future prospect
 - Large-scale CCS deployment that will meaningfully accelerate global decarbonisation efforts depends on political will to address the delaying tactics of fossil fuel interests over the past decade.
 - For CCS to deliver on its significant potential, concerted government action at the regional, national and international levels is needed in order to provide a stable market signal and investor certainty.
 - More large-scale integrated projects need to be deployed to a degree that will enable movement beyond the initial high-cost phase inherent to any technology that has not yet achieved widespread use.
- Regulatory, policy and market conditions need to drive widespread CCS investment and cost-reductions through learning and economies of scale.
 - For CCS to deliver on its significant potential, concerted government action at the regional, national and international levels is needed in order to provide a stable market signal and investor certainty.

The Network members urged that the Paris agreements also focus on ensuring sufficient funding for CCS deployment globally, and on a mechanism for the transfer of relevant knowledge and know-how from industrialized to developing countries.

The report makes several important regarding the messaging on CCS which are:

1. That CCS is not just about coal, it is also applicable to natural gas-fired power generation and to key industrial sectors, such as cement, steel and chemicals.

¹ Network members are: The Bellona Foundation, Clean Air Task Force, The Climate Institute, E3G, Environmental Defense Fund, Green Alliance, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Pembina Institute, Sandbag, World Resources Institute, and Zero Emission Resource Organisation

² http://www.EngoNetwork.org/engo_perspectives_on_ccs_digital_version.pdf

³ https://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/special-reports/srccs/srccs_wholereport.pdf

⁴ <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/17505836/40>



2. CCS combined with sustainable biomass feedstock's could help us achieve 'negative emissions,' which are increasingly being considered in climate models as a route to limiting global warming to 2°C."

It also makes a strong point that: "the security of properly selected and regulated storage sites presents no barrier to its further deployment. This is important because it dismisses that argument that CO₂ storage is not safe, which has been used by NGO's in the past.

The report goes on to say that "Despite these significant steps and marked technological progress, however, the prospects for CCS deployment at a scale that will make a dent in global CO₂ emissions remain in serious doubt today. This is a failure on the part of policy makers to provide robust frameworks for deployment, and reflects how supposed "supporters" of CCS have sought to delay action.

The report proposes two routes forward:

The Path Forward Nationally.

A combination of policy instruments and actions are needed in order to achieve further deployment of CCS projects. Price signals are needed, along with carbon limits, to drive investment toward CCS and other low-carbon technologies. Performance and/or portfolio standards⁵ have proven highly successful in driving deployment of other critical technologies.

Some government support for early projects may be necessary until the market conditions support the costs of CCS. Government support can take many forms, such as direct subsidies, feed-in tariffs, tax credits, or set-aside revenues or allowances from various programs. In order for these measures to be effective however, they need to be reliable and workable, and not subject to the uncertainties that have plagued many previous attempts.

The Path Forward Internationally.

Large, emerging economies possess century's long fossil fuel reserves and their citizens are rapidly achieving middle-class affluence. Implementation of CCS programs in these nations could meaningfully assist global decarbonisation efforts. International agreements should not only focus on economic assistance, but also on the transfer of knowledge and know-how.

An international mechanism for facilitating financial support to developing countries will be necessary, either specifically for CCS or as part of a larger portfolio. Bilateral or multilateral (with few parties) agreements may also be effective.

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⁵ See IEAGHG Information Paper 2015-29 Performance Standards – For or Against, http://www.ieaghg.org/docs/General_Docs/Publications/Information_Papers/2015-IP29.pdf