

Public perception of CCUS and carbon removals

This meeting is under Chatham House Rules

*** Agenda ***

Date: October 4th, 2023

Time: 14:30 – 16:30 CEST

Location: In person (ERCST Offices – Rue Archimède 61, 1000 Bruxelles)

Despite the increasing awareness that scaling up CCUS and carbon removals is key to achieving global climate neutrality by 2050, governments and international institutions show a different level of understanding of the role of CCUS and carbon removals in the climate policy portfolio. Indeed, countries have recently announced new initiatives, such as the 'Net Zero Industry Act', which places CCUS as part of strategic net-zero technologies, and the upcoming Commission's communication on industrial carbon management. Another example is represented by the US, in which the current administration has increased the existing 45Q tax credit for CCUS and direct air carbon capture and storage (DACCS) project and announced the 'COP28 Carbon Management Challenge', which aims at partnering with other countries to accelerate the deployment of these technologies.

The situation is instead opposite among the public. Often, there are concerns about the perceived risks to health safety and the environment (leakage), the technology is thought of as a way to continue the use of fossil fuels, there is a lack of trust in the technology and projects developers, and local communities are not supportive of starting projects close to them – the not under my backyard (NUMBY) discourse.

Also, the rare presence of official documents outlining countries' strategies on how CCUS will be used to achieve climate neutrality targets, such as NDCs or long-term strategies, does not help in building the trust of the public.

In this event, different perspectives on public perception of CCUS are explored to understand views from and experiences of various stakeholders from different.

14:30 – 14:40

Welcome and introduction

- A. Marcu, ERCST

14:40 – 15:15

Initial inputs

- J. Fiksdahl, DG ENER
- E. Bonfiglio, ERCST

15:15 – 16:25

Roundtable discussion

The key questions to address during the roundtable discussion are the following:

- What is your experience with public perception of CCUS and carbon removal?
- Which policy developments are necessary at national, European, and international debates, such as COP28?

- P. Krogh Tygesen, Danish Energy Agency
- A.-M. Spyriouni, Climate Bonds Initiative
- H. Biro, Bellona
- J. Wesche, Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- G. Burridge, European Federation of Geologists

16:25 – 16:30

Closing remarks