CCUS Project Engagement

Supported and funded by:

About the Handbook

A 'how-to' action guide to empower legislators, ministries, regulators, and NOC officials for understanding the policies, rules, and best practices that countries can adopt and implement for CCUS.

Available here:

cldp.doc.gov/carbon-capture-utilization-and-storage-ccus-resources

Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage

Handbook for Policymakers

About the Handbook (Cont.)

- Sponsored by **U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Energy Resources.**

- Drafted over one week in an intense session with eight expert co-authors.

- Co-written by authors representing:

  - Government

  - NGOs

  - Multilaterals

  - Industry

  - Academia

CCUS Project Engagement
Key Takeaways

- CCUS projects need engagement to be successful. Engagement is communication by policymakers, regulators, project developers, and the public across the life of a project.

- Policymakers and regulators need to be prepared to engage at the outset with public stakeholders – including local communities – to avoid delays and cancelations.

- A critical first step is understanding the key players, their respective activities, and the appropriate level of engagement: stakeholder mapping and planning.

- Even communities that are familiar with oil and gas projects, or other extraction projects, may be skeptical with CCUS projects. The Barendrecht Project in the Netherlands shows the risks of failing to engage with the community on a CCUS project.
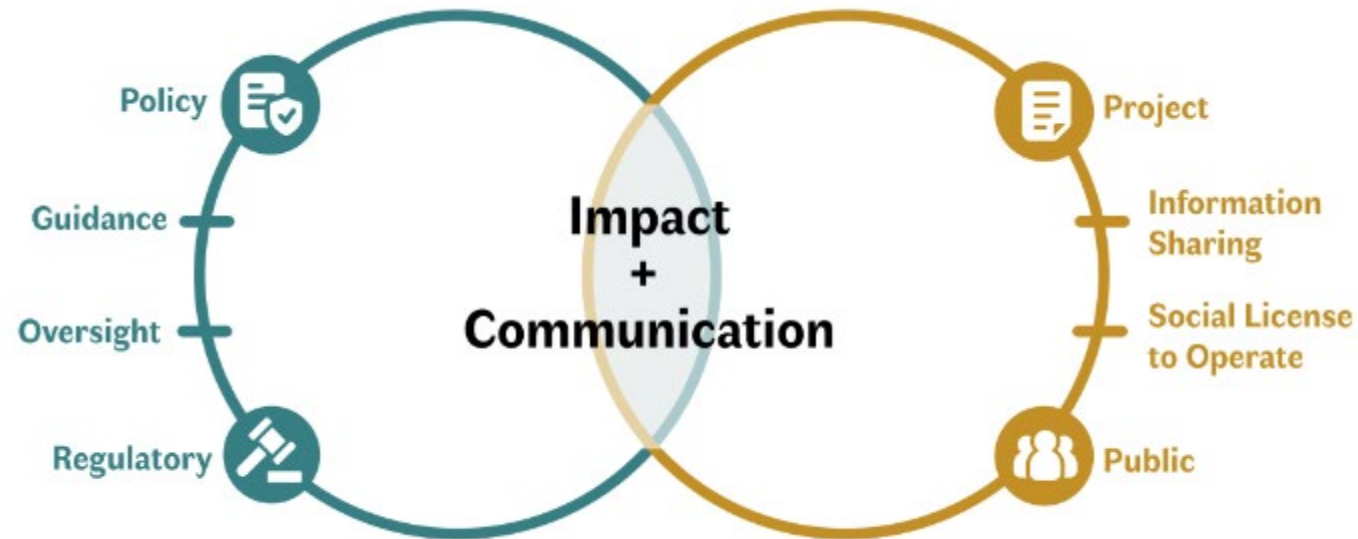
CCUS Project Engagement
Importance of Engagement

Community engagement is not a new concept but has significantly expanded in the last decade to be more inclusive, responsive, and robust.

The risk of failing to meaningfully engage with the local community and larger public can be lack of support or acceptance from surrounding communities, project delays, or even cancelations.

The intersection of policy and laws/regulations to drive impact with communications to the public about a project can make up the elements of engagement.

Importance of Engagement & Core Principles

Transparency

Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

Understanding Communities

Engage Early and Often

Decision-Making

Guidelines for Engagement

Two-Way Exchange

Collaboration and Partnerships

CCUS Project Engagement

Importance of Engagement & Core Principles

- Connect with the Big Picture
- Community Benefits
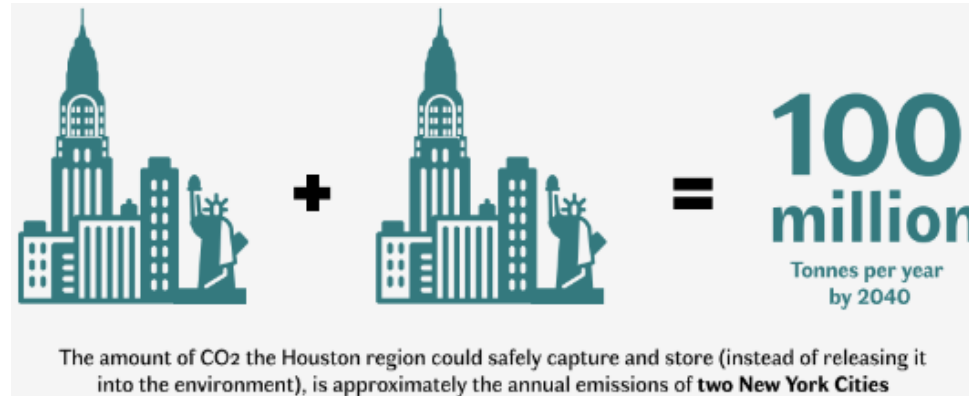- Measure/Survey Impacts
- Flexibility
- Language
- Clarity
- Capacity Building

Case Study: Houston CCS Alliance's Engagement Efforts

The Houston area has one of the most concentrated sources of CO_2 emissions in the U.S., making it ideal for the development of large-scale CCS projects.

In 2021, 11 of the largest industrial CO_2 emitters formed the Houston CCS Alliance to better address the need for enhanced public engagement.

Member companies conducted 30+ public discussions on CCS resulting in 20+ supportive statements from elected officials, positive media coverage, resolutions from local governments, and local awards.

The Alliance continues to engage communities to this day.

100 million

Tonnes per year by 2040

The amount of CO2 the Houston region could safely capture and store (instead of releasing it into the environment), is approximately the annual emissions of **two New York Cities**

CCUS Project Engagement
Key Players

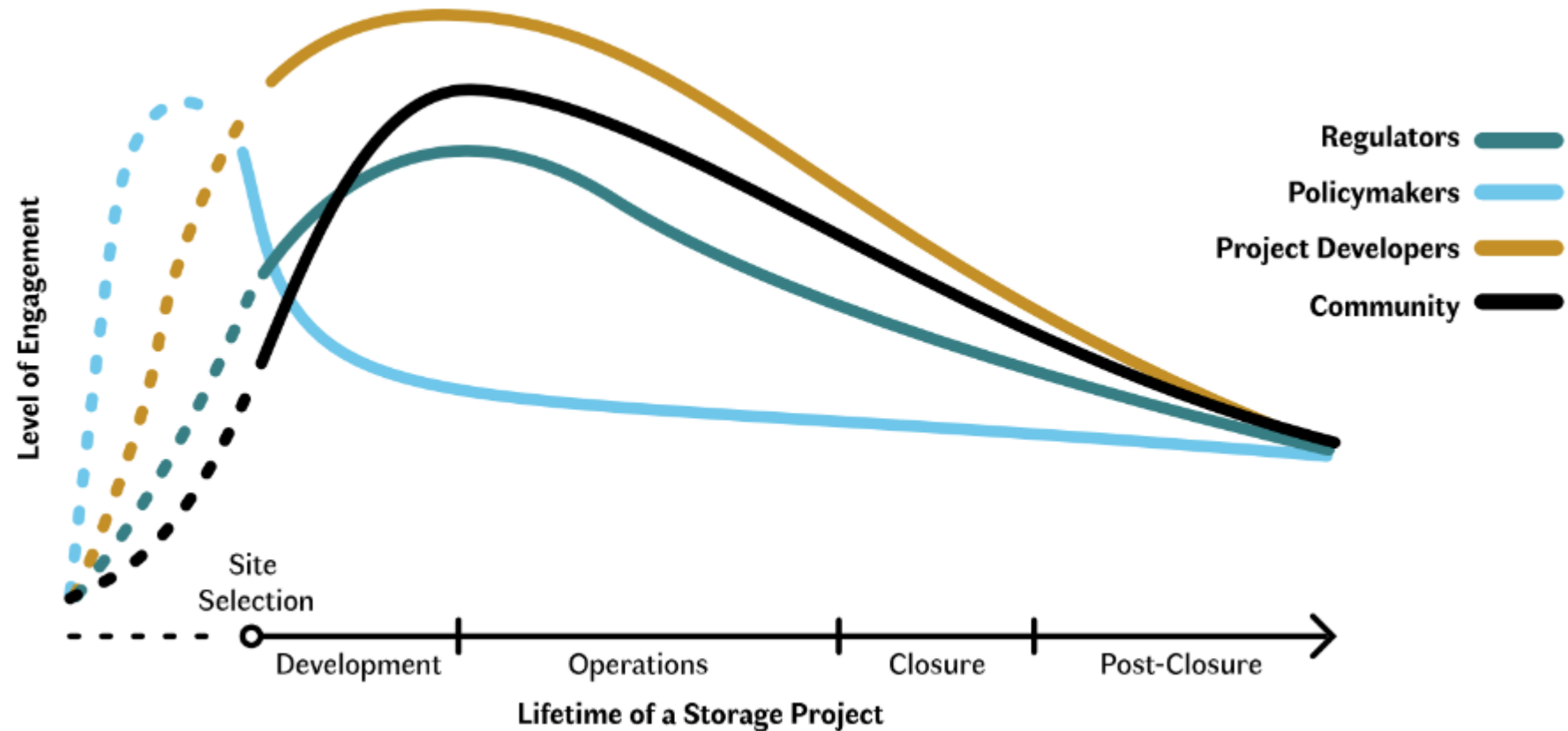| Key Player	Activities	Nature of Engagement
Policymakers	➢ Develop CCUS policies, support innovation and public-private partnerships ➢ Conduct multi-stakeholder engagement ➢ Engage in interagency coordination	➢ Determine levels of engagement ➢ Institutionalize processes through task forces
Regulators	➢ Rule-making ➢ Review permit applications ➢ Project developer oversight and implementation of engagement ➢ Enforcement	➢ Establish engagement processes ➢ Seek updates from project developers ➢ Evaluate impacts ➢ Improve levels of participation
Project Developers	➢ Implement projects ➢ Conduct stakeholder mapping and assessment ➢ Engage in two-way dialogue ➢ Develop equitable relationships and build trust	➢ Implement engagement processes ➢ Consult and negotiate ➢ Discuss benefits, risks, and mitigation
Community	➢ Participate in dialogues ➢ Seek information ➢ Share concerns and ensure resolution ➢ Influence policymakers and project developers	➢ Regular and continued dialogue with project developers ➢ Communicate with regulators ➢ Comment on environmental impact assessments

CCUS Project Engagement
Key Players

The four groups of key players interact throughout a CCUS project to exchange plans, challenges, experiences, and know-how for informed decision-making.

❖ These interactions are critical for safe and successful CCUS projects.

❖ Engagement should be an ongoing process throughout the project's lifetime.

Regulators
Policymakers
Project Developers
Community

Level of Engagement

Site Selection

Development | Operations | Closure | Post-Closure

Lifetime of a Storage Project

Engagement Processes: Community Focus Understand the Constituents

Outreach Method	What is it?	Advantages	Disadvantages
Surveys	Set of questions to gauge how the community feels	Can reach a large number in the community	No direct interaction & often low % of return
Public Gathering	Event where information is presented; representatives answer questions from the community and receive comments	Messages can have broad reach across community at once; ability to understand key questions/concerns	Conversation can be driven by a small number of people
Targeted Outreach	Event where representatives present details from the project, such as site tours and Q&A	Improved exchange of two-way communication	Often a smaller sampling of the community, such as community leaders
Public Office/ Booth	Fixed location where the public can freely learn about the project and engage representatives	Drives one-on-one communication and information sharing	A lot of engagement to reach fewer in the community
Technical Outreach	Presentations at meetings, symposiums, and forums	Technical vetting of the project by peers	Engagement with a small technical subset of the community
Newspapers/ Local News	Outreach through media outlets	Reach local communities and may involve third-party involvement in communication	No direct interaction; not all people may have access to news
Websites	Project website containing information about project, technologies, risks, and decisions	Reach a large number in the community; option to update as project develops; translated into several languages	No direct interaction
Flyers/Ads	Targeted information displayed in public places	Reach local communities	No direct interaction

Engagement Processes: Community Focus Engagement Techniques

1. Meet with key leaders to begin understanding important issues that may require additional attention before engaging directly with the community

2. Stakeholder Mapping – provides a framework to identify, assess, and visually map potential individuals and groups to engage with

3. Focus on two-way methods of communication, and supplement with one-way techniques, such as the use of websites and social media.

4. Project developers should have a direct presence within the community and become a part of it

Case Study: Barendrecht Project in the Netherlands Canceled due to Insufficient Community Engagement

This project planned to separate and capture CO_2 emissions from an oil refinery before injecting and storing 10Mt of CO_2 over 25 years in a depleted gas field under the town of Barendrecht.

The community was concerned about the damage to homes, and there was a strong sentiment that they had not been kept informed of project developments, leading to disagreements between regulators regarding public engagement.

Ultimately, the project was canceled.
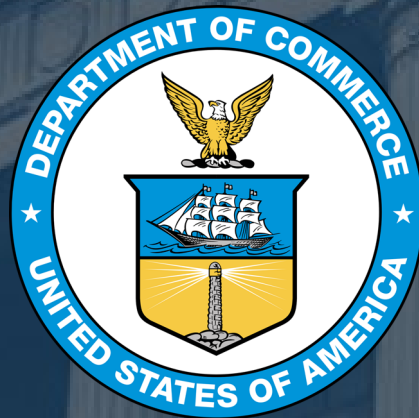
Tel: +1 202 482 2400

1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230

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