

## Widespread support for Otway Project

Industry, environment groups, research organisations and governments have widely hailed the CO<sub>2</sub>CRC Otway Project as a major step forward in Australia's implementation of low-emission technologies.

The Otway Project, which is trialling the long-term geological storage of one of the most common greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, was launched officially on 2 April in south-western Victoria by the Federal Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson, and the Victorian Minister for Energy and Resources, Peter Batchelor.

Mr Batchelor praised the collaborative efforts of the project saying it was wonderful to see such a diverse range of sectors working in collaboration to address climate change.

Mr Ferguson praised CO<sub>2</sub>CRC for developing and implementing Australia's first carbon dioxide demonstration project, saying: "We at the State and Federal level in partnership with the private sector think you've done a great job."

The project has also received support from the environment and union sectors. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) welcomed the Otway Project saying there was a need for similar ground-breaking initiatives. The president of Australia's largest and most influential mining union, the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), Tony Maher, paid tribute to researchers and industry for their contribution to the development and deployment for the low-emission technology being demonstrated through the Otway Project.

The NSW Government noted the launch was an important milestone for clean coal technology and the NSW Minerals Council said the Otway Project would help Australia become a major world player in the design and commercialisation of low-emission technologies.

A variety of events followed the official opening of the Otway Project including a community open day and a tour of the facilities by the Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, Stephen Johnson, who was visiting the site at part of a fact-finding tour.

» [PennEnergy article: \[US\] DOE monitors CO<sub>2</sub> injection in Australian gas field](#)

» [Carbon News](#)

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## CO<sub>2</sub>CRC welcomes CCS taskforce proposal

In addition to supporting the Otway Project, environment groups have backed a proposal for a National Carbon Capture and Storage Taskforce.

Aimed at accelerating the adoption of carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects in Australia, the proposal is a result of an alliance between the CFMEU, the Australian Coal Association (ACA), the Climate Institute and the WWF.

The CO2CRC Chief Executive, Dr Peter Cook, said he looked forward to the acceleration of research, demonstration and commercialisation of carbon capture and storage projects in Australia.

“Over the past 10 years, CO2CRC has conducted world-leading research on CCS, which led earlier this month to the launch of Australia’s first carbon storage research and demonstration project in south-western Victoria.

“I see the taskforce as an important step in the broad adoption of the technology. The allied support for CCS from the CFMEU, the ACA and the Climate Institute and the WWF shows that the technology is now well accepted as an important greenhouse gas mitigation technology.”

[» CO2CRC media release](#)

[» ACA, CFMEU, Climate Institute, WWF media release](#)

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## Commercialising carbon capture and storage

According to CO2CRC’s Chief Technologist, Barry Hooper, commercialisation, intellectual property and rigorous testing are just three of the issues CO2CRC researchers currently face when taking research from the laboratory to real plant situations.

Mr Hooper says that the integration of this plant-based learning with fundamental laboratory investigations will pervade the capture activities through the final years of the current CRC term and hopefully provide a strong platform for continued funding.

“The major cost reduction themes are (a) selecting the best separation media and process, (b) using fit for purpose equipment and (c) achieving the best energy integration within the power plant.”

[» Article](#)

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## Energy reform could save Asia-Pacific \$US700 billion: UN

A new United Nations report says the Asia-Pacific region could save 700-billion US dollars by 2030 if it increases its use of renewable energy and reduces consumption.

The report, launched at a UN meeting in Bangkok, proposes joint Asia-Pacific energy infrastructure and standards, as well as tax reform.

[» Radio Australia story](#)

## Companies urge emission permit auctions

Australia should hold weekly auctions of greenhouse gas emission permits to avoid imposing an "impossible" financial burden on petrol companies and undermining efforts to cut fuel prices at the bowser, the Rudd Government has been told.

Petrol companies are likely to be required to buy permits for the millions of tonnes of carbon emitted when motorists use their fuel, under the greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme the Government has vowed to have up and running by 2010.

» [The Australian](#)

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## China aims for first zero emission power by 2015

China plans to build a major emissions-free coal burning power station by 2015 putting it at the front of a tight global race to build the first commercial-scale plant.

GreenGen president Su Wenbin said he has escaped the funding and planning problems that have delayed similar ventures in the US and Europe because tackling climate change is a top priority for Beijing.

"In China our system is different. When we decide to do something we can just push on with it . . . we know we will get government support," he said.

» [Planet Ark Environment News](#)

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## Carbon dioxide, methane up sharply

The amount of two key greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere rose sharply in 2007, and carbon dioxide levels this year are literally off the chart, according to a recent US government reported.

In its annual index of greenhouse gas emissions, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, the primary driver of global climate change, rose by 0.6 per cent, or 19 billion tonnes last year.

» [The Australian](#)

» [The Age](#)

## Shell considers carbon capture for Browse project

Shell Australia is thinking of introducing a CCS side to the proposed floating LNG (FLNG) development at its wholly owned Prelude gas find in the Browse basin off Western Australia.

According to documents lodged with environmental regulators in Australia, the company is planning to build a 3.5 million tonne/year FLNG for the field which lies 450 km northeast of Broome.

» [Oil & Gas Journal](#)

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## Carbon capture plant subsidy disappoints

The UK Government financial subsidy for the first CCS power plant, a project that could cost between £1 billion and £2 billion, is likely to be only tens of millions of pounds, an adviser to the Prime Minister has revealed.

Nine power companies are competing for government funds to build the first CCS power station, but the level of government financial support is likely to disappoint the bidders.

» [Times Online](#)

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## EU moves to fast-track CCS proposals

The European Union may boost efforts to capture climate-warming CO<sub>2</sub> and store it underground by pushing forward proposals for a dozen demonstration projects.

The European Commission has proposed legislation to encourage CCS, notably by helping fund up to 12 demonstration plants and by providing a legal and regulatory framework to make geological storage of CO<sub>2</sub> possible.

» [Reuters](#)

However, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown's environment adviser, says the European Union will not get its planned 12 CCS-fitted power plants because it is trying to do it on the cheap.

Michael Jacobs said Britain was pushing ahead with its competition to get a CCS demonstration plant up and running by the end of 2014 and was willing to put "tens of millions of pounds of taxpayers money" in place to do so.

» [Reuters](#)

## StatoilHydro starts carbon storage at Snohvit

StatoilHydro has begun carbon injection and storage on the Snohvit field, a natural gas field in the Barents Sea, offshore Norway. Instead of emitting CO<sub>2</sub> from the field's well stream into the air, the gas is reinjected into the subsurface and stored in a geological formation beneath the gas-bearing formations of the Snohvit field.

» [Energy Current](#)

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## Norway to help South Africa with carbon capture

Norwegian experts are being sent to South Africa to help the Government examine the possibility of CCS, according to the country's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg.

Making the announcement after meeting Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka at the Union Buildings in Pretoria, Mr Stoltenberg said: "We do not have to choose between energy and the environment."

» [iOL](#)

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## CSLF hears about South African response to climate change

South Africa is doing its best to meet the challenge of addressing climate change issues while improving energy supplies, says Minerals and Energy Minister Buyelwa Sonjica.

Speaking at the first-ever Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum meeting in Africa, held in Cape Town in mid April, the Minister said that while South Africa was dependent on coal to produce energy, government was prepared to employ new technologies to mitigate its environmental effects.

» [BuaNews Online](#)

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## Massive carbon capture project set for Alberta

Along with ARC Resources, financial supporters of the initial Redwater carbon storage studies include the Alberta Energy Research Institute and Natural Resources Canada. More companies will be invited to participate, Dielwart said.

But science and technology alone will not make the proposed disposal site happen, Lakeman said. "It requires the support of fiscal and regulatory frameworks," the council manager said.

» [Calgary Herald](#)

## StatoilHydro awards key carbon capture contract

Aibel has won a key contract for work in establishment of StatoilHydro's Mongstad carbon capture plant.

The company has taken the engineering, procurement and construction management (EPCM) contract for the new European CO<sub>2</sub> test centre.

The Test Centre Mongstad (TCM), as it is known, is the result of an agreement between the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and StatoilHydro, to establish a full-scale CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage site.

» [Energy Current](#)

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## Canada calls for CCS research proposals

The Canadian Federal Government has called for research proposals to capture and store carbon dioxide to be funded under two new funds announced in the Harper government's March budget.

The first fund is a \$125-million initiative to advance new carbon capture and storage technology. The second is a \$15-million kitty to develop new ways to reduce the environmental impacts of oilsands production, such as tailings ponds.

» [Vancouver Sun](#)

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## Price rise may prompt carbon storage

A major new study of the impact of likely future carbon pricing on electricity generation investment in Australia has been completed by the CRC for Coal in Sustainable Development (CCSD).

The CCSD study predicted that a portfolio of new generation technologies, including renewables, gas, and ultra supercritical coal with CCS would be introduced should deep emission reduction targets be set.

The study indicated that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions permits in the price range of \$40 to \$70 a tonne may be sufficient to encourage the industry to commence capture and storage of carbon from coal based electricity by the mid-part of the coming decade.”

» [Science Alert](#)

## Conferences

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Australian Energy and Utility Summit

The Summit will be held from 22 - 23 July at the Sydney, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. Key speakers include the CO2CRC Chief Executive, Dr Peter Cook, who will discuss Demonstrating and deploying carbon capture and storage.

»» [Further information](#)

### 9th International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies

The GHGT-9, scheduled to be held in Washington, DC on November 16 - 20, 2008. The conference is aimed at providing information on the latest developments on CCS.

»» [Further information](#)

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**CO<sub>2</sub> Futures is the newsletter of the  
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The CO2CRC collaborates with leading international and national carbon capture and storage experts to conduct world-class research into CO<sub>2</sub> geosequestration. Research organisations involved in CO2CRC include ACARP, the CSIRO, Foundation for Research Science and Technology (NZ), Geoscience Australia and the Universities of Adelaide, Curtin, Melbourne, Monash and NSW. Our industry partners are Anglo American, BHP Billiton, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, the NSW Department of Primary Industries, NZ Resource Consortium, Rio Tinto, Schlumberger, Shell, Solid Energy, Stanwell, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, Woodside and Xstrata.

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