

Public outreach and acceptance associated with CCS: an example from the province of Québec

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Abstract

CO₂ capture and geological sequestration (CCS) offers a great opportunity to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and to tackle climate change (IPCC, 2005). CCS is a major topic of interest in Canada where many CCS projects are either underway or in the planning stage. As CCS is currently not widely known, public outreach and acceptance associated with CCS is a key factor affecting the implementation of CCS (Bachu, 2008). In fact, the general public will need to be fully informed and then supportive of CCS if this technology is to be widely developed (Bellona foundation, 2009).

To gain public acceptance, different actions can be put in place to survey, inform and discuss with the general public, in particular with neighbors of future CO₂ geological sequestration sites. A review of the actions considered and carried out by the research Chair on CO₂ geological sequestration in the province of Québec to communicate and consult the general public will be presented. Topics such as the Chair's website created to inform on CCS and internet based survey put in place to consult the general public will be discussed. Finally, the next steps planned to reach public acceptance will be explained. The Chair will conduct a survey on the public perception and acceptance of CCS. The Chair foresees to create an information and consultation plan in the case of CO₂ sequestration project developments in the province of Québec.

References

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