

NOAH's position on CCS as a climate change tool

In NOAH's view, there is a wide range of problems in CO₂ separation and storage, which together means that we must reject it as a viable way to reduce CO₂ emissions from burning of fossil fuels.

NOAH's view is fundamentally that CCS is contrary to EU's and Denmark's environmental policies e.g. the principle of preventive action, the principle that action against environmental damages primarily must be done at the source and the principle that the polluter should pay.

In addition, there are numerous practical problems that mean that CCS in NOAH's view must be rejected as a solution to our climate problems:

- ∂ CCS is unable to deliver sufficient reductions.
- ∂ The reductions that CCS can provide will come too late.
- ∂ CCS increases energy consumption by power plants in the order of 40%. (Energy penalty)
- ∂ CCS will bind us to centralized and inflexible energy supply system based on coal.
- ∂ The demand for “CCS-ready” coal fired power plants will just allow more coal fired plants to operate for many years while the technology is developed, storage sites are identified and financing is secured.
- ∂ CCS with for example 30% co-firing of biomass will in Denmark lead to a complete exploitation of the accessible biomass – or depend on a problematic import.
- ∂ CCS is a too expensive way to reduce CO₂ emissions.
- ∂ CCS can only be realized with many billions in subsidies from taxpayers.
- ∂ There are cheaper and better alternatives.
- ∂ CCS entails excessive, harmful environmental impacts due to the energy penalty and the following extra mining of coal. CCS also comes with a severe water penalty due to extra cooling requirements.
- ∂ It will be the public or future generations that must pay if something goes wrong.
- ∂ CCS will strengthen our dependence on coal and prevent the development of 100% renewable energy systems.
- ∂ There has been no public debate on CCS as an alternative to renewable energy and energy efficiency.

NOAH's overall conclusion regarding CCS is that it is a technology that the world is best served by putting behind - the sooner the better. CCS is not a solution for the climate problems.