

PCOR PARTNERSHIP ATLAS

6TH EDITION REVISED | 2024

Making Safe, Practical Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Projects a Reality



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



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EERC

UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH DAKOTA



PCOR Partnership ATLAS

6TH EDITION REVISED | 2024

Compiled and Created by

Wesley Peck, Assistant Director for Subsurface Strategies
Kari Suedel, Principal Communications Specialist, Photographer
Kyle Glazewski, Assistant Director for Research, Community Benefits and Stakeholder Engagement

Plains CO₂ Reduction (PCOR) Partnership Management

Kevin Connors, Assistant Director for Regulatory Compliance and Energy Policy
James Sorensen, Director of Subsurface R&D
Charles Gorecki, CEO
Brian Kalk, Chief Research Officer
John Harju, Vice President for Strategic Partnerships

Published by the

Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)
2024

The PCOR Partnership is a group of public and private stakeholders working together to enable deployment of carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) of CO₂ emissions from stationary sources in the upper Great Plains and northwestern regions of North America. The PCOR Partnership is led by the EERC at the University of North Dakota with support from the University of Wyoming and the University of Alaska Fairbanks and is one of four competitive awards by the U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory under the Regional Initiative to Accelerate CCUS.



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*Printed in the United States of America and available from:
Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)
Grand Forks, ND 58202*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This atlas was made possible through the contributions and efforts of numerous groups from throughout the United States and Canada. We acknowledge the PCOR Partnership partners for their efforts in providing much of the information used for the assessments and for cooperating with us in producing a regional portfolio for public use. We also extend our appreciation to the various federal, state, and private organizations and university groups for their cooperation in our search for data.

Several members of the PCOR Partnership research team from the EERC provided valuable input to this effort through the production of technical publications, presentations, and outreach materials. This body of work provided the foundation from which this atlas was created.

The following EERC staff focused on the execution of PCOR Partnership efforts in 2019–2024. This atlas was possible because of their creative energy and collective efforts:

Heather Altepeter, Katherine Anagnost, Scott Ayash, Nicholas Azzolina, César Barajas-Olalde, Matthew Belobraydic, Nicholas Bosshart, Barry Botnen, Aldjia Boualam Djezzar, John Brunner, Shaughn Burnison, Matthew Burton-Kelly, Brock Callina, Carrie Christianson, Kevin Connors, Charlene Crocker, Janet Crossland, Chantsalmaa Dalkhaa, Sofiane Djezzar, Thomas Doll, Neil Dotzenrod, Janelle Ensrud, Ian Feole, Zahra Finnigan, Bret Fossum, Kyle Glazewski, Charles Gorecki, Steve Guillot, John Hamling, John Harju, Jun He, Loreal Heebink, Michael Hillix, Erin Hoffert, John Hunt, Lonny Jacobson, Melanie Jensen, Tao Jiang, Lu Jin, Lauren Kagan, Nicholas Kalenze, Brian Kalk, John Kay, Ryan Klapperich, Scott Klara, Stacy Kouba, Justin Kovacevich, Nikki Krueger, Beth Kurz, Olivia Lacher, Sam Landa, Jason Laumb, Remington Leger, Kerryanne Leroux, Amanda Livers-Douglas, Jacob Loing, Macy Mack, Kris MacLennan, Nessa Mahmood, Kyle McBride, Austin McRae, Jake Meyer, Brian Mladenich, David Nakles, Jeff Noll, John Oleksik, Caitlin Olsen, Wesley Peck, Lawrence Pekot, Joshua Regorrah, Trevor Richards, Steven Schlasner, Kari Schmidt, Rhonda Shirek, Steven Smith, James Sorensen, Nicholas Stanislawski, Joshua Strege, Kari Suedel, Merry Tesfu, Michael Warmack, Neil Wildgust, Cody Williamson, Jib Wilson, Xue Yu, and Agustinus Zandy.

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory under Award No. DE-FE0031838.

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Carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) are a key set of technologies developed for commercial deployment to significantly reduce anthropogenic (human-made) carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. These technologies have been proven to capture large-scale CO₂ emissions from major stationary sources and safely store the CO₂ underground in geologic rock formations. CCUS is a solution for providing a safe, effective, and efficient means of managing CO₂ emissions while producing energy for electricity, fuels, and other industrial processes. The Plains CO₂ Reduction (PCOR) Partnership Initiative is one of four regional initiative projects established in 2019 through the Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (RCSP) Program. Under this U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)-supported initiative, the PCOR Partnership continues to serve its region and broad stakeholder base to advance and accelerate CCUS deployment. The PCOR Partnership Initiative region encompasses ten U.S. states and four Canadian provinces in the upper Great Plains and northwestern regions of North America.

The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC), which leads and manages the PCOR Partnership, has been conducting focused research on geologic CO₂ storage since 2003. The goal of this joint government–industry effort is to identify and address regional capture, transport, use, and storage challenges facing commercial deployment of CCUS throughout the PCOR Partnership region.

This atlas provides a profile of CO₂ sources and potential storage locations across the nearly 6.2 million square kilometers of the PCOR Partnership region. Since the founding of the PCOR Partnership in 2003, a wealth of information about CCUS has emerged. This revised sixth edition of the atlas provides an up-to-date look at PCOR Partnership Initiative activities, including additional regional characterization and updates on the growing number of commercial projects in the region. Additional background information to support CCUS is included to give the reader a better understanding of how CCUS addresses concerns about climate change while allowing future energy needs to be met.

THE CHALLENGE

Managing global carbon emissions is one of the most pressing environmental concerns of our time. Many scientists are concerned that anthropogenic (human-made) greenhouse gases (GHGs) are affecting Earth's climate. Although earth-warming gases exist naturally in the atmosphere, human activities are adding more of these GHGs, including carbon dioxide (CO₂). The challenge is to address anthropogenic GHG emissions while providing access to reliable, affordable, resilient energy around the world. Carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) can address this challenge, and the activities conducted through the Plains CO₂ Reduction (PCOR) Partnership are playing an important role in developing and deploying CCUS technologies.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

At the heart of this challenge is Earth's natural greenhouse effect, which plays an essential role in our climate patterns. The effect is the result of heat-trapping gases, called GHGs, which absorb heat emitted from Earth's surface and lower atmosphere and then release much of the heat back toward the surface. Without this greenhouse effect, the average surface temperature of Earth would be about 0°F (or -18°C)¹ instead of 59°F (15°C) and life as it is known would not be possible.

1 Sun's rays enter Earth's atmosphere.

2 Heat is emitted back from Earth's surface.

3 Some heat passes back out into space.

4 Some heat is absorbed by GHGs and becomes trapped within Earth's atmosphere. Earth becomes hotter as a result. The more GHGs in the atmosphere, the more heat is retained.

GREENHOUSE GASES

Many gaseous chemical compounds in Earth's atmosphere contribute to the greenhouse effect.² These gases absorb infrared radiation emitted from Earth's surface and trap the heat in the atmosphere. Some of these gases occur in nature, while others are products of human activity.

WATER VAPOR (H₂O) is the most abundant GHG in the atmosphere. As the temperature of the atmosphere rises, it can hold more water vapor. This higher concentration of water vapor is able to absorb more heat, further warming the atmosphere. This cycle is called a feedback loop. Water molecules have very little heat-trapping capacity compared to other GHGs, and thus changes to the amount of water vapor have the least impact on the greenhouse effect.

CARBON DIOXIDE has both natural and anthropogenic sources. CO₂ plays a vital role in supporting life on Earth through the global carbon cycle. The heat-trapping capacity of CO₂ molecules is much greater than water vapor. Because its production is so prevalent in human activity, CO₂ is the major focus of GHG reduction efforts.

METHANE (CH₄) has both natural and anthropogenic sources. Human activities such as growing crops, raising livestock, using natural gas, and mining coal have added to the atmospheric concentration of methane. Although the heat-trapping capacity of methane molecules is 28–36 times that of CO₂, the amount of methane produced by human activities is much less.

NITROUS OXIDE (N₂O) has both natural and anthropogenic sources associated with agricultural, land-use, and industrial activities. A product of decomposition, N₂O is produced by microbial processes in soil and water, including those reactions that occur in fertilizer containing nitrogen; in both solid waste and wastewater treatment; and during combustion (because nitrogen is the major component of air).

OZONE (O₃) is formed in the stratosphere through the interaction between ultraviolet light and oxygen. This natural O₃ layer has been supplemented by O₃ created by human processes, such as automobile exhaust and burning vegetation.

Human contributions of GHGs to the atmosphere may seem minor compared to the large share of water vapor and clouds. The heat-trapping capacity of these molecules is, however, much greater than water vapor, so smaller changes have a greater impact.

CLOUDS AND WATER VAPOR

CO₂

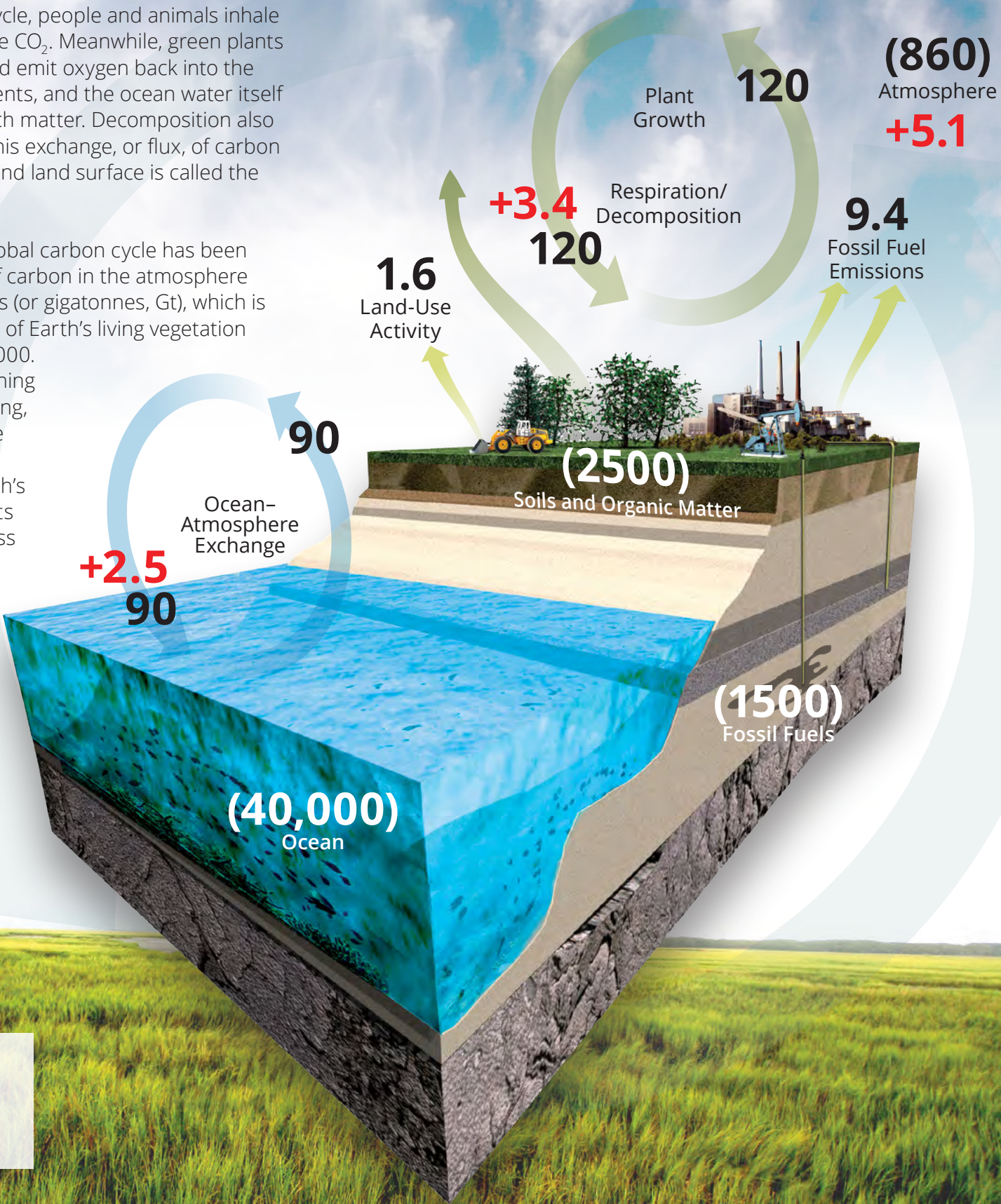
OTHER

Relative total GHG effect contributions.³

GLOBAL CARBON CYCLE

As part of the natural carbon cycle, people and animals inhale oxygen from the air and exhale CO₂. Meanwhile, green plants absorb CO₂ for photosynthesis and emit oxygen back into the atmosphere. Marine biota, sediments, and the ocean water itself also absorb CO₂ and/or carbon-rich matter. Decomposition also returns CO₂ to the atmosphere. This exchange, or flux, of carbon among the atmosphere, oceans, and land surface is called the global carbon cycle.⁴

For most of human history, the global carbon cycle has been roughly in balance. The amount of carbon in the atmosphere is approximately 860 billion tonnes (or gigatonnes, Gt), which is more carbon than contained in all of Earth's living vegetation and roughly 80 Gt more than in 2000. Human activities, namely, the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, farming, and other land-use activities, have altered the carbon cycle, adding extra CO₂ to the atmosphere. Earth's ocean and terrestrial environments compensate for some of the excess by taking up billions of tonnes of extra CO₂ (shown in red in the figure). Still, much remains in the atmosphere, resulting in a 45% increase in atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ since the Industrial Revolution.



Averaged annual emissions, 2010–2019. Fluxes and pools are in Gt of carbon. Pools are noted in parentheses.

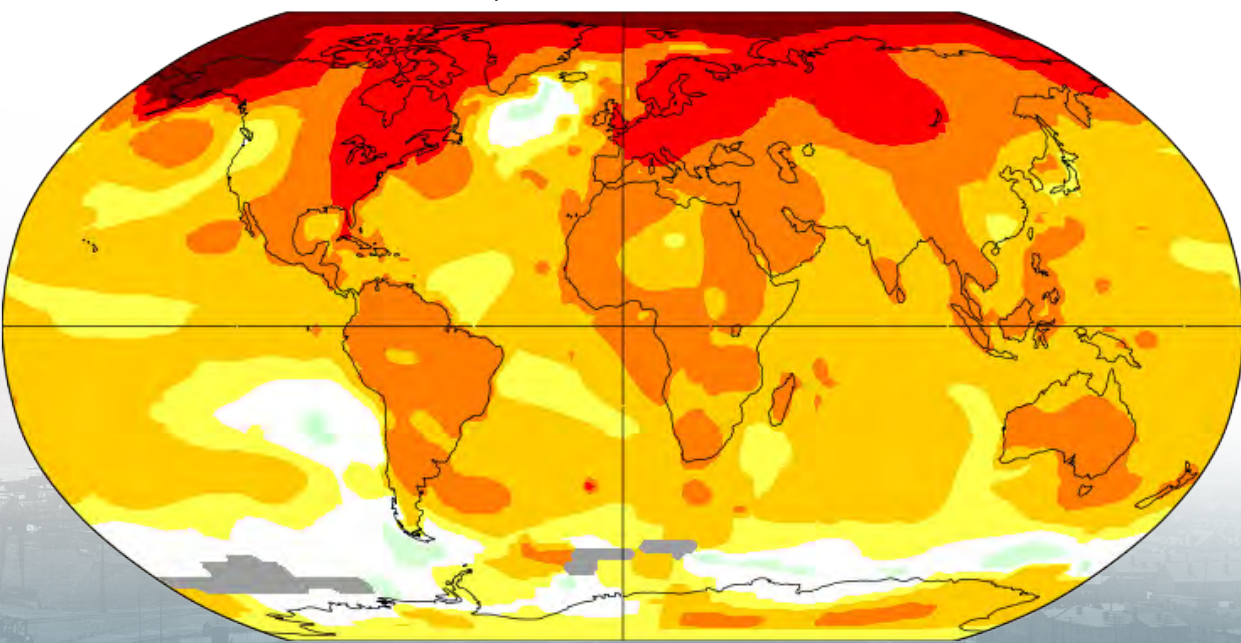
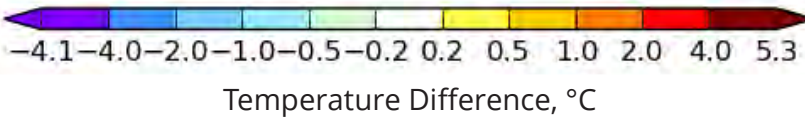
CLIMATE CHANGE PATTERNS

“The slight percentage of carbonic acid in the atmosphere may, by the advances of industry, be changed to a noticeable degree in the course of a few centuries.”

Svante Arrhenius, 1904

Since instrumental records of temperature began in 1880, the overall temperature of Earth has risen by more than 2°F (1.2°C), with 2023 being the warmest year on record according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.⁵ The world's 10 warmest years have all occurred in the last 10 years. These rising temperatures are causing wide-ranging impacts, such as the loss of sea ice and ice sheet mass, sea level rise, longer and more intense heat waves, and shifts in habitats. Most climate scientists attribute these current changes in climate at least in part to anthropogenic GHG emissions.

The map shows the average surface temperature trends for 2013–2023 relative to the 1991–2020 average. Warming was more pronounced at high latitudes, especially in the Northern Hemisphere and over land.⁶



More than 100 years ago, Swedish scientist and Nobel Prize winner Svante Arrhenius postulated that anthropogenic increases in atmospheric CO₂, as the result of fossil fuel combustion would profoundly affect the heat budget of Earth. In 1904, Arrhenius became concerned with rapid increases in anthropogenic carbon emissions.⁷

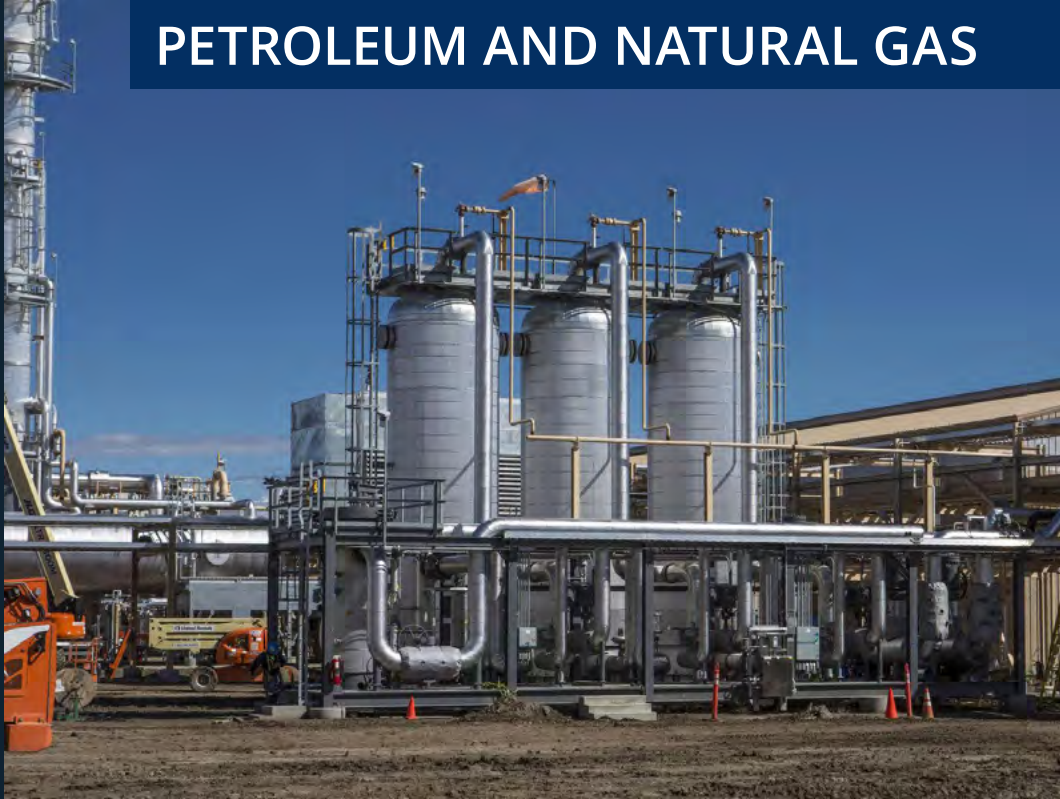
MAJOR STATIONARY CO₂ SOURCES

INDUSTRIAL



Cement Plant

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS



Refinery

ELECTRIC UTILITY



Coal-Fired Power Plant

AGRICULTURE-RELATED PROCESSING



Ethanol Plant

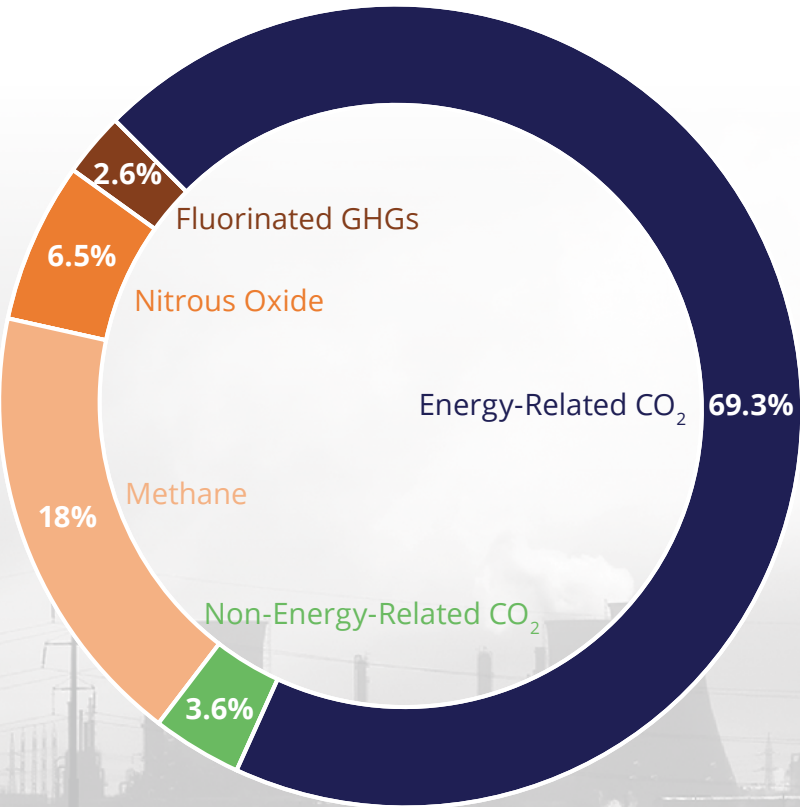
ANTHROPOGENIC CO₂

Carbon dioxide produced through human action is referred to as anthropogenic CO₂. The primary source of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions in North America is the burning of fossil fuels for energy. Industrial activities such as manufacturing cement, producing ethanol, refining petroleum, producing metals, and combusting waste also contribute a significant amount of anthropogenic CO₂. Collectively, these are referred to as large stationary CO₂ point sources. Nonstationary CO₂ emissions include activities such as using gasoline, diesel, and other fuels for transportation.

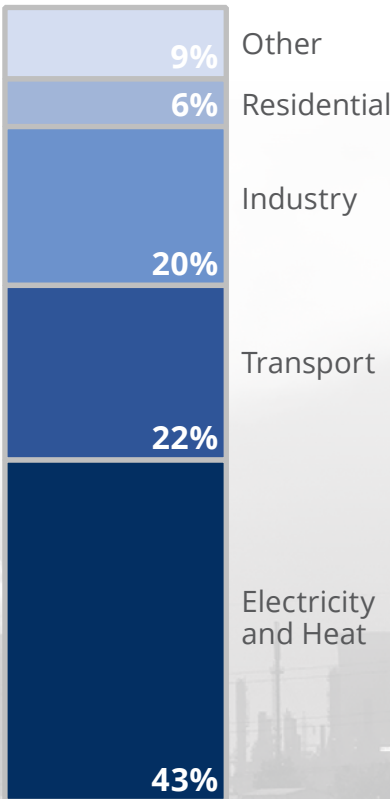
Changes in land use and land conversion also contribute to anthropogenic CO₂ emissions. These include practices like plowing land, which releases exposed carbon in the soil to the atmosphere as CO₂, and deforestation, which reduces plant biomass, thus reducing the plant uptake of airborne CO₂. Deforestation also releases CO₂ if the biomass is burned.

WHAT IS CO₂? Carbon dioxide is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring gas comprising one atom of carbon and two atoms of oxygen. At temperatures below -76°C, CO₂ condenses into a white solid called dry ice. When warmed, dry ice vaporizes directly from a solid to a CO₂ gas in a process called sublimation. With enough added pressure, liquid CO₂ can be formed. CO₂ has many industrial uses: in fire extinguishers, as a propellant in spray cans, in treatment of drinking water, for cold storage (CO₂ as dry ice), and to make bubbles in soft drinks. CO₂ is also used in large quantities for enhanced oil recovery (EOR) as part of oil production in some oil fields.

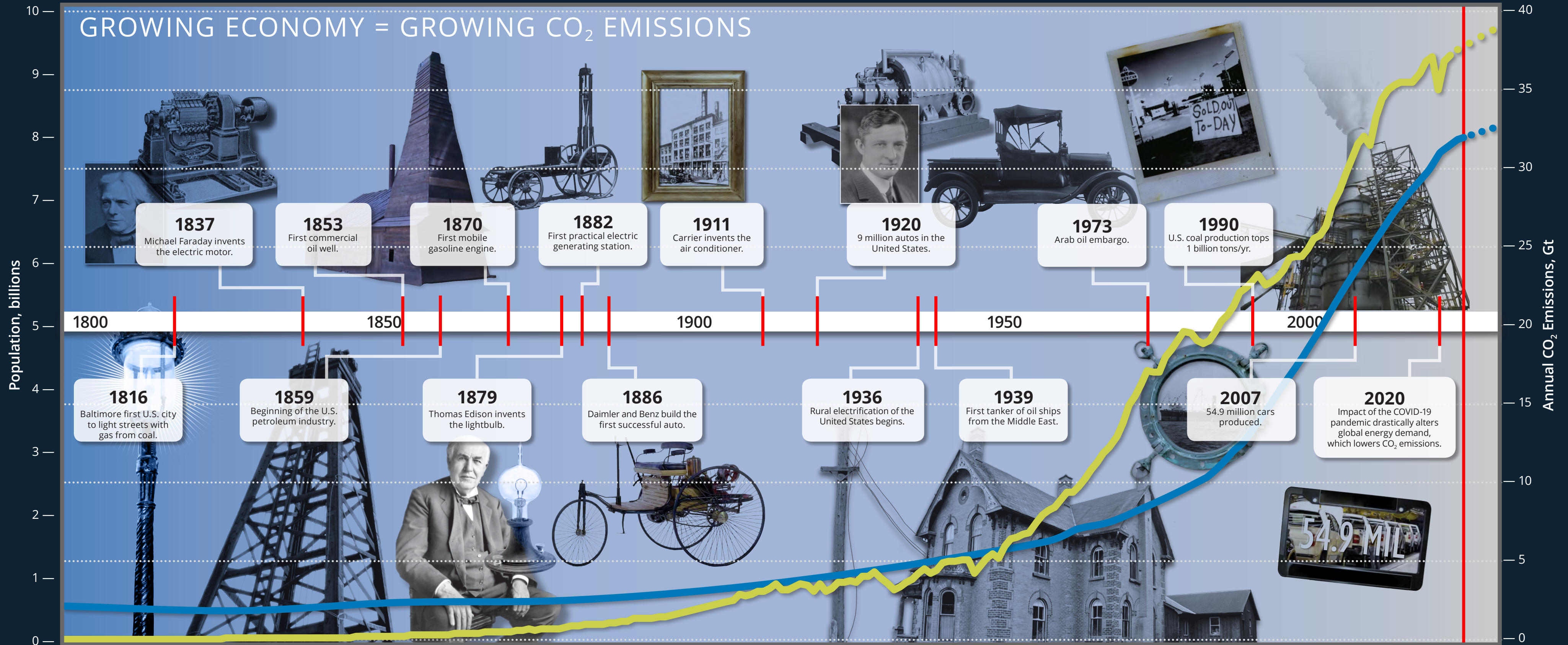
2020 GLOBAL GHG EMISSIONS⁸



2020 GLOBAL CO₂ FROM FUEL COMBUSTION BY SECTOR⁹



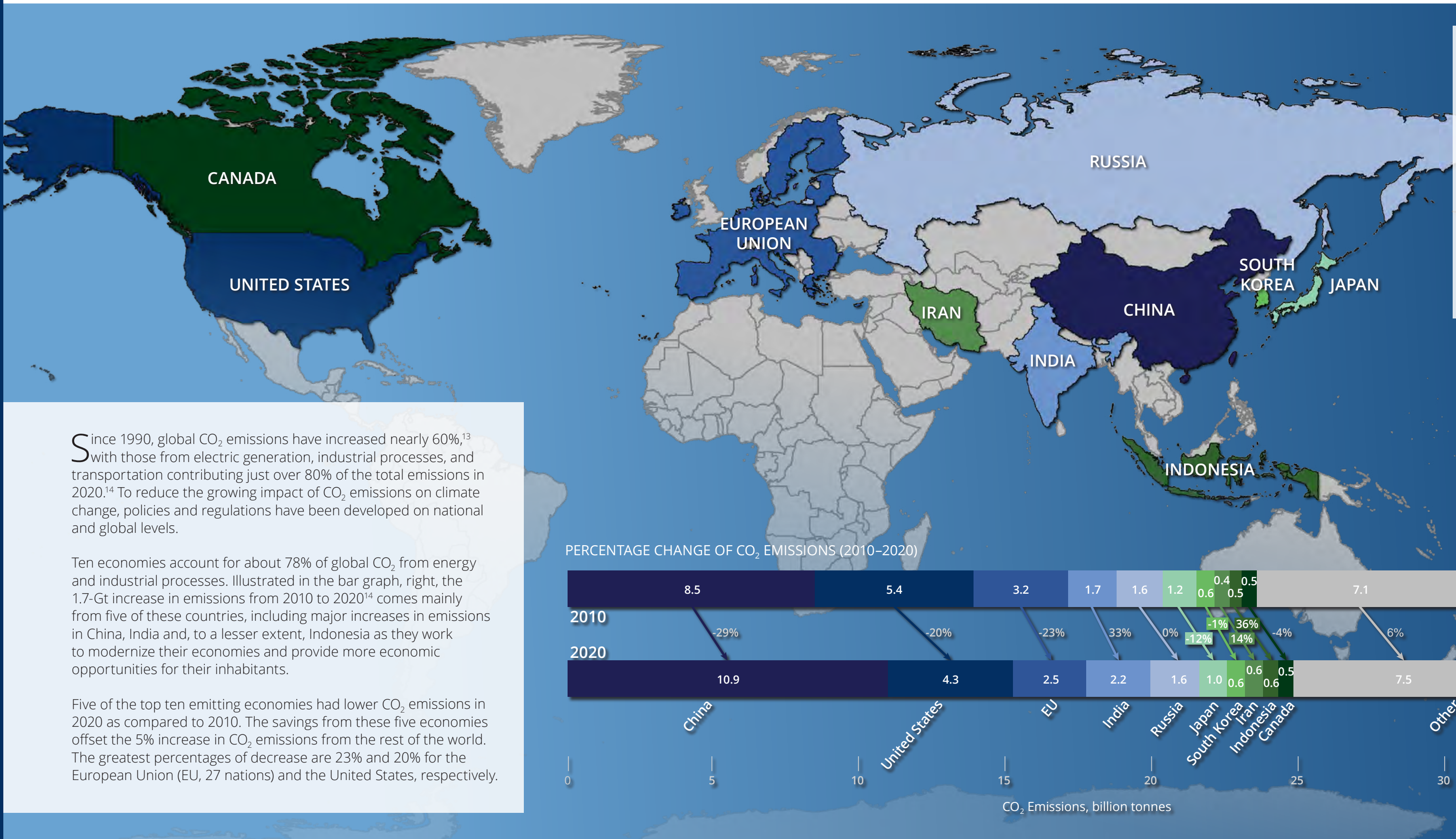
GROWING ECONOMY = GROWING CO₂ EMISSIONS



The amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere was relatively constant for 10,000 years until the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s, when the amount of anthropogenic CO₂ increased considerably. Currently, humans' combustion of fossil fuels to produce electricity emits approximately 37 Gt of CO₂ to the atmosphere annually. Increasing global populations, higher standards of living, and increased demand for energy will likely result in continued increases in global CO₂ emissions.

2024

WORLD CO₂ EMISSIONS



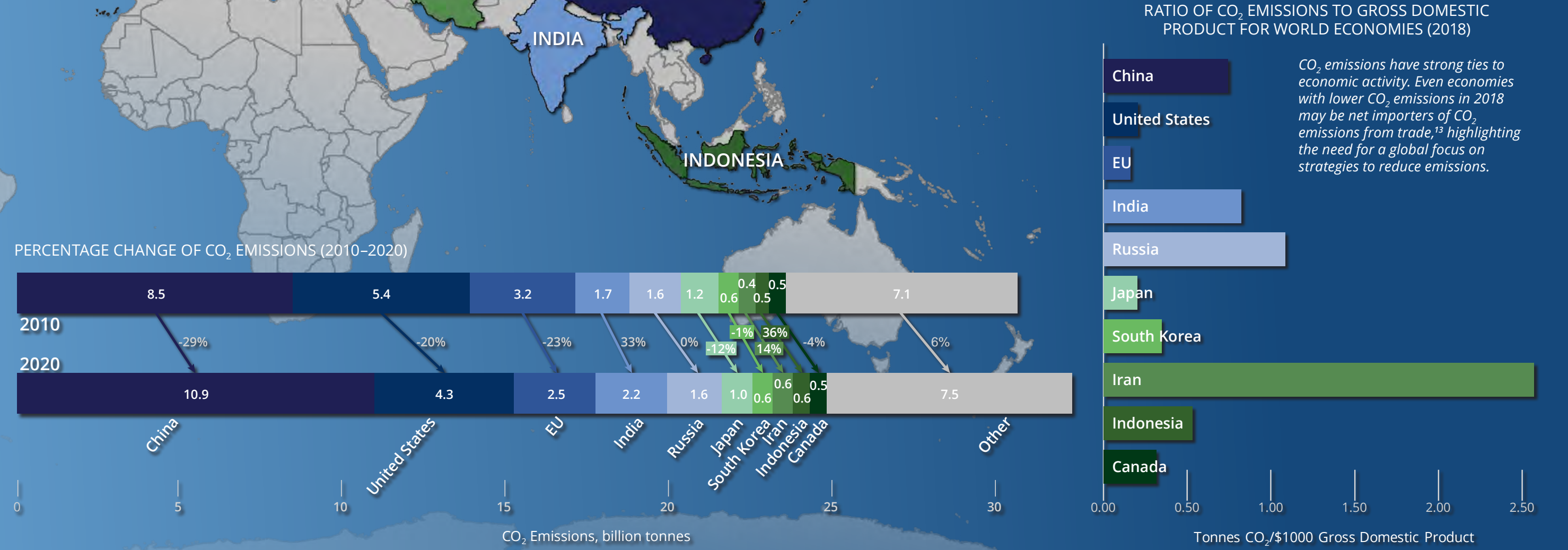
Since 1990, global CO₂ emissions have increased nearly 60%,¹³ with those from electric generation, industrial processes, and transportation contributing just over 80% of the total emissions in 2020.¹⁴ To reduce the growing impact of CO₂ emissions on climate change, policies and regulations have been developed on national and global levels.

Ten economies account for about 78% of global CO₂ from energy and industrial processes. Illustrated in the bar graph, right, the 1.7-Gt increase in emissions from 2010 to 2020¹⁴ comes mainly from five of these countries, including major increases in emissions in China, India and, to a lesser extent, Indonesia as they work to modernize their economies and provide more economic opportunities for their inhabitants.

Five of the top ten emitting economies had lower CO₂ emissions in 2020 as compared to 2010. The savings from these five economies offset the 5% increase in CO₂ emissions from the rest of the world. The greatest percentages of decrease are 23% and 20% for the European Union (EU, 27 nations) and the United States, respectively.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held its 28th meeting of the Conference of the Parties climate change conference (COP 28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from November 30 to December 13, 2023. COP 28 was the first global stocktake by nearly 200 parties since the Paris Agreement in 2015. Because of slow progress across all areas of climate action, countries outlined plans to accelerate action by 2030. These plans include a call for governments to speed up the transition away from fossil fuels in their next round of climate commitments.

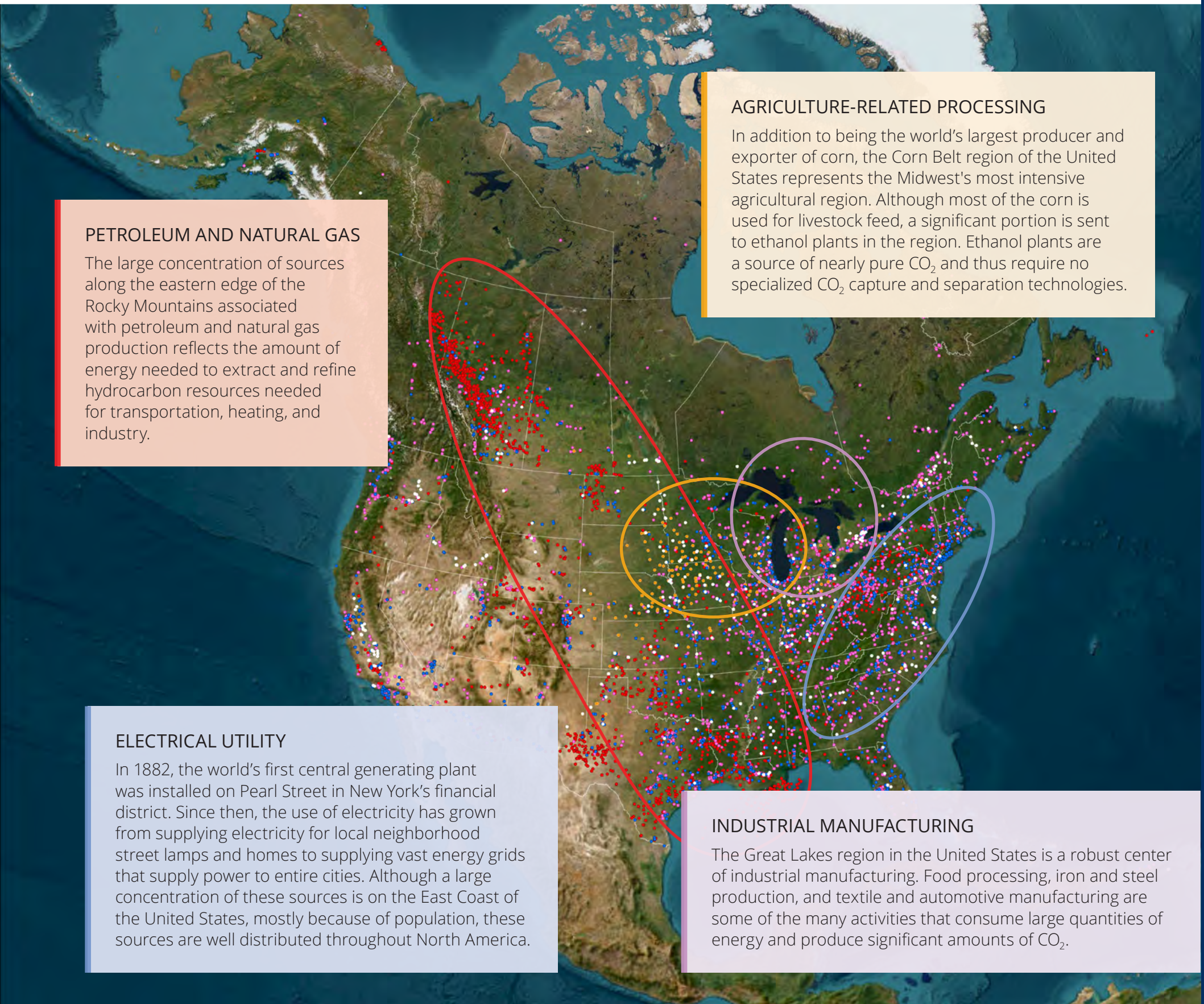
The global stocktake was considered the central outcome of COP 28 and can be used by countries to develop stronger climate action plans that are due by February 2025. The stocktake aims to cut GHG emissions by 43% by 2030 compared to 2019 levels to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C.¹⁵



CO₂ emissions have strong ties to economic activity. Even economies with lower CO₂ emissions in 2018 may be net importers of CO₂ emissions from trade,¹³ highlighting the need for a global focus on strategies to reduce emissions.

U.S. AND CANADIAN CO₂ SOURCES

U.S. AND CANADIAN PROFILE



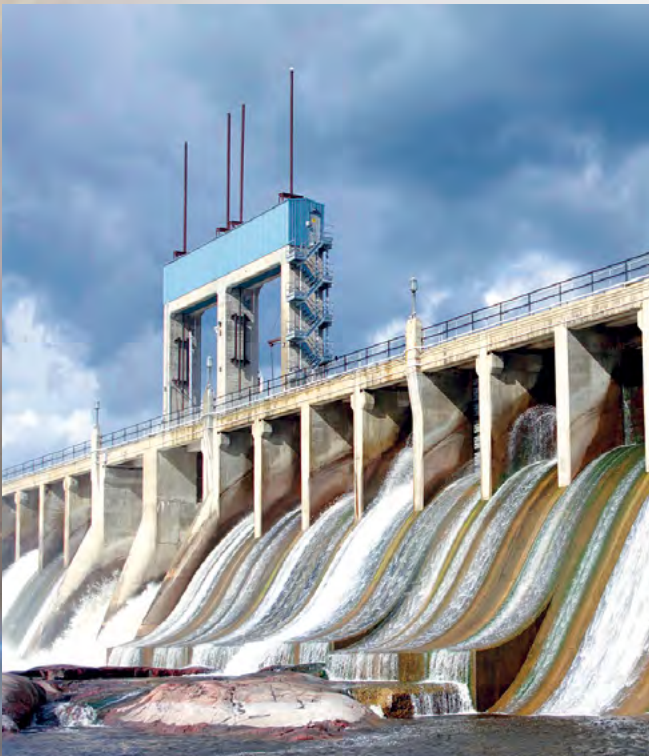
FINDING A CO₂ SOLUTION

Addressing climate change is a large-scale, global challenge that is compounded by our growing demand for energy. To reduce the risks associated with climate change, the amount of CO₂ released by human activity must be substantially reduced.

A number of techniques can be employed to reduce CO₂ emissions, including conserving energy, using fossil fuels more efficiently, and increasing the use of renewable (i.e., wind, solar, geothermal, hydropower) and nuclear energy. But in the face of growing world populations and rising worldwide standards of living, CCUS provides an opportunity to combine the continued use of fossil fuels with a significant reduction in GHG emissions. CCUS lies at the intersection of energy, the economy, and the environment, which makes it a critical approach to meet our world's clean energy needs. The PCOR Partnership is working to ensure that CCUS is developed and implemented in a practical and environmentally sound manner.

41 CCUS facilities are in operation worldwide, capturing 49 million tonnes of CO₂. An additional 26 projects are in construction, and 325 projects are in development.¹⁸

Global Status of CCS Report 2023



Over the past decade, increasing concerns over the potential impacts of climate change and increasing competition from natural gas and renewable energy sources have caused a significant shift in the U.S. energy production profile. Today coal generates about 20% of the U.S. net power generation—down about 50% from 2012. Although much of that decrease has been offset by natural gas power generation, an increasingly larger portion of power generation is coming from low-carbon renewables, such as wind and solar.

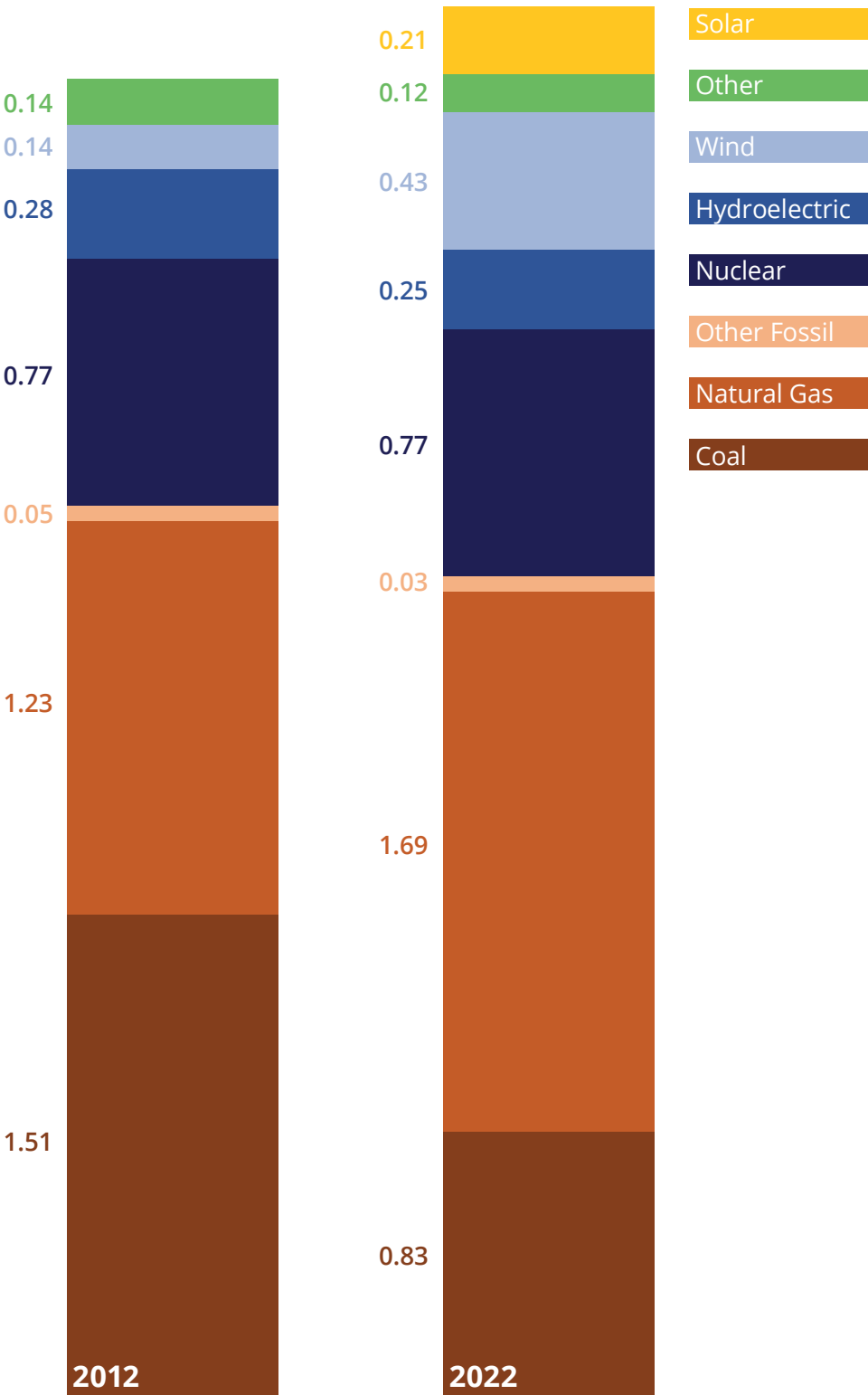
Increasing reliance on low-carbon renewable energy sources may sacrifice grid resilience and reliability. These concerns have been amplified during recent extreme weather events in the United States when much of the country was without power. A significant challenge in reducing the reliance on fossil fuels in the energy sector is to find solutions to the shortcomings of renewable energy in an economically feasible manner.

Traditional power plants equipped with CCUS technology can play an important role to ensure that future low-carbon power generation can evolve without sacrificing resilience and reliability. A study by the International Energy Agency (IEA) concludes that when accounting for system reliability and flexibility, the competitiveness of carbon capture in the power system increases relative to other generation sources.¹⁹ Thus CCUS-enabled power production can contribute to energy security while complementing and facilitating the increased deployment of renewables.

Although the total amount of electricity generated for the U.S. grid has remained relatively constant over the last decade, the primary energy used to generate electricity has changed dramatically. Factors in the change include the price of natural gas, tax incentives for renewables, and pressure to reduce CO₂ emissions from energy production.

RELIABLE ENERGY MIX

U.S. NET ELECTRICITY GENERATION FOR ALL SECTORS¹⁹
(billion MWh)



CARBON MANAGEMENT

The need to stabilize atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ requires a suite of carbon management solutions, including energy efficiency, using less carbon-intensive fuels, enhancing natural carbon uptake in the biosphere, and broadening the use of renewable energy. One of the most promising approaches involves capturing CO₂ from the exhaust gas at large stationary sources and placing it underground into permanent storage. This option is referred to as CCUS and is at the forefront for decreasing GHG emissions while retaining our existing energy generation infrastructure. This chapter covers some of the fundamental components of CCUS.

CARBON CAPTURE, UTILIZATION, AND STORAGE

Capturing CO₂ emissions from large stationary sources before the CO₂ can be released to the atmosphere is one of the primary approaches to carbon management while maintaining our use of fossil fuels to meet increasing energy demands. This approach, in conjunction with utilization and/or geologic storage, is termed CCUS and includes a set of technologies that can greatly reduce CO₂ emissions from large point sources such as coal- and gas-fired power plants, natural gas-processing facilities, ethanol plants, and other industrial processes.

CCUS involves the separation of CO₂ from other emission gases, compression of the CO₂ to a dense fluid state, and transportation of the CO₂ to an appropriate geologic storage location. Injection into deep geologic formations ensures safe, permanent storage, isolating CO₂ from the atmosphere.

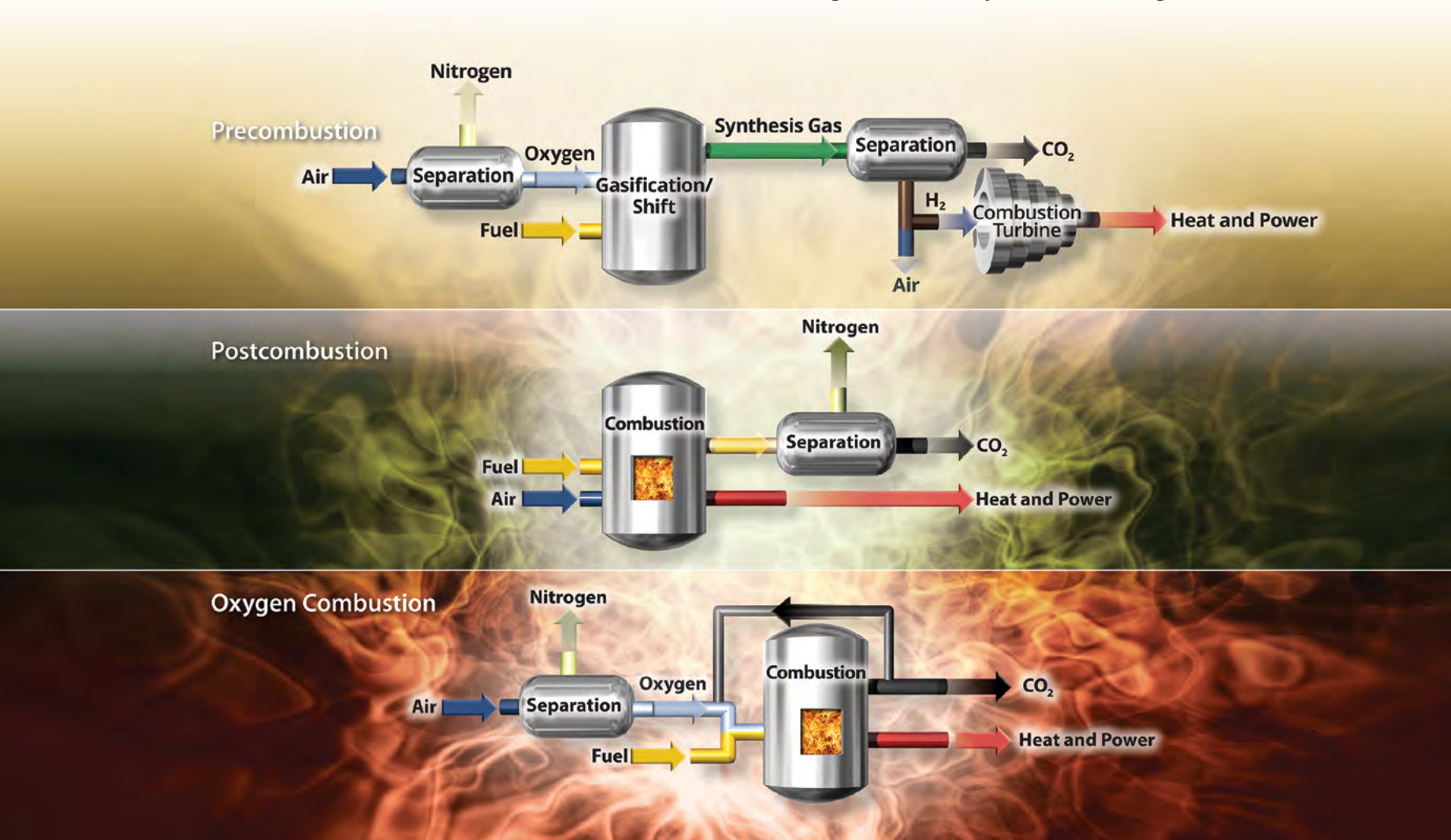


CO₂ CAPTURE FROM INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES

Capture is the separation of CO₂ from a gas stream to prevent atmospheric release. Capture can be performed before, during, or after the combustion process. Precombustion technologies consist of capturing CO₂ in conjunction with either gasification or methane reforming to produce hydrogen for use in a turbine. Capture during combustion is possible when the oxygen source is pure oxygen rather than air.

To maintain the correct boiler temperature, some flue gas is recycled to the boiler during oxygen combustion,²⁰ meaning that the atmosphere in the boiler is not pure oxygen but rather a mixture consisting primarily of oxygen and CO₂. Most capture technologies focus on separating low-concentration CO₂ from the exhaust gas stream after combustion takes place; this is called postcombustion capture. Because the concentration of CO₂ in typical power plant flue gas is low (ranging from 3%

by volume for some natural gas-fired plants to about 13% by volume for coal-fired plants),²¹ any postcombustion capture process must be sized to handle the entirety of the exhaust gas. The large scale of equipment, quantities of chemicals required, and energy needed to operate the capture system require significant capital investment. The cost of capturing the CO₂ can represent 75% of the total cost of a CCUS operation.²¹ Because capture is the costliest portion of a CCUS project, research is being performed to develop more efficient CO₂ capture processes and improve the economics of existing ones. CO₂ capture has been demonstrated at various scales, from pilot to commercial, in some coal- and gas-fired boilers. Natural gas-processing and fertilizer industries are already capturing CO₂ at commercial scale, and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant in Beulah, North Dakota, uses precombustion techniques to separate CO₂ from its lignite-derived synthetic natural gas.

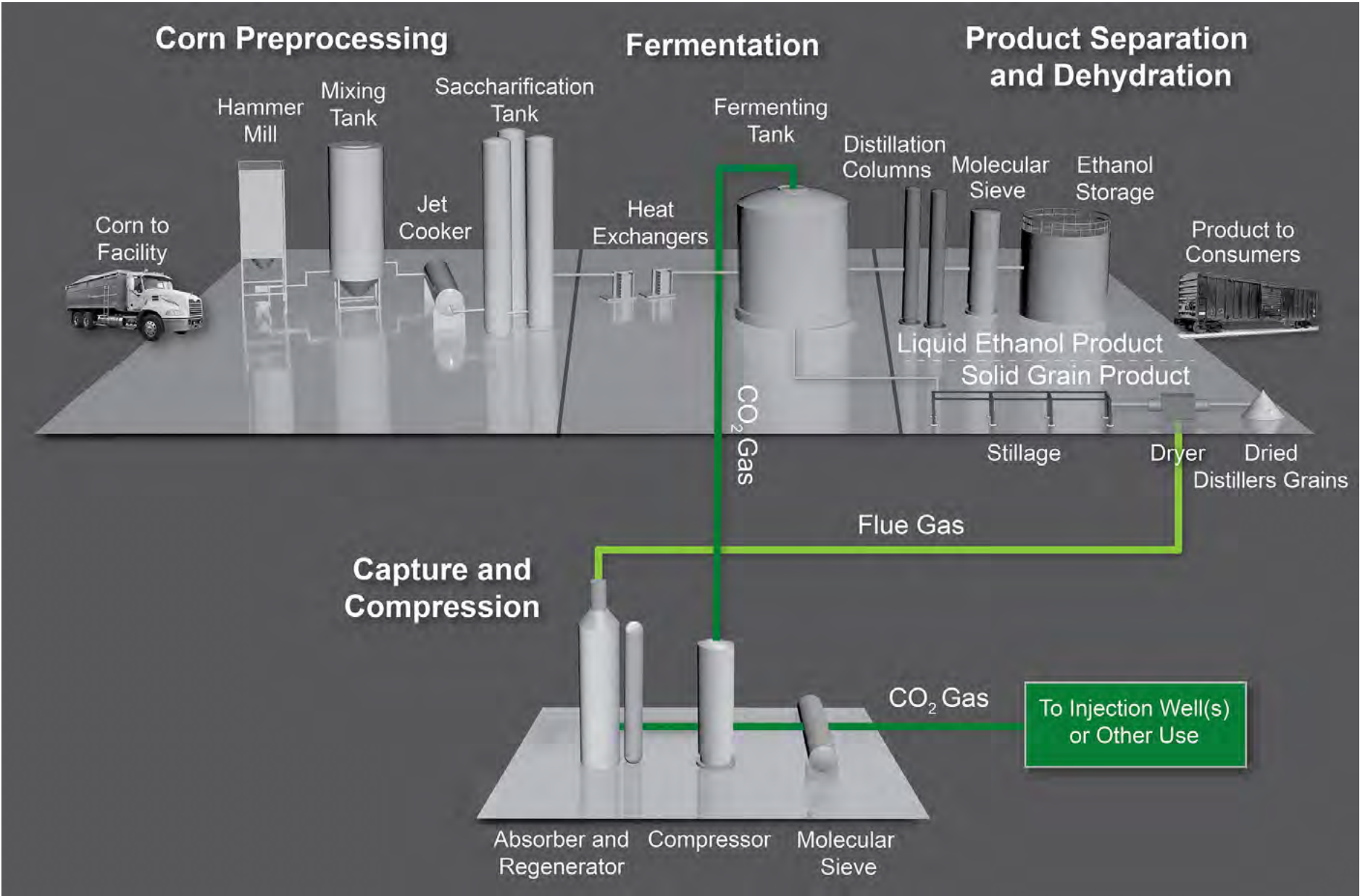


CAPTURE FROM ETHANOL PROCESSES

Ethanol plants typically generate two emission streams containing CO₂. One of these streams comes from the combustion of natural gas or coal used to dry corn ethanol by-products. Capture of CO₂ from this emission stream would require technology like that used to capture CO₂ from power plants.

corn to fuel. This emission stream contains more than 95% CO₂ and requires little additional capture processing prior to subsurface injection and geologic storage or EOR. Although coal-fired power plants can provide much larger volumes of CO₂ for use in EOR, the nearly capture-ready nature of biogenic CO₂ makes ethanol plants a prime target for early CCUS projects.

The second CO₂ emission stream from ethanol plants comes from the fermentation (biogenic) associated with converting



DIRECT AIR CAPTURE

Another CO₂ capture technology that is gaining interest is direct air capture (DAC). In this case, CO₂ is removed directly from the atmosphere by using liquid solvents or by flowing air over or through solid sorbents. An advantage of DAC is that the plant can be located near CO₂ sinks such as oil fields for use in EOR or other areas suitable for permanent geologic storage. That proximity eliminates the need to transport the CO₂ over

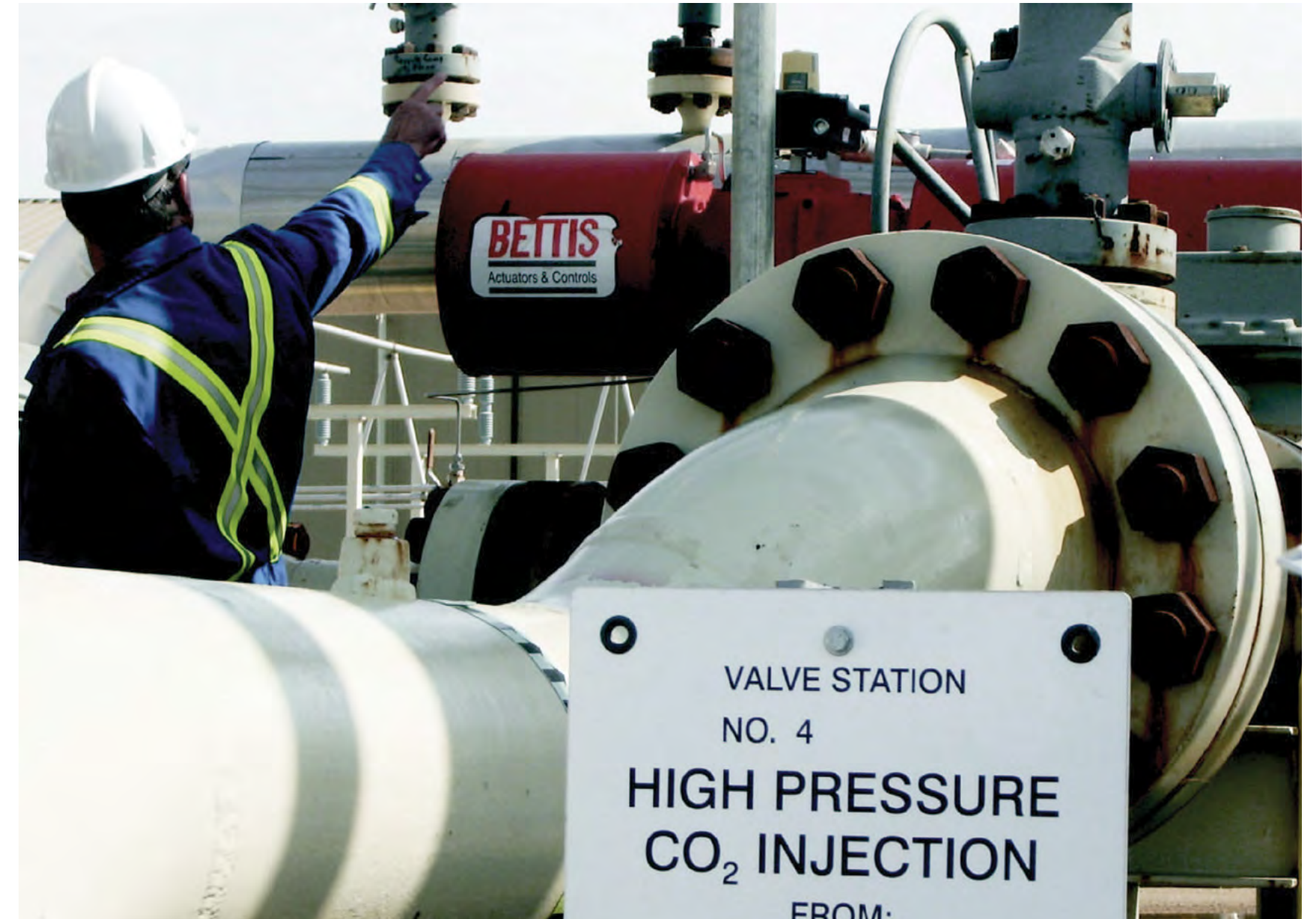
long distances. Additionally, DAC technologies are typically not subjected to the impurities encountered in point-source capture applications. Challenges include the energy required for the process, which can be more energy-intensive compared to CO₂ removal from concentrated sources. Large volumes of air must be circulated over or through the sorbent material because of the small percentage of CO₂ in the atmosphere.



Banks of fans blow air through a CO₂-capturing solution in this rendering of a DAC plant.

CO₂ AND COMPRESSION

Captured CO₂ must be dehydrated and compressed into a supercritical or liquidlike state before transport to the storage site. CO₂ must be compressed to at least 1200–1700 pounds per square inch (psi) for transport in a pipeline to ensure that CO₂ remains a dense liquid.²² Because compression is energy-intensive, improved compression methods are under development.



CO₂ TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Following capture and compression, CO₂ is transported to a storage site. Given the quantities of CO₂ that are likely to be captured from industrial sources, pipelines are the most efficient mode for transporting the captured gas to geologic storage sites. Currently, more than 8500 km (5300 miles) of CO₂ pipeline is in service in North America, with additional pipeline planned or under construction.²²



CO₂ PIPELINES

Pipelines are a proven technology and have been used to safely transport industrial quantities of CO₂ for over 50 years. CO₂ pipelines are similar in design and operation to natural gas pipelines, although the higher pressures needed for CO₂ transportation require thicker-walled carbon steel pipe.

Building a regional CO₂ pipeline infrastructure for CCUS activities will require thoughtful planning. Pipelines may be built to connect individual CO₂ sources and storage sites in a point-to-point fashion; however, pipelines may also be used to connect multiple sources and storage sites in a network. Network options may reduce overall costs, but common carrier issues such as those related to CO₂ stream quality may need to be addressed.

Pipelines carrying CO₂ have an excellent safety record. Strategies undertaken to manage risks include fracture arresters approximately every 300 m, block valves to isolate pipe sections if they leak, the use of advanced seals, and automatic control systems that monitor volumetric flow rates and pressure.



NO fatalities have been reported as a result of CO₂ transport via pipeline.²³



SECURE GEOLOGIC STORAGE

GEOLOGIC STORAGE CRITERIA

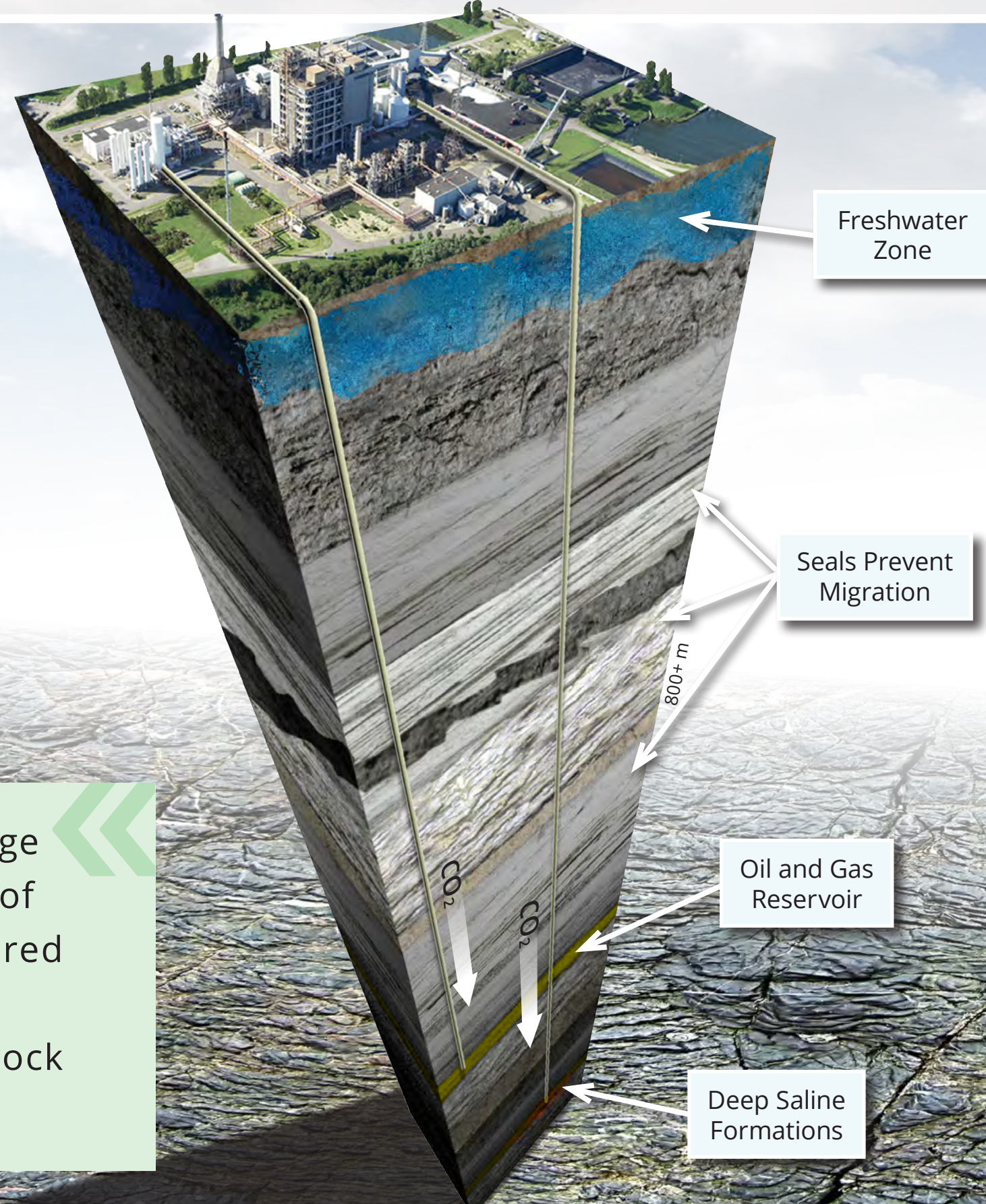
Geologic storage involves injecting captured anthropogenic CO₂ into deep underground geologic formations. Typically found in areas with thick accumulations of sedimentary rock known as basins, these formations include porous and permeable layers of rock (reservoirs) that may contain natural fluids, including very salty water (brine), oil, gas, and even CO₂. Scientists have identified many potentially suitable areas across the globe that have the capacity to securely hold hundreds of years of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions deep underground.

STORAGE RESERVOIR CHARACTERISTICS

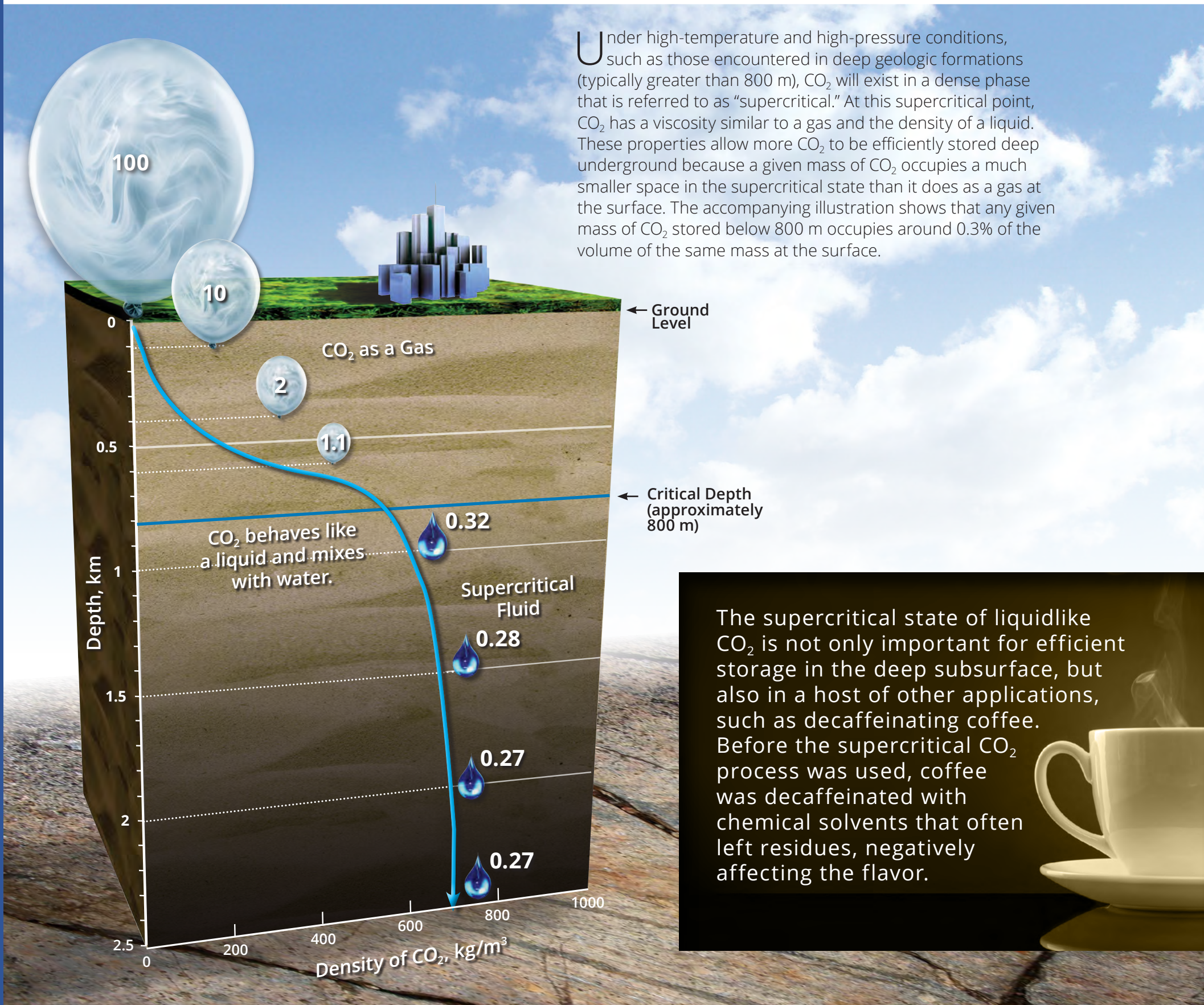
Site selection is central to securely storing CO₂ because successful geologic storage requires that CO₂ stay in place and not pose significant risk to human health and the environment. Storage reservoirs should:

- Be capable of storing large quantities of CO₂ permanently.
- Be overlain by thick, laterally continuous seals or cap rocks that prevent upward migration of CO₂.
- Be at depths that take advantage of dense-phase CO₂ (typically >800 m), which allows efficient use of reservoir pore space for storage.
- Not impact underground sources of drinking water (USDWs), defined in the United States as water with salinity values less than 10,000 mg/L.
- Not be located in areas likely to be affected by natural or individual seismic activity.

Geologic storage is the process of injecting captured CO₂ into deep underground rock formations.



SUPERCRITICAL CO₂



TRAPPING CO₂ IN ROCKS

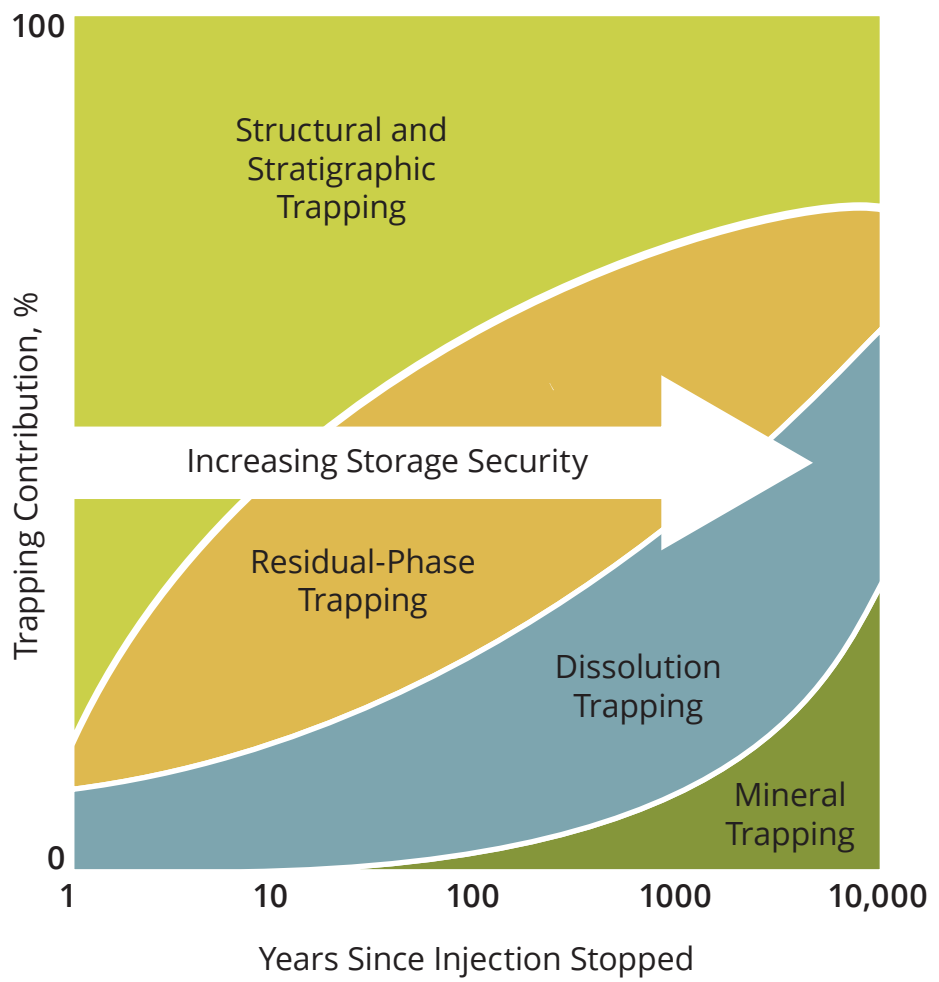
Several mechanisms function to trap and store CO₂ in deep geologic formations.²¹

STRUCTURAL AND STRATIGRAPHIC TRAPPING – Injected CO₂ is typically less dense than native pore fluids, most commonly brine, in deep geologic formations. This lower density causes CO₂ to rise through the storage reservoir. An overlying seal or cap rock, consisting of relatively impermeable rock such as shale or salt, can prevent upward migration out of the reservoir. Various configurations of rocks can lead to this trapping, as depicted in the diagrams at the bottom of this page. This primary trapping mechanism has held natural accumulations of CO₂ for millions of years.

RESIDUAL-PHASE TRAPPING – As injected CO₂ migrates through a reservoir, small droplets may become detached and remain trapped within the center of pore spaces, typically surrounded by brine. These residual droplets are effectively immobilized.

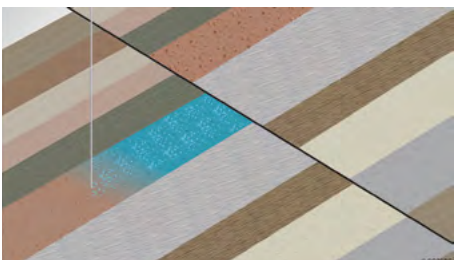
DISSOLUTION TRAPPING – Just as sugar dissolves in water, some of the CO₂ will dissolve into brine in the pore spaces. Brine with dissolved CO₂ becomes denser than the surrounding brine and will sink to the bottom of the reservoir, minimizing the possibility of further migration.

MINERAL TRAPPING – The last stage of CO₂ trapping involves a chemical reaction between the dissolved CO₂ in the formation fluids and the minerals in the target formation and cap rock to form new solid minerals, thus effectively locking the CO₂ in place. Mineral trapping will typically occur over extended timescales and is difficult to predict with accuracy.

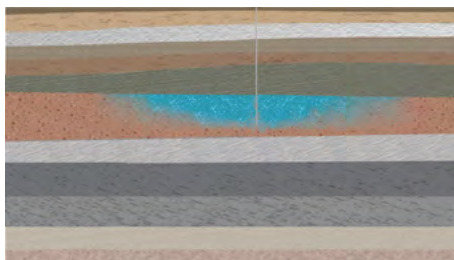


As time passes after the injection of CO₂ into a deep geologic environment, the trapping mechanism becomes more effective. Storage security increases as the trapping mechanism moves from the physical process of structural and stratigraphic trapping toward geochemically based processes.

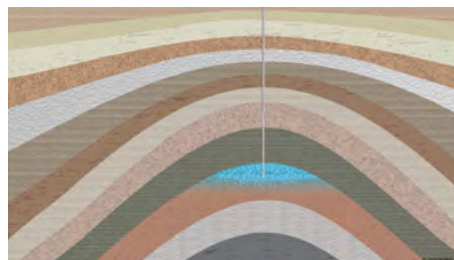
STRUCTURAL AND STRATIGRAPHIC TRAPPING



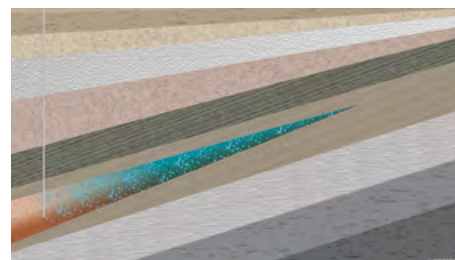
A sealing fault can line up an impervious rock layer with the formation to prevent the CO₂ from moving upward out of the formation.



The CO₂ is trapped when there is a sudden change in the rock formations so that the CO₂ cannot move upward.



The buoyant CO₂ will collect under a curved layer of impermeable rock at the highest point, unable to move out of the formation.



CO₂ can become trapped when the rock type in the formation changes from permeable to impermeable.

OIL FIELDS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

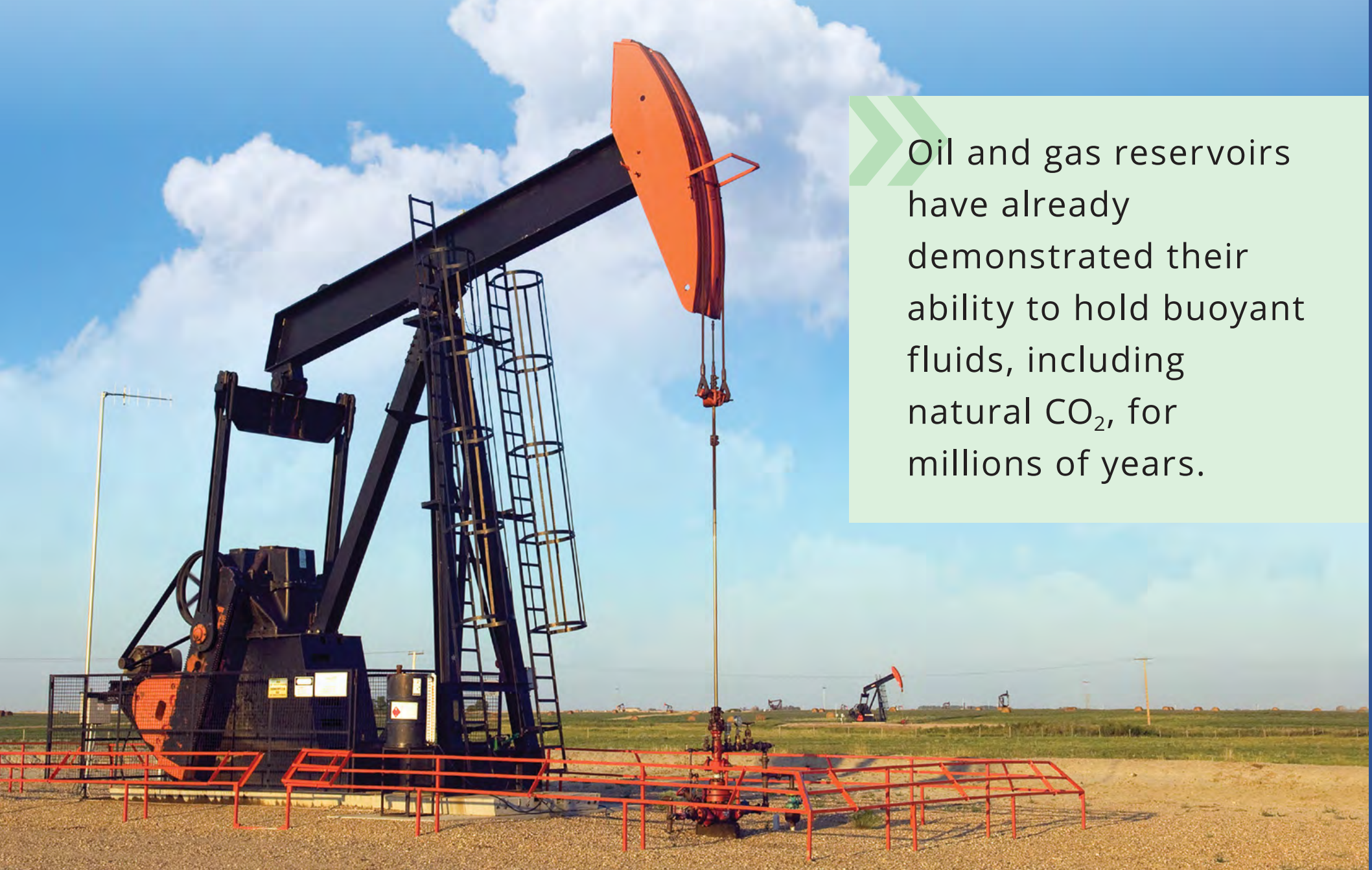


CO₂ IN OIL FIELDS

The geology of CO₂ storage is analogous to the geology of petroleum exploration: the search for oil is the search for stored hydrocarbons. Oil fields have many characteristics that make them excellent target locations to store CO₂. Therefore, the geologic conditions that are conducive to hydrocarbon accumulation (storage) are also the conditions that are conducive to CO₂ storage. The three requirements for trapping and accumulating hydrocarbons are a hydrocarbon source, a suitable reservoir, and impermeable vertical seals.

A single oil field can have multiple zones of accumulation that are commonly referred to as pools, although specific legal definitions of fields, pools, and reservoirs can vary for each state or province. Once injected into an oil field, CO₂ may be stored in a pool through dissolution into the formation fluids (oil and/or water); as a buoyant supercritical-phase CO₂ plume at the top of the reservoir (depending on the location of the injection zone within the reservoir); and/or by mineralization through geochemical reactions with CO₂, formation waters, and/or formation rock matrices.

Oil and gas reservoirs have already demonstrated their ability to hold buoyant fluids, including natural CO₂, for millions of years.



ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY

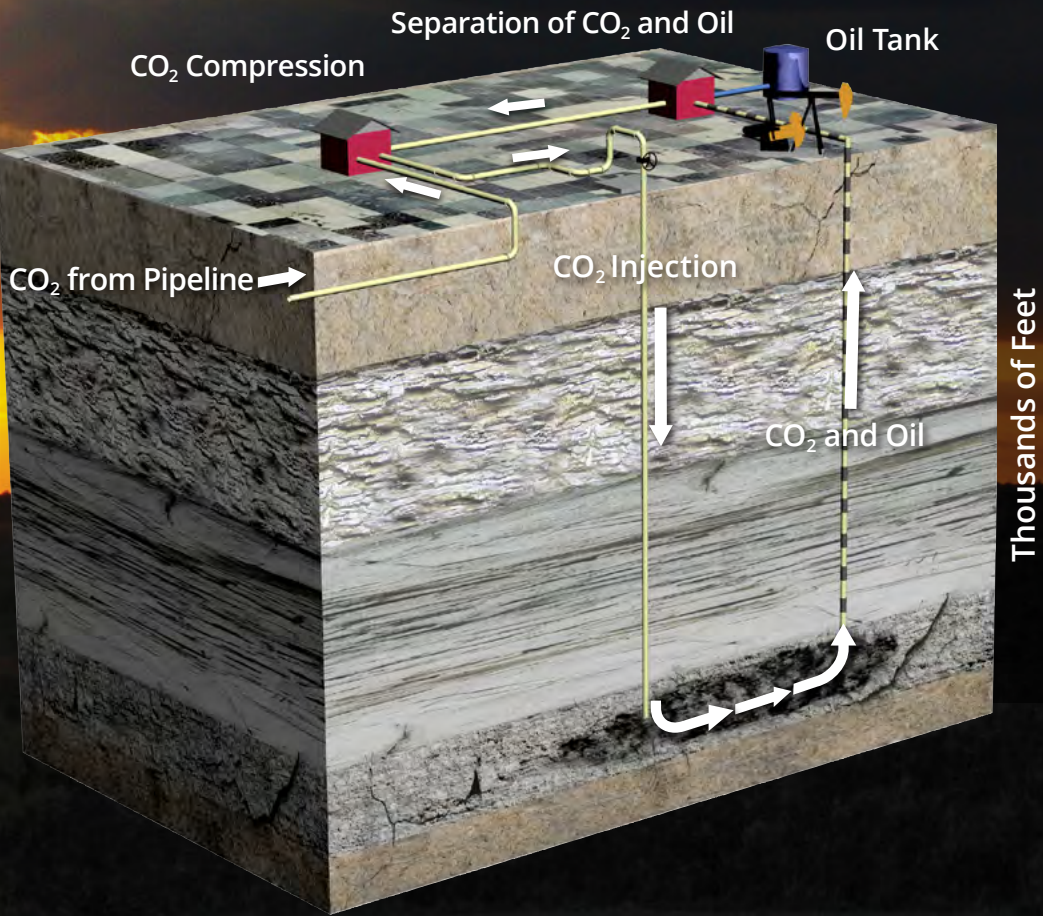
CO₂ GETS THE OIL OUT

Most oil is extracted in three distinct phases: primary, secondary, and tertiary (or enhanced) recovery. Primary and secondary recovery operations often leave more than two-thirds of the oil in the reservoir. Injecting CO₂ into the reservoirs through the EOR process can recover some of that remaining oil.

HOW EOR WORKS:

When CO₂ comes into contact with oil, a significant portion dissolves into the oil, reducing the oil's viscosity and increasing its mobility. This, combined with the increased pressure from injection, can result in increased oil production rates and extend the lifetime of the oil reservoir. While some CO₂ is produced along with the extra oil, a significant portion of the CO₂ remains in the subsurface. When an oilfield operator is finished with EOR operations, nearly all of the CO₂ remains trapped in the subsurface.

Since 1986, CO₂ EOR projects in the United States have produced about **2.8 billion** barrels of oil.²⁵



Not all reservoirs are good candidates for CO₂-based EOR. Factors such as geology, depth, and the nature of the oil itself will determine the effectiveness of CO₂ for EOR.

Since the 1970s, operators in West Texas have safely pumped millions of tonnes of CO₂ into oil fields for EOR purposes. As of the end of 2022, there were 139 CO₂ EOR projects underway across 12 states. Although a majority of CO₂ used in this process is sourced from natural underground deposits, the proportion of CO₂ derived from the capture of anthropogenic emissions is increasing. CO₂ EOR has also been deployed for two decades or more in Canada, and in recent years, China, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Mexico have begun pilot- or full-scale projects.

CO₂ EOR LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS

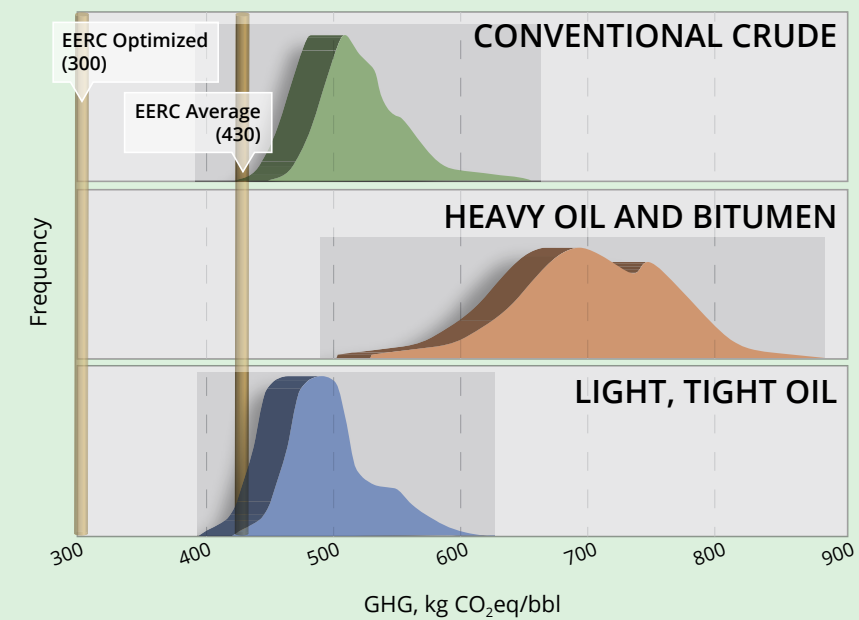
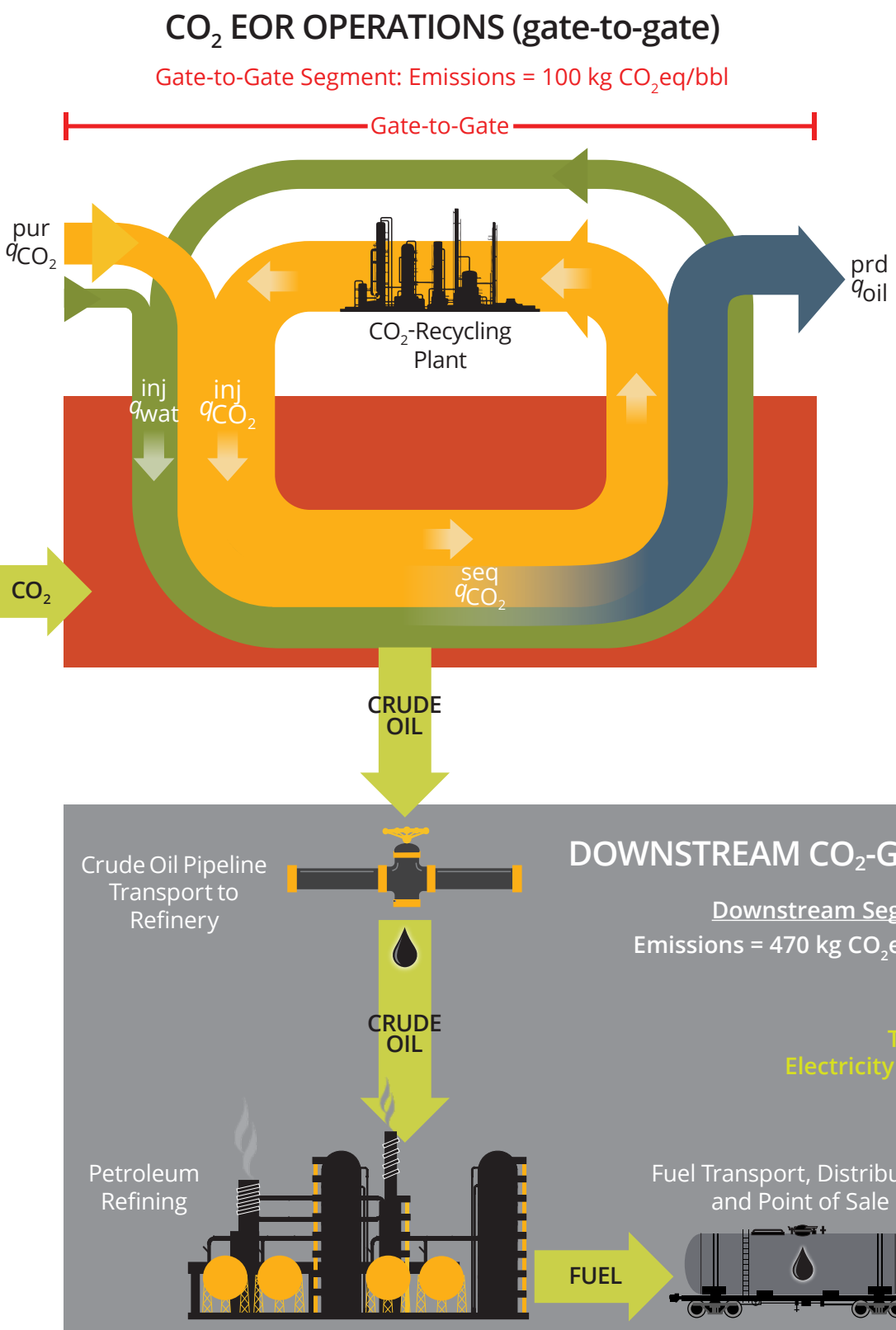
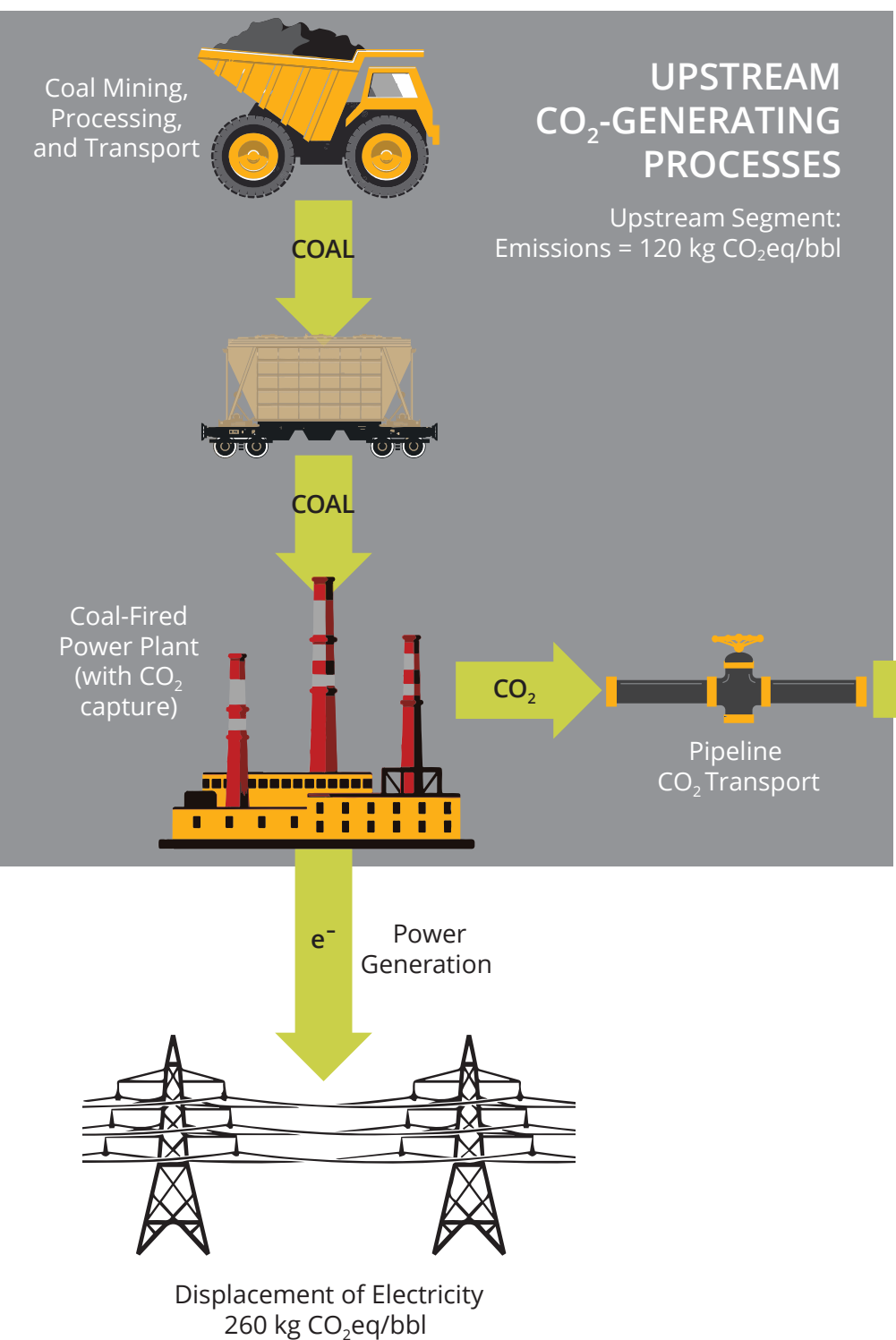
Life cycle analysis (LCA) is an approach to account for CO₂ storage at an EOR site and to track CO₂ emissions at all stages of a CO₂ EOR project. The LCA results may then be used to evaluate the life cycle CO₂ emissions per barrel of oil produced via CO₂ EOR as compared to oil produced by other methods.

The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) conducted a detailed LCA of CO₂ emissions associated with a generic CO₂ EOR project where the CO₂ was sourced from a coal-fired power plant.²⁶ The modeled system included three segments: upstream, gate-to-gate, and downstream CO₂-generating processes. Upstream processes included coal extraction and processing, transport, power generation with CO₂ capture, and CO₂ transport to the CO₂ EOR field. Gate-to-gate processes included CO₂ stored at a reservoir, land use, injection and recovery, bulk separation and storage of fluids and gases, and other supporting processes such as venting and flaring gases. Downstream processes included crude oil transport, refining, fuel transport, and combustion. The average total CO₂ equivalent (CO₂eq) emissions from upstream, gate-to-gate, and downstream segments were 690 kg CO₂eq/bbl.

However, since 85% or more of the required CO₂ was captured at the power plant, emissions associated with electricity generation were significantly reduced. This electricity coproduct displaced alternative sources of electricity from the U.S. electricity grid, i.e., each new MWh produced with CO₂ capture displaced an existing MWh (a one-to-one replacement). Accounting for this displacement resulted in a final emissions factor for the incremental oil produced via CO₂ EOR of 430 kg CO₂eq/bbl.

pur = purchased
pro = produced
inj = injected
seq = sequestered

Note: Emissions are expressed as CO₂eq, which includes CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O.



Life cycle emission distributions for conventional crude (top); heavy oil and bitumen (middle); and light, tight oil (bottom).²⁷ Most conventional crude oil contains about 500 kg CO₂eq/bbl. Tan bars indicate EERC estimates from a detailed LCA of GHG emissions associated with CO₂ EOR where the CO₂ is sourced from a coal-fired power plant. The average value (430 kg CO₂eq/bbl) represents the LCA result when all inputs are set to their mean values, and the optimized value (300 kg CO₂eq/bbl) represents the LCA results when all inputs are set to maximize CO₂ storage and minimize the oil GHG emissions.

DOWNSTREAM CO₂-GENERATING PROCESSES

Downstream Segment	Net Life Cycle Balance
Emissions = 470 kg CO ₂ eq/bbl	120 kg CO ₂ eq/bbl
	100 kg CO ₂ eq/bbl
	+ 470 kg CO ₂ eq/bbl
Total Emissions	690 kg CO₂eq/bbl
Electricity Displacement	-260 kg CO₂eq/bbl
	430 kg CO₂eq/bbl

NORTH AMERICAN SEDIMENTARY BASINS



CO₂ IN SALINE FORMATIONS

Sedimentary basins are relatively large areas of Earth's surface that, for various reasons, have subsided over long periods of geologic time. This subsidence allowed for the accumulation of sediments that eventually lithified into rock. Areas where the accumulation of sediments is thick enough (>800 m) may have an arrangement of rock layers suitable for CO₂ storage.

Many sedimentary basins are home to hydrocarbon accumulations that are being tapped in the oil and gas fields of the world. In addition to oil and gas, the rocks in sedimentary basins are often saturated with brine. These layers of rock are referred to as saline formations and are widely distributed throughout North America and the rest of the world, making them accessible to many large-scale CO₂ sources. Saline formations suitable for CO₂ storage are made of sandstone, limestone, dolomite, or some mix of the three. Many of these formations are ideally situated to provide not only large potential for CO₂ storage but are also overlain by thick and regionally extensive cap rocks. These cap rocks function as seals to help ensure that the injected CO₂ will remain in place permanently.

» Deep saline formations account for most of the world's geologic storage resource and may provide an ideal storage option for facilities not able to take advantage of economical CO₂ EOR opportunities.



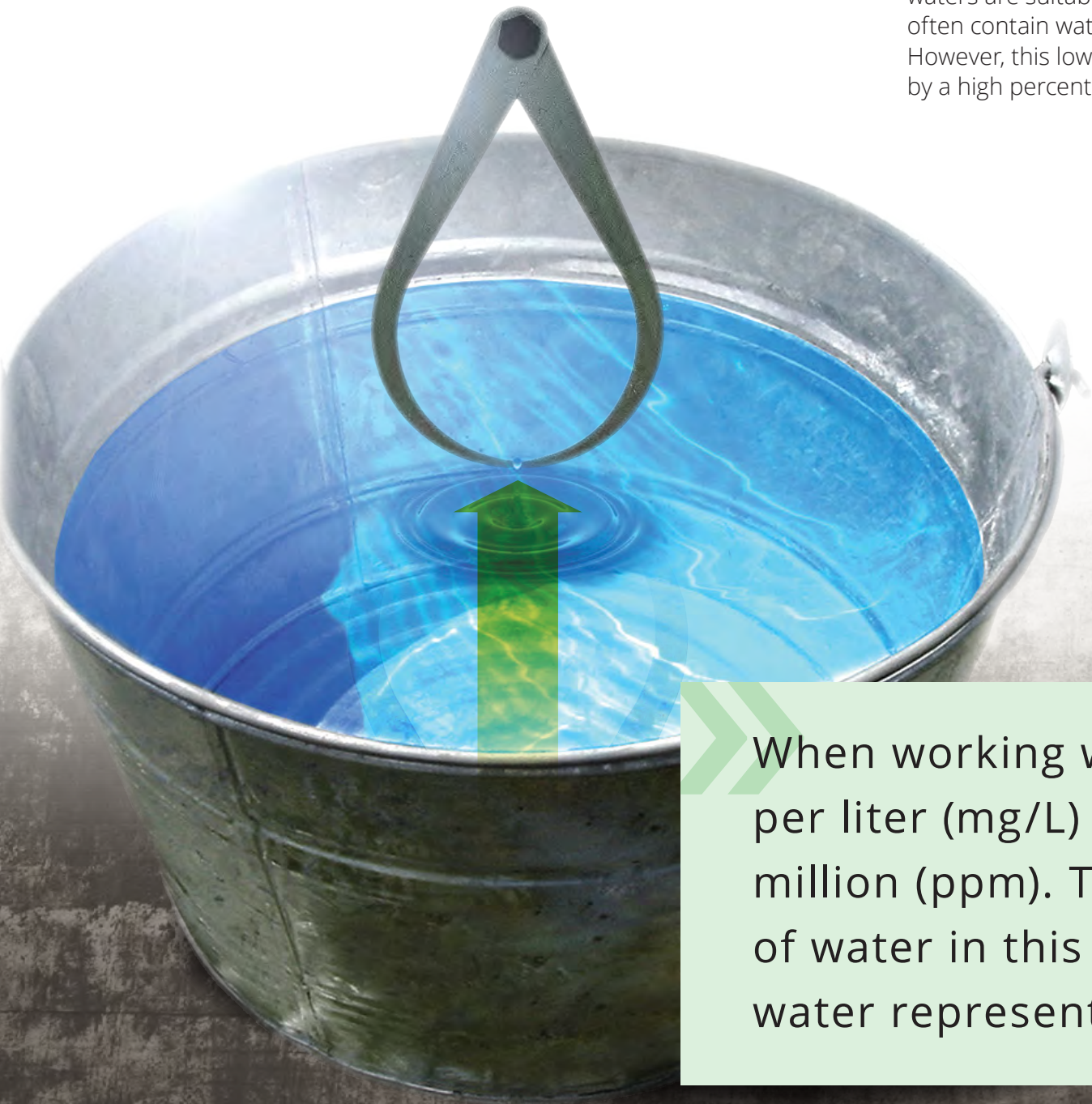
PUTTING TDS LEVELS INTO PERSPECTIVE



SALINITY

The salinity of water is often expressed through an analytical measurement referred to as total dissolved solids (TDS). This is a measure of the combined content of dissolved substances in water, primarily consisting of ions of inorganic salts (mainly, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, bicarbonates, chlorides, and sulfates).

In general, EPA has ruled that CO₂ cannot be injected into geologic formations where the TDS level is less than 10,000 mg/L. This stipulation is meant to protect valuable USDWs that may, in the future, be used for drinking water or other municipal water uses. Many of the saline formations targeted for CO₂ storage have TDS values greater than 50,000 mg/L, and some deeper portions of sedimentary basins have TDS values exceeding 300,000 mg/L. Not all lower-TDS waters are suitable groundwater resources; oil reservoirs often contain water that has a TDS level less than 10,000 mg/L. However, this lower concentration of dissolved ions is countered by a high percentage of hydrocarbons or other organic material.



When working with water, 1 milligram per liter (mg/L) is equivalent to 1 part per million (ppm). There are 1 million drops of water in this bucket. One drop of this water represents 1 ppm.

THE PCOR PARTNERSHIP

Because CCUS requires a new combination of existing and novel technologies, research and demonstration are needed to advance our knowledge of their potential to better manage CO₂. The PCOR Partnership is assessing and prioritizing the opportunities for CO₂ storage in the region and working to resolve the technical, regulatory, and environmental challenges to the most promising storage opportunities. At the same time, the PCOR Partnership informs policymakers and the public about CO₂ sources, storage strategies, and storage opportunities.



THE RCSP INITIATIVE PROGRAM



The Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (RCSP) Initiative is a key component of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Carbon Storage Program efforts to validate geologic storage technologies and support commercialization of CCUS. Since 2003, the DOE RCSPs have been developing expertise in all aspects of CCUS through activities ranging from laboratory- and modeling-based investigations to large-scale field tests. The RCSP Program is recognized internationally for its contributions to the science and technology of subsurface characterization, design, operation, and monitoring for geologic storage.

The PCOR Partnership is one of four regional initiative projects established in 2019 from the RCSP Program. Under this DOE-supported initiative, the PCOR Partnership continues to serve its region and broad stakeholder base to advance and accelerate CCUS deployment. Each of the four partnerships is identifying and addressing knowledge gaps and technical challenges as well as disseminating knowledge to accelerate commercial CCUS deployment. Each partnership will leverage its region's strengths to identify and promote potential infrastructure and/or CCUS projects that will enable the low-CO₂-emission industries of the future.

ADVANCED STORAGE R&D

Wellbore Integrity and Mitigation

Storage Complex Efficiency and Security

Monitoring, Verification, Accounting (MVA), and Assessment

STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership Program

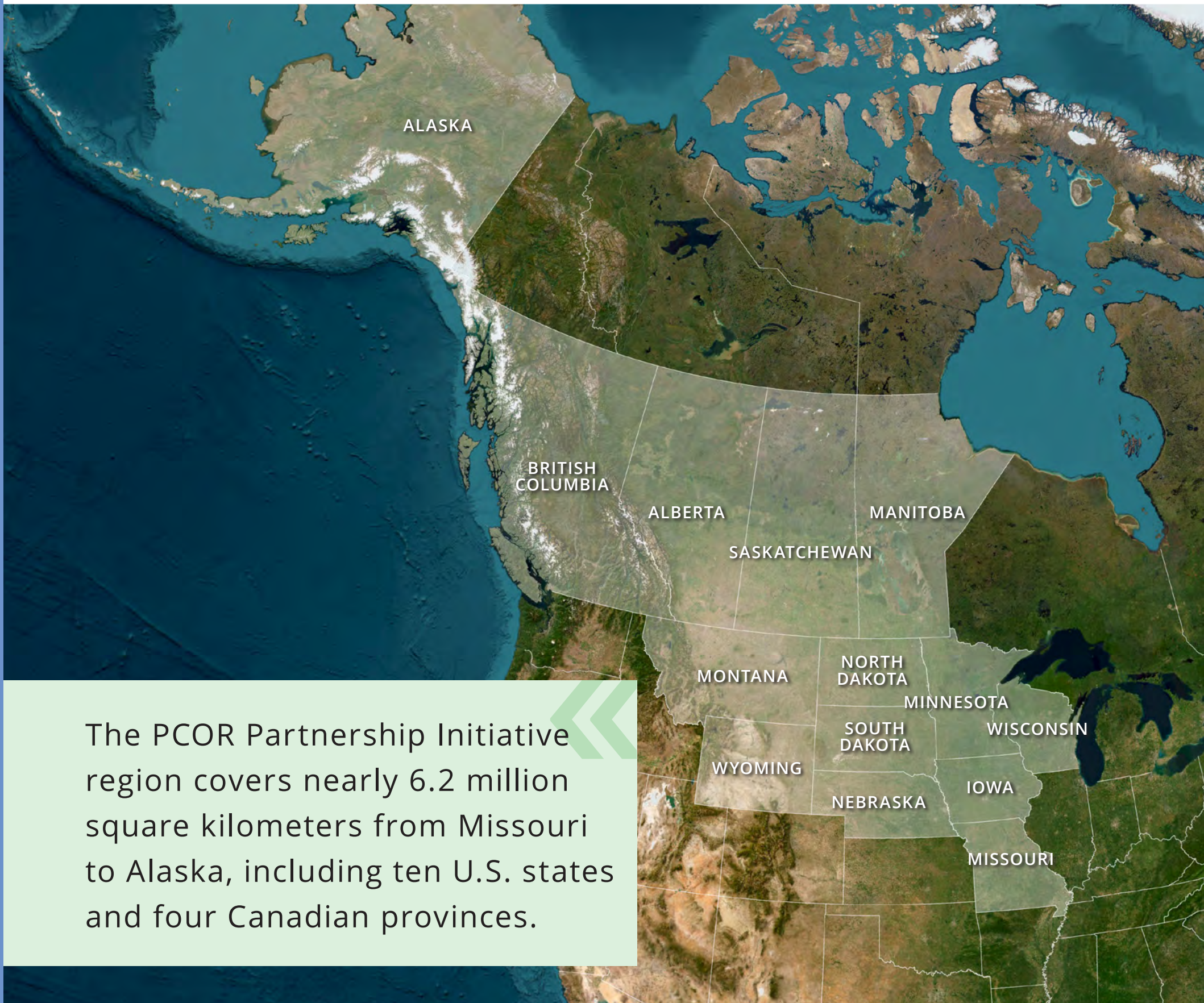
Characterization Field Projects (onshore and offshore)

Fit-for-Purpose Projects

RISK AND INTEGRATION TOOLS

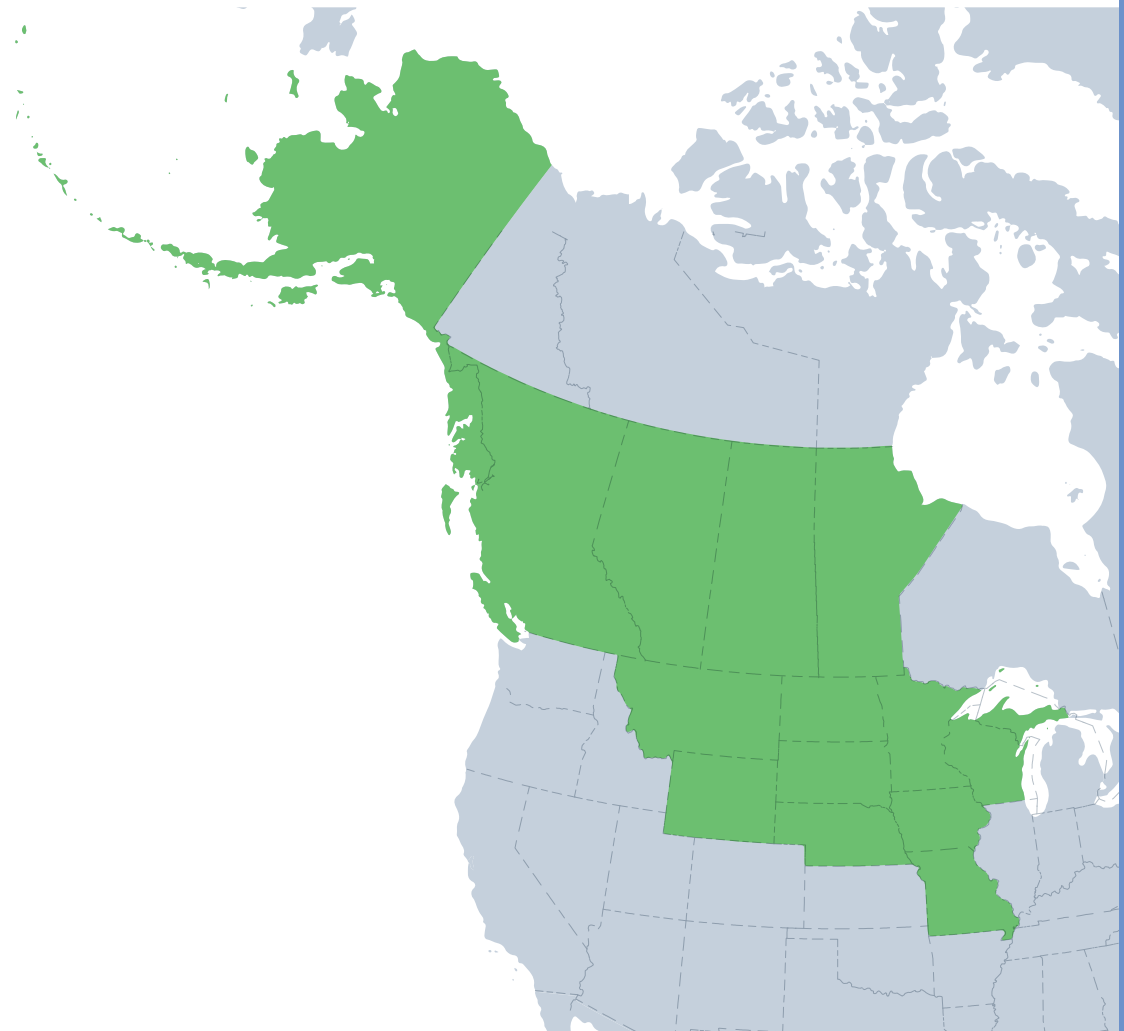
THE DOE CARBON STORAGE PROGRAM³⁵ comprises three technology areas: storage infrastructure; advanced storage research and development (R&D); and risk and integration tools, which cuts across and links the other two.

PCOR PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE REGION



The PCOR Partnership Initiative region covers nearly 6.2 million square kilometers from Missouri to Alaska, including ten U.S. states and four Canadian provinces.

PCOR PARTNERSHIP



The EERC leverages the combined years of experience of the PCOR Partnership and the Partnership for CO₂ Capture (PCO₂C) to address regional capture, transport, use, and storage challenges facing commercial CCUS deployment by:

- Strengthening the technical foundation for geologic CO₂ storage and EOR.
- Advancing capture technology.
- Improving application of monitoring technologies.
- Promoting integration between capture, transportation, use, and storage industries.
- Providing scientific support to regulatory agencies and policymakers.

The PCOR Partnership—funded by DOE’s National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC), and partner organizations—is accelerating the commercial deployment of CCUS. The EERC leads the PCOR Partnership, with support from the University of Wyoming and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



PHASED APPROACH

The DOE RCSP Program began with three phases that ran from 2003 to 2019 and laid the foundation for CCUS commercialization by validating and demonstrating the capacity for permanent, economical, and safe geologic storage of CO₂. The work during the RCSP Program helped to establish effective methods and reliable approaches to developing and deploying CCUS projects across the different RCSP regions.

PHASE I (CHARACTERIZATION)

Beginning in 2003, Phase I consisted of characterizing regional CO₂ emission sources and potential geologic storage locations within each RCSP region.

PHASE II (VALIDATION)

Beginning in 2005, validation of the most promising regional storage opportunities was addressed through a series of small-scale field projects in various carbon storage targets such as saline formations, coal seams, basalt formations, and terrestrial systems. The validation projects provided valuable information on reservoir and seal properties of formations as well as initial validation of geologic modeling and field monitoring technologies.

PHASE III (DEVELOPMENT)

In 2007, Phase III focused on large-scale field projects in saline formations and oil and gas fields, with the target goal of injecting at least 1 million metric tons per project. These large-scale demonstration projects advanced CCUS project management knowledge and supported the development of storage-related technologies in characterization, geologic modeling and simulation, risk assessment, mitigation, and monitoring.

PHASE I
CHARACTERIZATION

PHASE II
VALIDATION

PHASE III
DEVELOPMENT

CHARACTERIZATION PHASE

During Phase I, the PCOR Partnership assessed and prioritized opportunities for storage in the region and helped address the technical, regulatory, and environmental barriers to the most promising storage opportunities. The effort resulted in practical and environmentally sound strategies for carbon management in the PCOR Partnership region, derived from assessments of CO₂ emission sources, sinks, regulations, deployment challenges, transport considerations, and capture and separation technologies.

Phase I activities identified four source-sink combinations in the Williston and Alberta sedimentary basins that merited field validation testing in Phase II.

Learnings from Phase I include the following:

- Multiple CO₂ storage targets exist within the PCOR Partnership region, including oil fields, saline formations, and coal seams.
- The presence of CO₂ sources and storage options and their relative proximity to each other support the deployment of CCUS projects within the PCOR Partnership region.



VALIDATION PHASE

The goal of Phase II was to validate technologies and to demonstrate CCUS in locations in the PCOR Partnership region that could support future full-scale geologic and terrestrial storage opportunities. From 2005 to 2009, the PCOR Partnership conducted four field validation projects that demonstrated the effectiveness of CO₂ storage in different settings and under varying conditions. The field validation tests demonstrated the CO₂ storage potential of multiple storage targets, including deep carbonate formations, lignite coals, pinnacle reef structures, and the prairie pothole wetlands.

In addition to the validation projects, several supporting activities were conducted during Phase II, including 1) refinement of regional characterization of storage opportunities, 2) clarification of the regulatory and permitting requirements for geologic CO₂ storage, 3) detailed review of commercial CO₂ capture technologies, 4) integration of regional efforts with other DOE RCSPs, and 5) continuation of local and regional public outreach initiatives.



Phase II Validation Projects



ZAMA FIELD
Determined acid gas injection for the purpose of acid gas disposal, geologic storage of CO₂, and EOR. Prior to this project, the CO₂ portion of the acid gas was vented to the atmosphere, while sulfur was separated and stockpiled in solid form on-site. This project enabled the simultaneous beneficial use of each of these materials to produce more oil and reduce GHG emissions.

LIGNITE FIELD
Investigated the ability of unminable lignite seams to store CO₂ during enhanced coalbed methane (ECBM) production. The validation test demonstrated CO₂ did not significantly move away from the injection wellbore and was contained within the coal seam, suggesting that comparable operations could be successfully implemented at other field sites.



NORTHWEST MCGREGOR FIELD
Evaluated the potential for injecting CO₂ into a deep carbonate reservoir for the dual purpose of CO₂ storage and EOR at depths greater than 2000 meters. The results indicated that CO₂-based huff 'n' puff operations are a technically viable option for improving oil recovery in deep carbonate reservoirs, even those with relatively low primary permeability.

TERRESTRIAL FIELD
Developed the technical capacity to systematically identify and apply alternative land-use management practices to the prairie pothole ecosystem (at both local and regional scales) that result in GHG reductions and potentially salable carbon offsets. The project demonstrated that restoring previously farmed wetlands replenishes soil organic carbon lost to cultivation at the average rate of 0.4 tonnes per hectare per year.



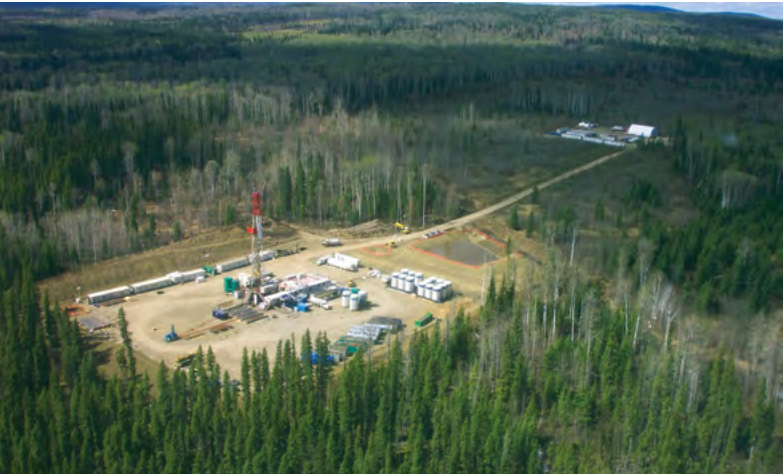
DEVELOPMENT PHASE

In 2007, the PCOR Partnership entered Phase III, the development phase, with the goal of demonstrating large-scale CO₂ storage. The RCSP Phase III projects had a target of injecting at least 1 million metric tons of CO₂ and set out to demonstrate that the CO₂ could be injected and stored safely, permanently, and economically. Results from these efforts provided the foundation for CCUS technology commercialization.

The PCOR Partnership teamed with industrial partners to develop two commercial-scale CCUS demonstrations in the region. One of the large-scale tests focused on CO₂ storage in a saline formation, while the other investigated associated CO₂ storage resulting from EOR.



Phase III Commercial Demonstration Projects



FORT NELSON FEASIBILITY PROJECT

Investigated the feasibility of using a deep carbonate saline formation to safely and cost-effectively store CO₂ from a commercial natural gas-processing facility. The results of this project suggest that commercial-scale CCUS in the area is technically feasible and cost-effective MVA meets or exceeds the geologic storage standards of the CSA Group, Canada's standards association. The project aimed to inject approximately 2.2 million tonnes of CO₂ annually.

BELL CREEK DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Demonstrated that commercial EOR operations can safely and cost-effectively store regionally significant amounts of CO₂. This collaborative project with Denbury Onshore, LLC (Denbury) showed that CO₂ storage can be achieved in association with EOR and that MVA methods can be used to effectively monitor CO₂ storage during regular EOR operations. During the demonstration, over 5.4 MMt of CO₂ was injected and stored through the commercial EOR process in the Bell Creek Field, while over 16 monitoring techniques were evaluated for their effectiveness in tracking subsurface CO₂.



AQUISTORE PROJECT

Provides storage to a commercial CO₂ capture plant and an active oil field for EOR operations. In addition to the Phase III large-scale demonstration projects, the PCOR Partnership supported the Aquistore project through geologic modeling and simulation. Aquistore is injecting and storing CO₂ from SaskPower's Boundary Dam Carbon Capture Facility near Estevan, Saskatchewan.



PCOR PARTNERSHIP PARTNERS

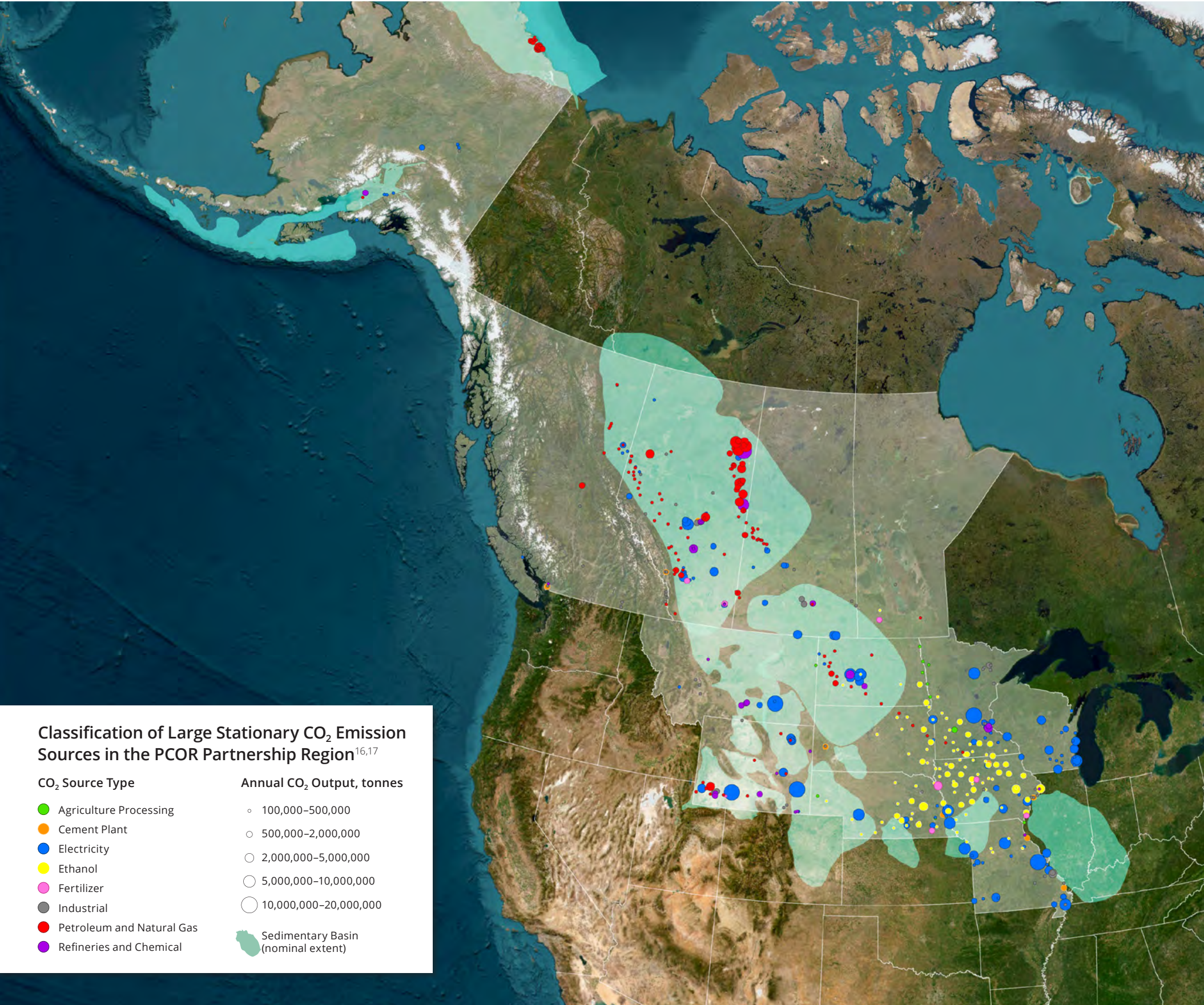


From 2003 to today, the PCOR Partnership has brought together more than 260 public and private sector stakeholders with expertise in power generation, energy exploration and production, geology, engineering, the environment, agriculture, forestry, and economics. Included in this number is the PCO₂C Program, with more than 40 private industry partners and focused on evaluating and developing cost-effective CO₂ capture solutions for utility application. The combined group of partners shown forms the foundation of the PCOR Partnership and supports its efforts by providing data, guidance, financial resources, and practical experience with CCUS.

REGIONAL CHARACTERIZATION

Regional characterization increases our understanding of the magnitude, distribution, and variability of major stationary CO₂ sources and potential CO₂ geologic storage sites. Ongoing characterization in the PCOR Partnership region supports CO₂ storage project development through the acquisition and analysis of subsurface data to help scientists, engineers, and project developers understand the relevant properties and characteristics of the subsurface environment. These characterization efforts are a necessary step in CCUS project development for identifying ideal pairings of industrial facilities that can capture CO₂ and suitable geologic storage targets.

DISTRIBUTION OF LARGE STATIONARY CO₂ SOURCES

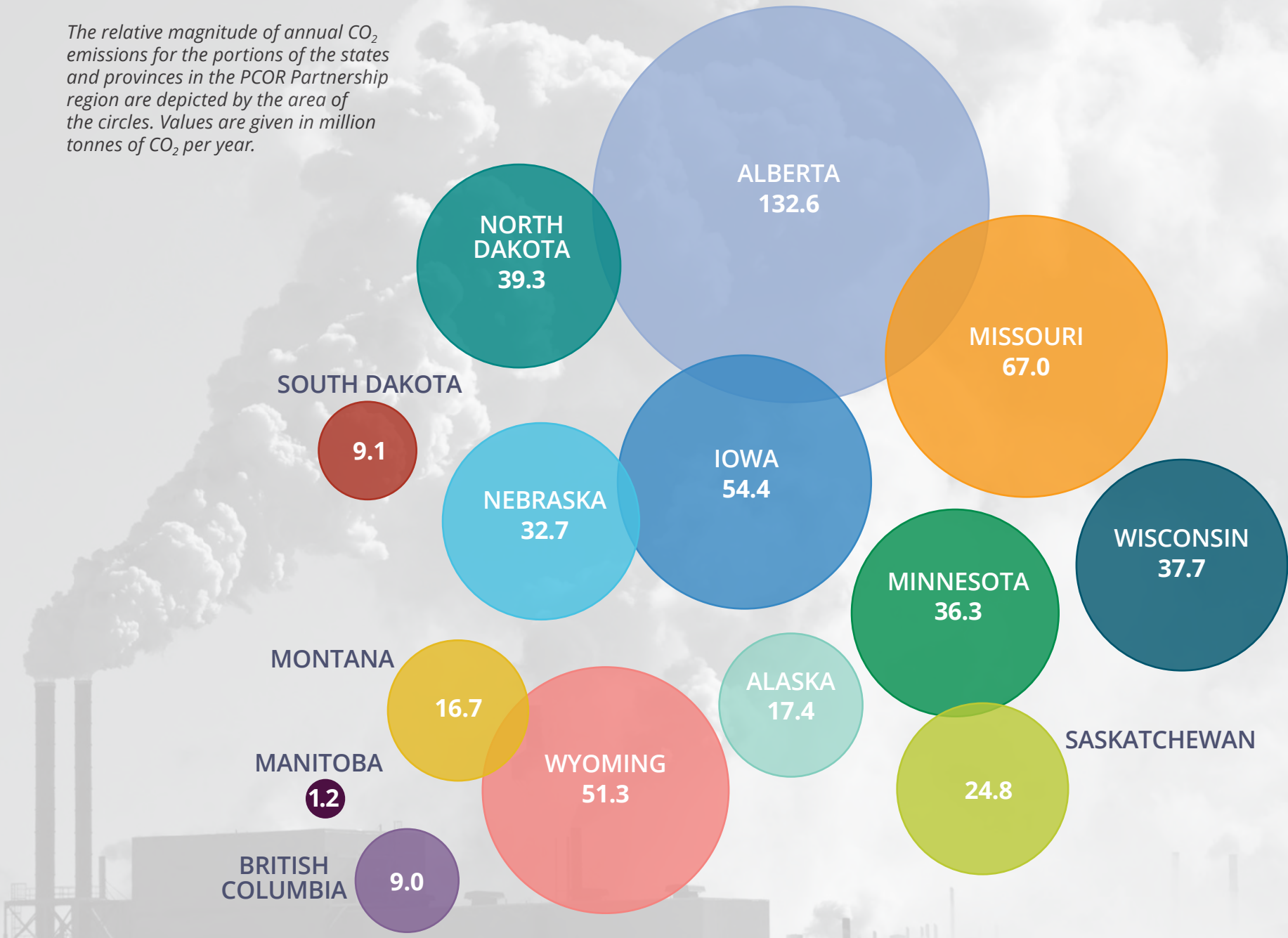


CO₂ SOURCES

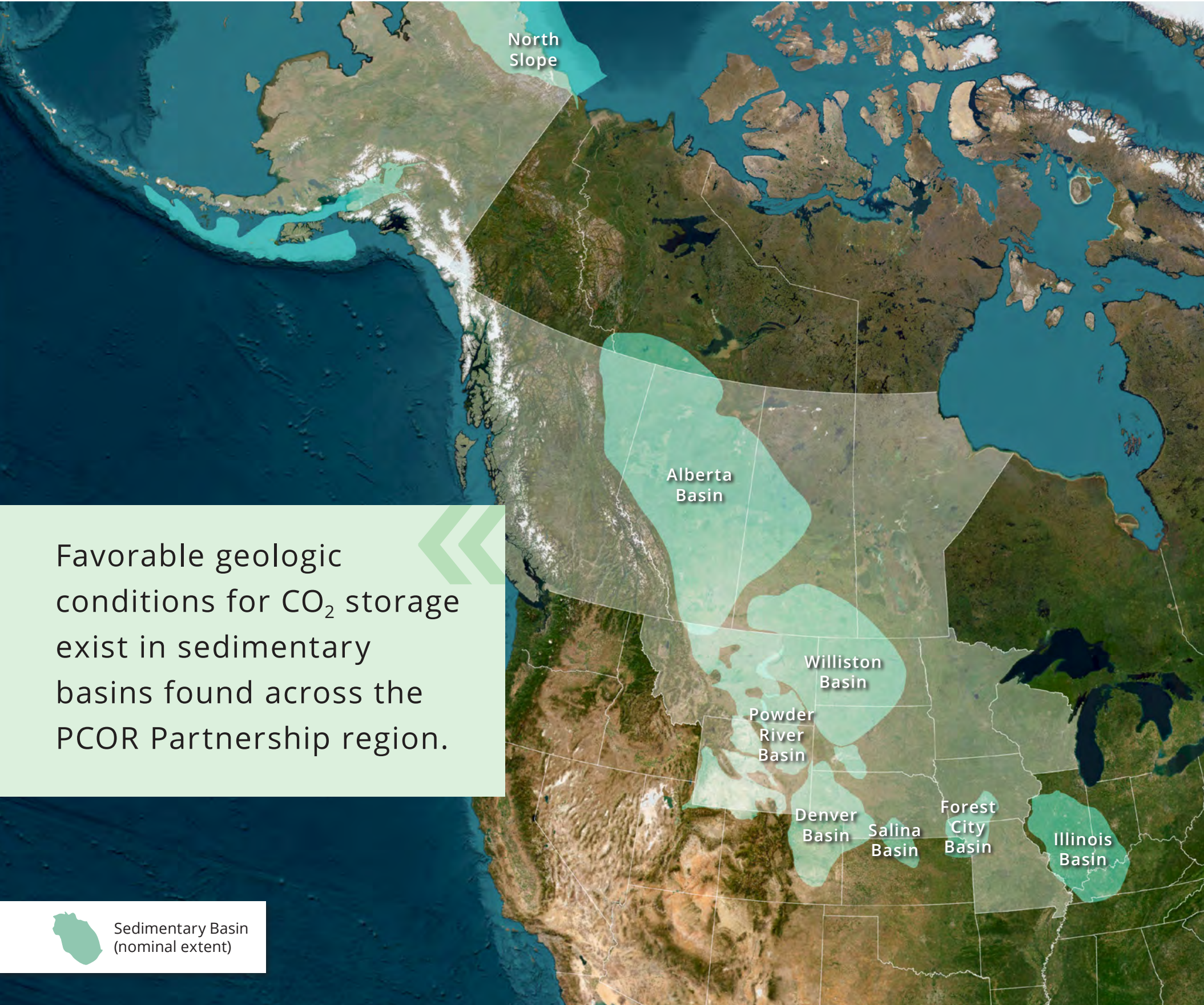
The PCOR Partnership has identified, quantified, and categorized 565 stationary sources in the region that have an annual output greater than 100,000 tonnes of CO₂. These stationary sources have a combined annual CO₂ output of over 529 MMt. Although not a target source of CO₂ for geologic storage, the transportation sector in the U.S. portion of the PCOR Partnership region contributes nearly 242 million additional tonnes of CO₂ to the atmosphere every year.^{16,17,35–39}

The annual output from the various large stationary sources ranges from 100,000 tonnes for industrial and agricultural processing facilities that make up the majority of the sources in the region to over 15 MMt for the largest coal-fired electric generation facility. Fortunately, many of the large point sources are located in areas that are favorable for CO₂ storage because of their concurrence with deep sedimentary basins, such as those areas in Alberta, North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming.

The relative magnitude of annual CO₂ emissions for the portions of the states and provinces in the PCOR Partnership region are depicted by the area of the circles. Values are given in million tonnes of CO₂ per year.



MAJOR REGIONAL SEDIMENTARY BASINS



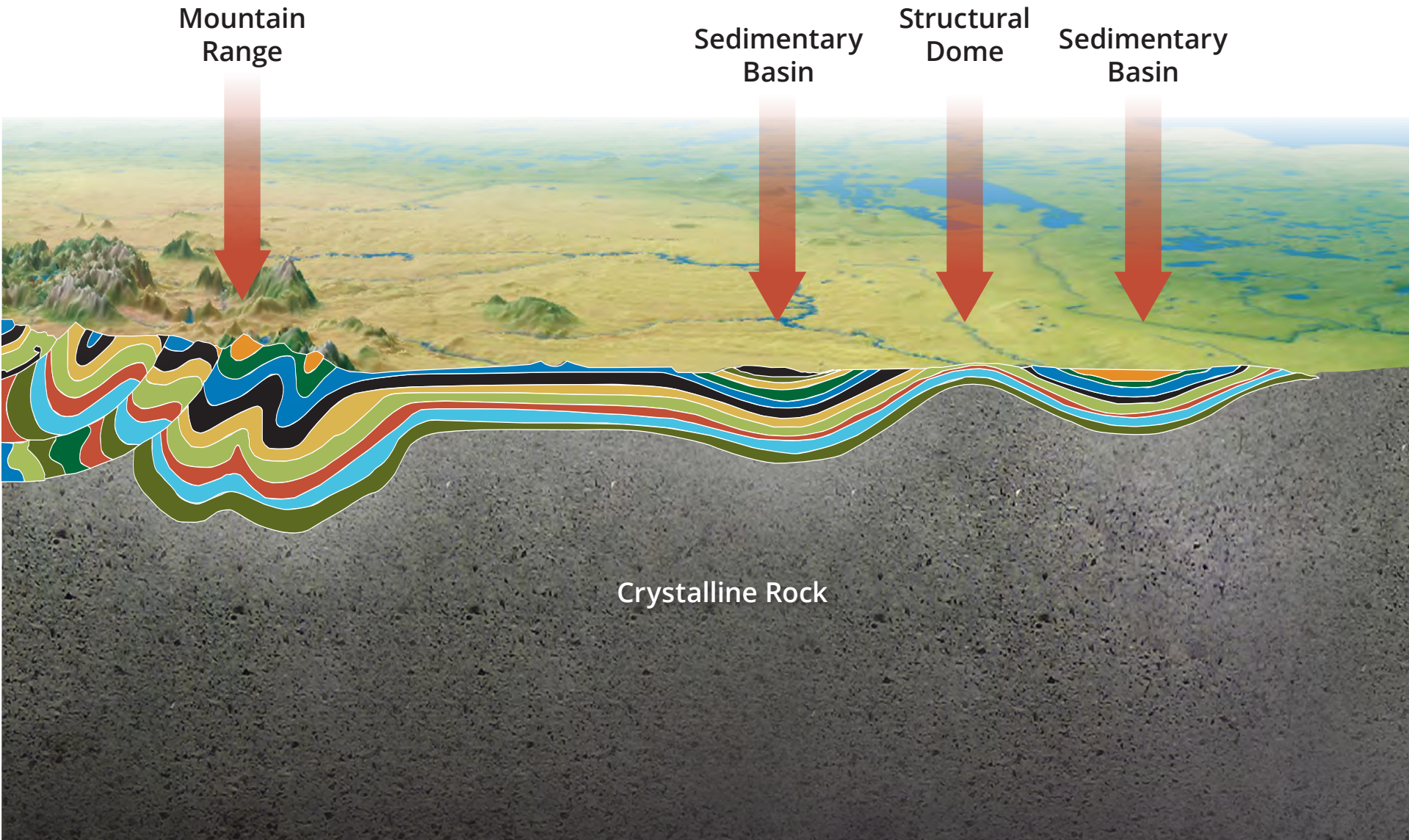
Favorable geologic conditions for CO₂ storage exist in sedimentary basins found across the PCOR Partnership region.

CO₂ STORAGE OPPORTUNITIES

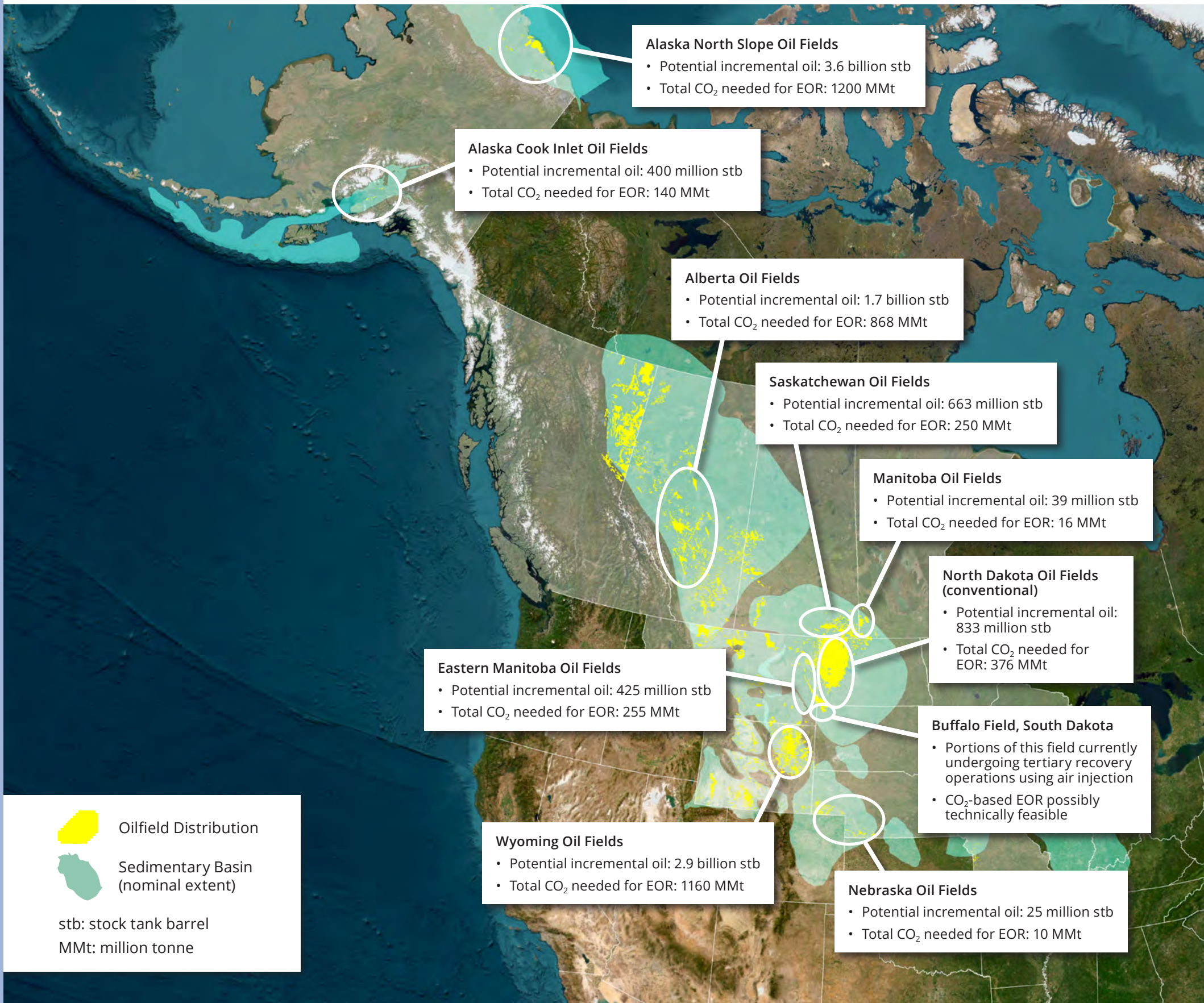
Sedimentary basins are large regional depressions in Earth's crust. These depressions accumulate a considerable thickness of sediment that can cause further subsidence and allow for even more sediment to accumulate. As the sediments are buried, they compact under increasing pressure and then begin the process of lithification (changing to rock). Sedimentary basins vary in configuration from bowl-shaped to elongated troughs. If organic-rich sedimentary rocks occur in combination with appropriate depth, temperature, and duration of burial, hydrocarbon generation can occur within the sedimentary basin. The rich set of options for the safe, long-term geologic

storage of CO₂ in the PCOR Partnership region is found in the deep portions of its extensive sedimentary basins.

Oil and gas reservoirs and deep saline formations are the two primary CO₂ storage options found within sedimentary basins. These storage formations are commonly situated vertically one above another and separated by sealing formations, an arrangement referred to as stacked storage. Stacked storage offers the potential to store the same total volume of CO₂ but with a smaller geographic footprint.



EOR POTENTIAL



CO₂ STORAGE IN OIL FIELDS



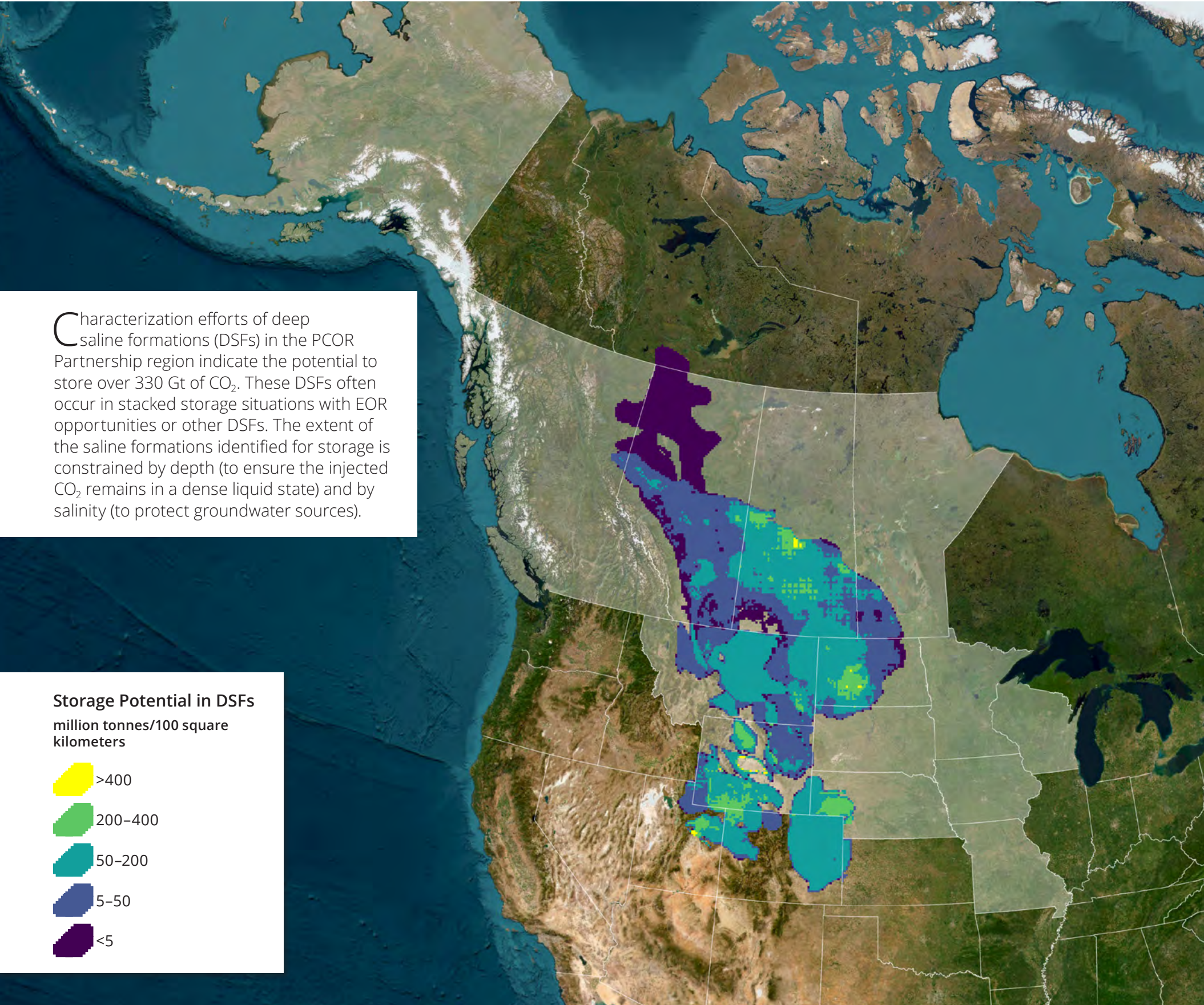
Although oil was discovered in the PCOR Partnership region in the late 1800s, significant development and exploration did not begin until the late 1920s. The body of knowledge gained in the nearly 100 years of exploration and production of hydrocarbons in this region is a significant step toward understanding the mechanisms for secure storage of significant amounts of CO₂. Today, oil is drawn from the many oil fields in the PCOR Partnership region from depths ranging from as little as 60 m to approximately 8000 m below ground level.

While the use of CO₂ in conventional reservoirs is a widely applied practice, the use of EOR in unconventional (or tight) oil reservoirs like the Bakken petroleum system (Bakken and Three Forks Formations) is a relatively new concept. Initial laboratory and field testing offers promising results that CO₂ for EOR in the Bakken may be a viable option. Current research is evaluating approaches to use CO₂ to improve Bakken oil production through field-scale injection testing. If proven viable, CO₂ EOR in unconventional reservoirs presents an opportunity for tremendous volumes of CO₂ storage and increases in oil production.

» The region has over 3700 MMt of CO₂ storage potential in conventional oil fields and 10.2 billion stb of incremental oil potential.



CO₂ STORAGE IN SALINE FORMATIONS



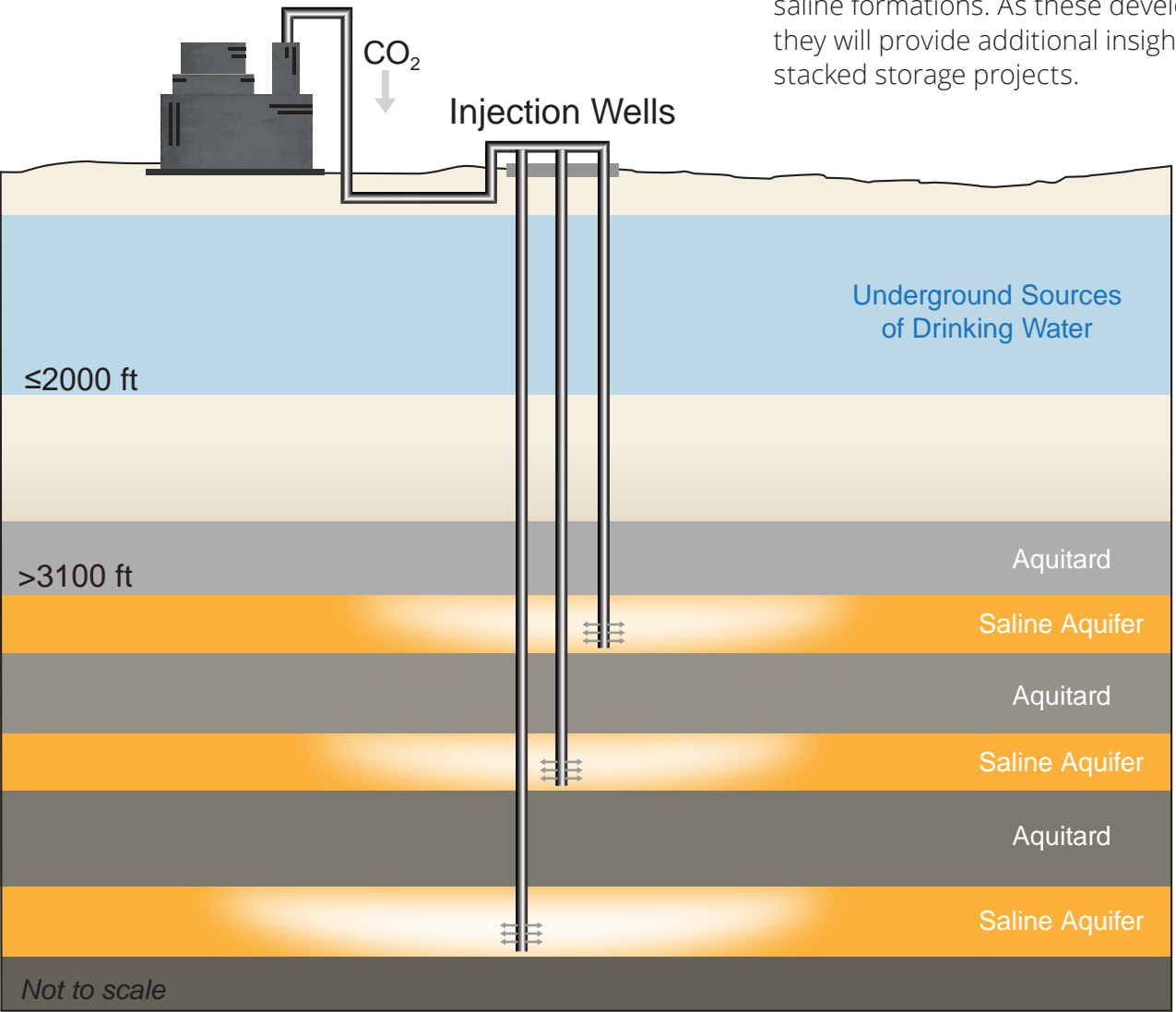
STACKED STORAGE

Sedimentary basins comprise layers of unique geologic formations that can serve as potential storage targets (i.e., saline formations, developed oil and gas reservoirs) or as impermeable sealing formations (e.g., shales). When two or more CO₂ storage targets are present in the subsurface at the same geographic location, a storage project may choose to pursue a stacked storage approach. Stacked storage will typically include some combination of dedicated storage in DSFs and EOR in hydrocarbon-bearing formations.

Stacked storage allows for greater volumes of storage in a given area, and the approach also allows for a smaller project area as the volumes of CO₂ can be divided amongst the different storage formations. The reduced project area would reduce

the project's monitoring area, number of legacy wellbores, and number of landowners in the project area. By placing more than one injection well at a location (i.e., multiwell pads), surface facilities and CO₂ distribution systems can be consolidated, which can minimize environmental risks and impacts.

While stacked storage projects have yet to start operating in the PCOR Partnership region, multiple projects in various stages of development are considering stacked storage scenarios. These projects include DOE CarbonSAFE (Carbon Storage Assurance Facility Enterprise) projects in North Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska, and they are in multiple sedimentary basins, including the Williston, Powder River, and Denver-Julesburg. Additionally, in Canada, the Alberta Basin is estimated to have stacked storage capacity for up to ten deep saline formations. As these developing projects come online, they will provide additional insight and guidance for future stacked storage projects.

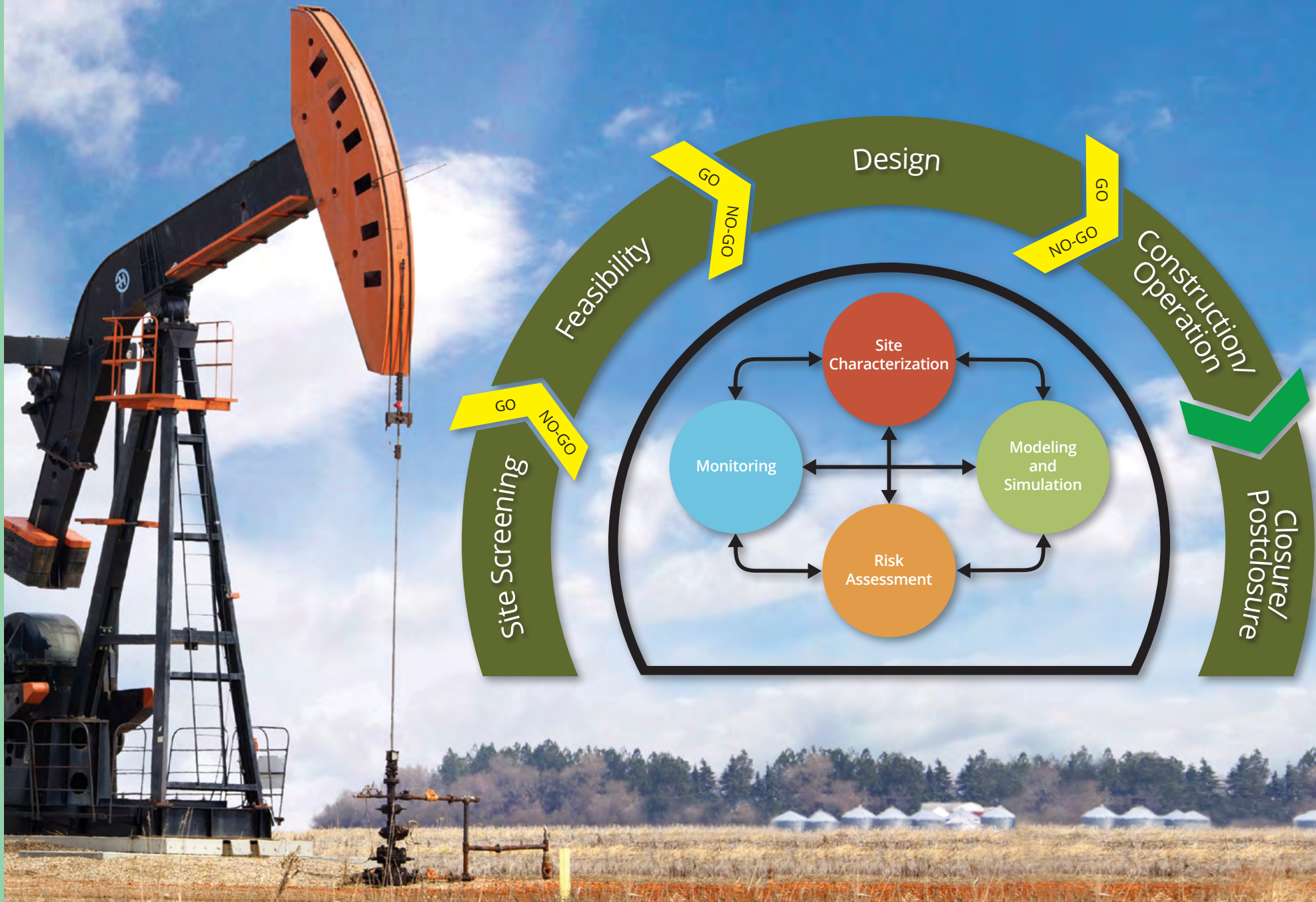


TAKING ACTION

The pathway to developing a commercial CCUS project includes an iterative assessment of a prospective CO₂ storage location and moving efficiently through the permitting process. Several commercial CCUS projects are active in the PCOR Partnership region, with these projects containing combinations of CO₂ capture, transportation, dedicated and associated storage, EOR, and production of low-carbon fuels. The lessons learned from these projects at all stages of development are a catalyst to support future commercial CCUS development in the region.

PHILOSOPHY OF APPROACH

The PCOR Partnership employs a philosophy that integrates site characterization, modeling and simulation, risk assessment, and MVA strategies into an iterative process to produce meaningful results for large-scale CO₂ storage projects. Elements of any of these activities are crucial for understanding or developing the other activities. For example, new knowledge gained from site characterization reduces uncertainty in geologic reservoir properties. This reduced uncertainty can then propagate through modeling, risk assessment, and MVA efforts. Because of this process, the PCOR Partnership Program is in a strong position to refine characterization, modeling, risk assessment, or MVA efforts based on the results of any of these activities and has produced a best practices manual for this adaptive management approach.



SITE CHARACTERIZATION

Site characterization comprises collection, analysis, interpretation, and application of data to understand CO₂ storage potential and assess factors that could impact CO₂ storage project performance. Data collection methods range from accessing existing reports and documentation available from public and private sources to using a wide array of field technologies for determining or measuring various geologic/physical/chemical properties of subsurface and surface environments.

Site characterization activities serve as direct inputs into the various modeling and simulation activities to better predict CO₂ migration pathways, assess technical subsurface risks, and aid in the monitoring of CO₂ migration in the subsurface. These elements of the project help evaluate expected and actual performance during commercial-scale CO₂ injection, storage, and EOR.

Site characterization objectives and associated activities are largely driven by project- and site-specific risk and uncertainty and the need to inform site design and operation. Depending on the project phase, several different types of data may be collected, including petrophysical, mineralogical, geomechanical, and geochemical. Data acquisition occurs throughout the entire project, although the intensity of the effort and the characterization techniques employed vary with the different phases of the project.

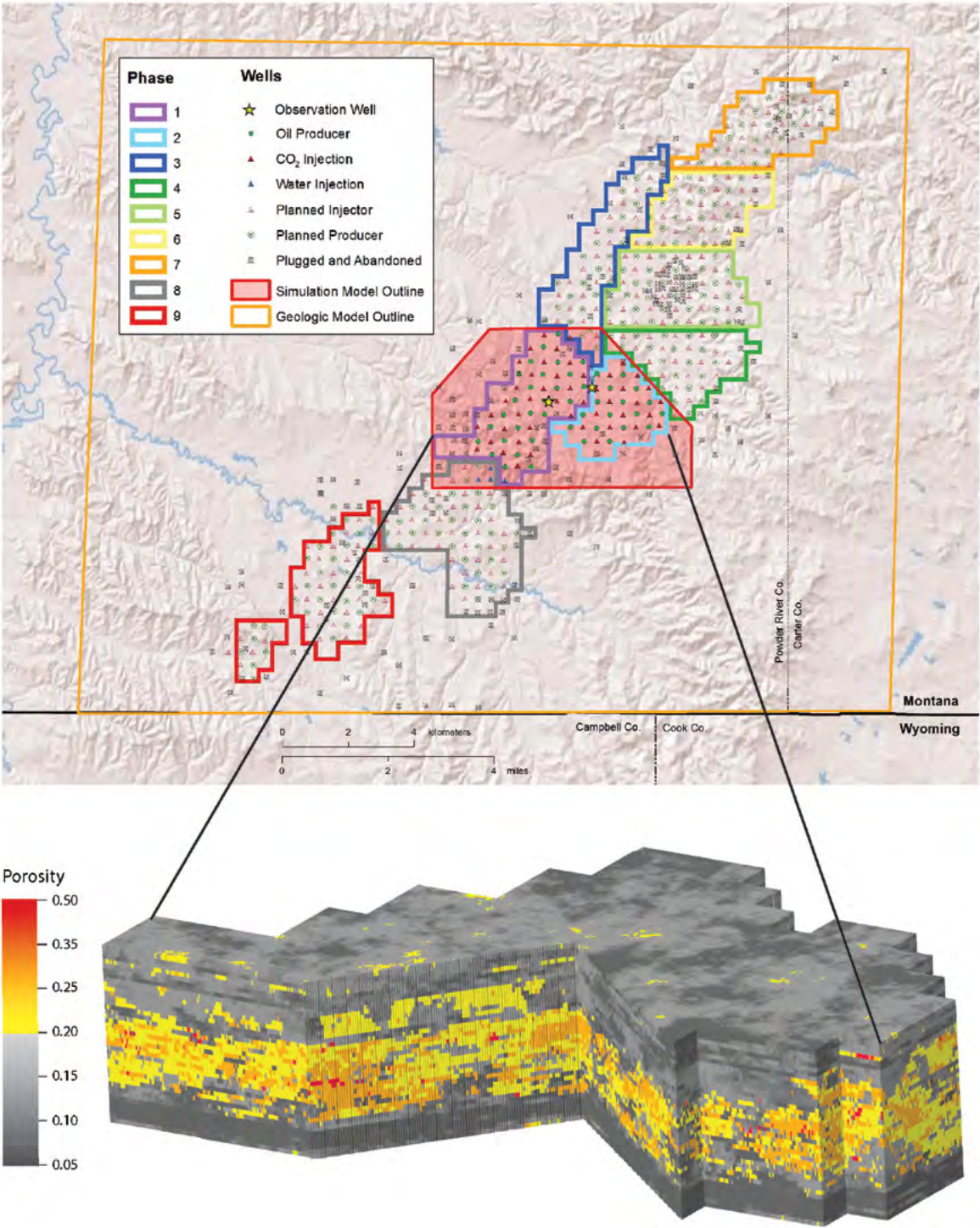


SIMULATION AND MODELING

A geologic model is a computerized 3D rendering of the subsurface that provides a digital framework of CO₂ reservoir complexities, critical to understanding CO₂ storage. The model provides a 3D understanding of the storage horizon and associated cap rock to allow design and implementation of a CO₂ injection project. Common components of geologic models include information generated from site characterization activities, with estimates of rock properties (e.g., rock type, porosity, permeability) and structural framework (i.e., geologic surfaces, geologic layers, faults).

Predictive multiphase fluid flow simulations, geomechanical modeling, and geochemical simulation are used to interpret and analyze the geologic, reservoir, and fluid data and conduct predictive multiphase flow, geomechanical, and geochemical simulations to identify data gaps, identify potential risks, and guide the MVA program.

Geologic models serve as the basis for the fluid flow simulations to predict the subsurface extent of the injected CO₂ and the potential pressure effects associated with storing CO₂. These predictions are important for the design of a CO₂ storage system, assessment of project risks, and design and interpretation of the results of a monitoring and accounting program. Geomechanical and geochemical simulations are also conducted to identify potential risks and guide monitoring programs.



Muddy Sandstone (Bell Creek Field reservoir)

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is a vital component of the adaptive management approach for CO₂ storage project development.

Risk is the severity of negative consequences of an event weighed against how likely those consequences are to occur. In the context of a CO₂ storage project, risks can affect operational performance and long-term reliability of CO₂ storage. Risk assessment is the iterative process of identifying, analyzing, and evaluating potential project risks.

For over a decade, the PCOR Partnership has conducted risk assessments for CO₂ storage projects in ways consistent with international standard protocols.⁴⁰⁻⁴³ These best practices provide reliable methods for identifying project-related risks, including analyzing probability and potential impacts and evaluating risk treatment and priority.

Identifying and assessing potential risks for a CO₂ storage project start early in the development of a project when the project team identifies and evaluates potential risks grouped into broad categories (e.g., capacity, injectivity, and lateral and vertical migration).⁴⁴ These risks are refined over time as more data become available.

Risk assessment outcomes inform CO₂ storage project development through every phase. Additionally, the risk assessment informs the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) plan for a CO₂ storage project, ensuring higher-ranking risks are being monitored by one or more measurements.

ESTABLISH THE CONTEXT

- Define the storage project.
- Define the storage facility and storage unit(s).
- Define the risk criteria that will be used to evaluate the identified risks.

RISK IDENTIFICATION

- Use an independent risk management expert to facilitate the process.
- Elicit input from project stakeholders and subject matter experts.
- Generate a functional model of the storage complex.
- Identify potential risks that would negatively impact the storage project.
- Ensure that the following four technical risk categories are considered:
 - Storage capacity
 - Injectivity
 - Lateral and vertical containment of CO₂ and formation fluids
 - Induced seismicity
- Thoroughly document each potential risk, and generate a risk register.

RISK ANALYSIS

- Develop a set of quantifiable physical consequences and a means to link these to project impacts.
- Consult the available site characterization, geologic modeling, and reservoir simulation results.
- Evaluate predictive simulations to forecast storage project performance during CO₂ injection.
- Capture risk probability and impact scores from subject matter experts.
- Quantify uncertainty in the risk scores.

RISK EVALUATION

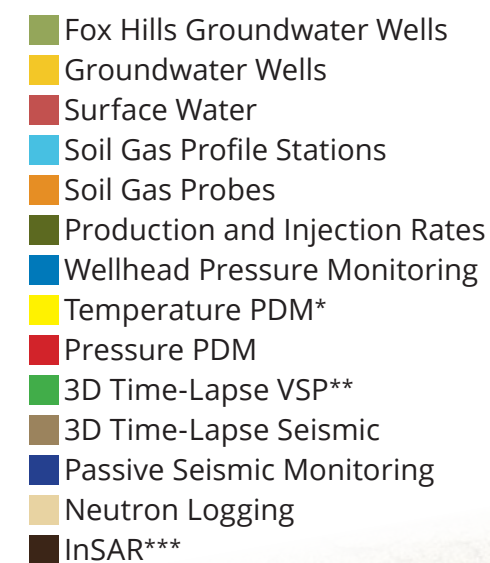
- Plot each individual risk onto a risk map, and evaluate uncertainty in the risk scores.
- Identify moderate and high-ranking risks.
- If a more quantitative evaluation is needed, then employ a probabilistic method such as Monte Carlo simulation or Bayesian methods.

MONITORING, VERIFICATION, AND ACCOUNTING

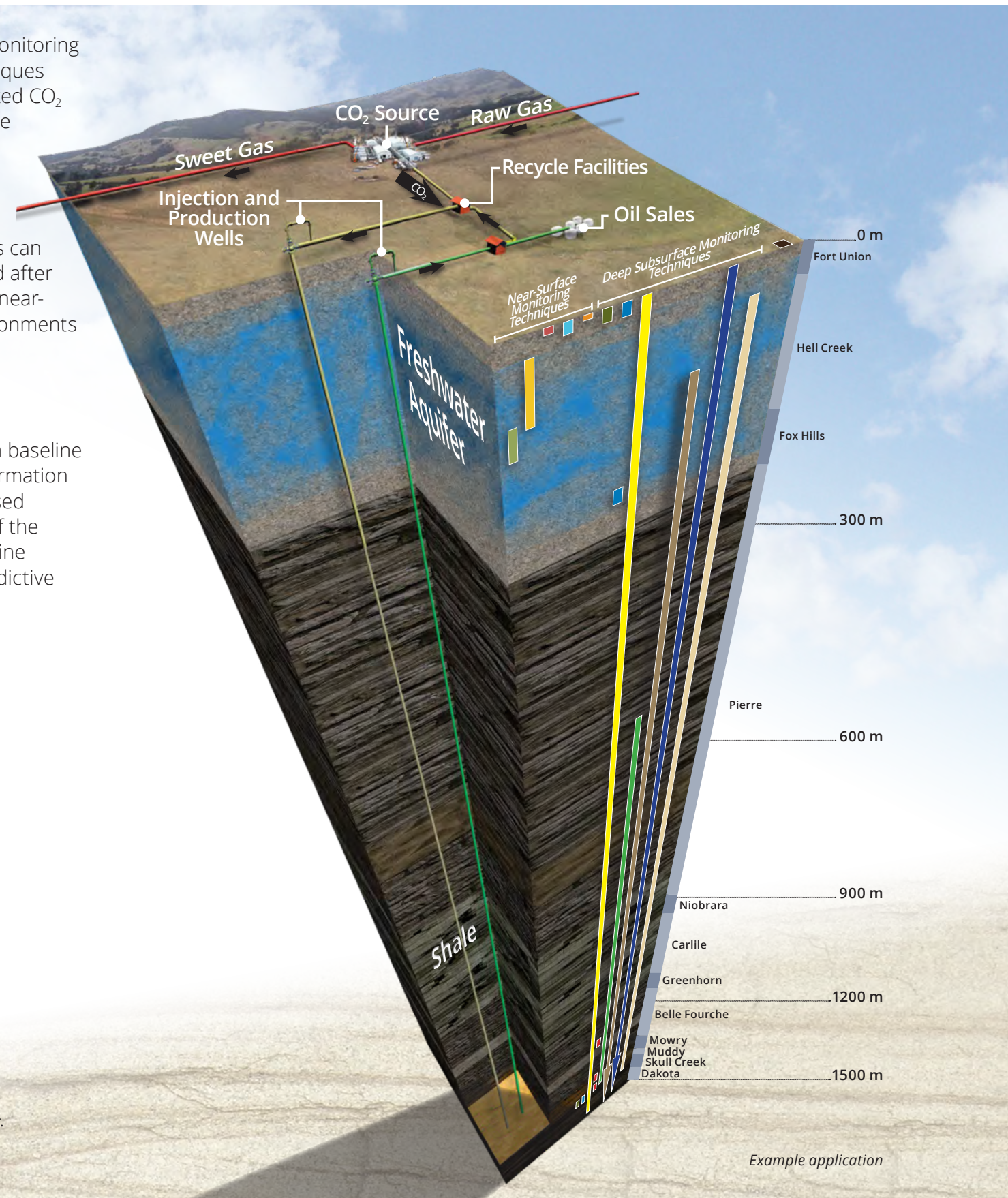
MVA is the combination of monitoring technologies and techniques used to track the migration of injected CO₂ as well as to confirm that the surface and subsurface environments are not negatively impacted by injection activities.

A variety of monitoring technologies can be implemented before, during, and after injection operations in the surface, near-surface, and deep subsurface environments at a CO₂ storage site.

MVA data collected before injection operations (often as part of the site characterization process) serve as a baseline framework for the storage site. Information collected after injection begins is used to monitor the dynamic response of the system and provide feedback to refine the geologic model and update predictive simulations.



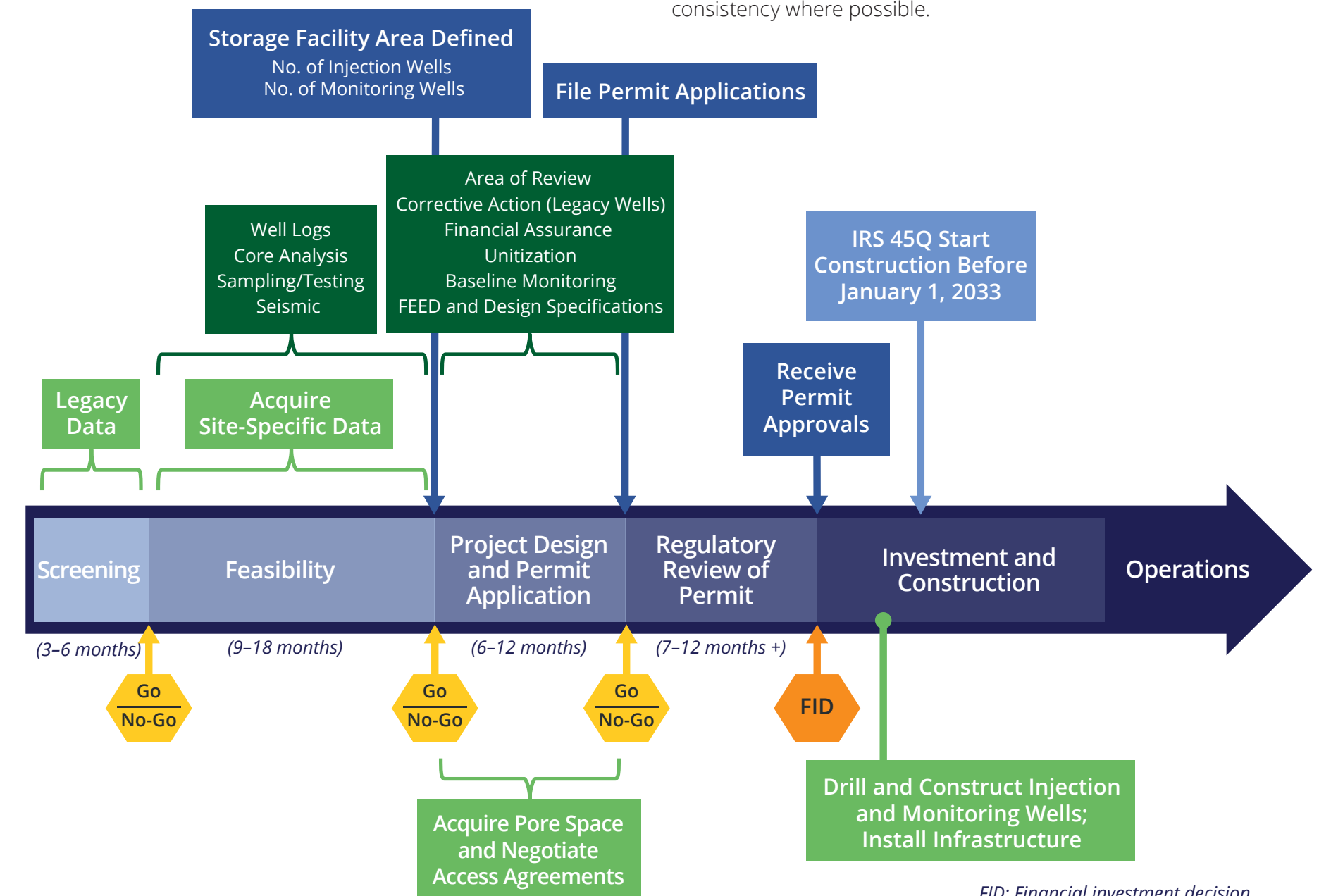
- * Permanent downhole monitoring.
- ** Vertical seismic profile.
- *** Interferometric synthetic aperture radar.



A PERMITTING PROCESS

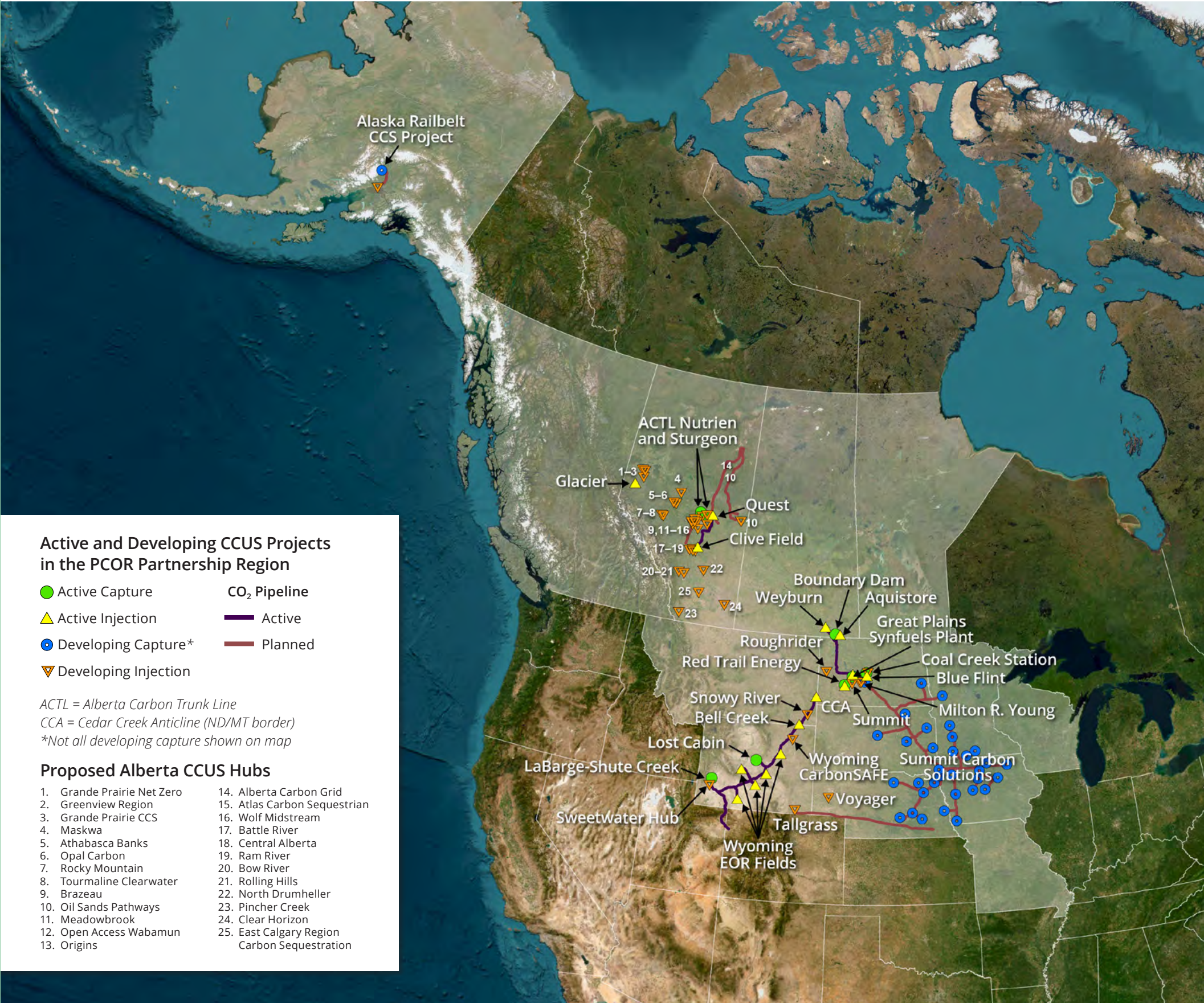
Permitting considerations for a CO₂ storage project are important, even at the earliest stages of project development. Data and information about project feasibility and geologic suitability of the potential storage site(s) will eventually be used to support the permits needed to store CO₂. The figure below shows the CCUS project development and permitting process for North Dakota, which begins with gathering of any existing data in or near the site(s) of interest.

Although this figure is specific to North Dakota, the general progression of the process, as well as the geologic and project data required, is commensurate with other jurisdictions. Reducing the time to develop CCUS permit applications, length of time for regulatory review, and issuance of a final decision will help accelerate commercial deployment of CCUS. The PCOR Partnership is engaging with regulators and project developers throughout the region and beyond to support the permitting process and find ways to promote permit application consistency where possible.



FID: Financial investment decision
FEED: Front-end engineering and design

ACTIVE AND DEVELOPING CCUS PROJECTS

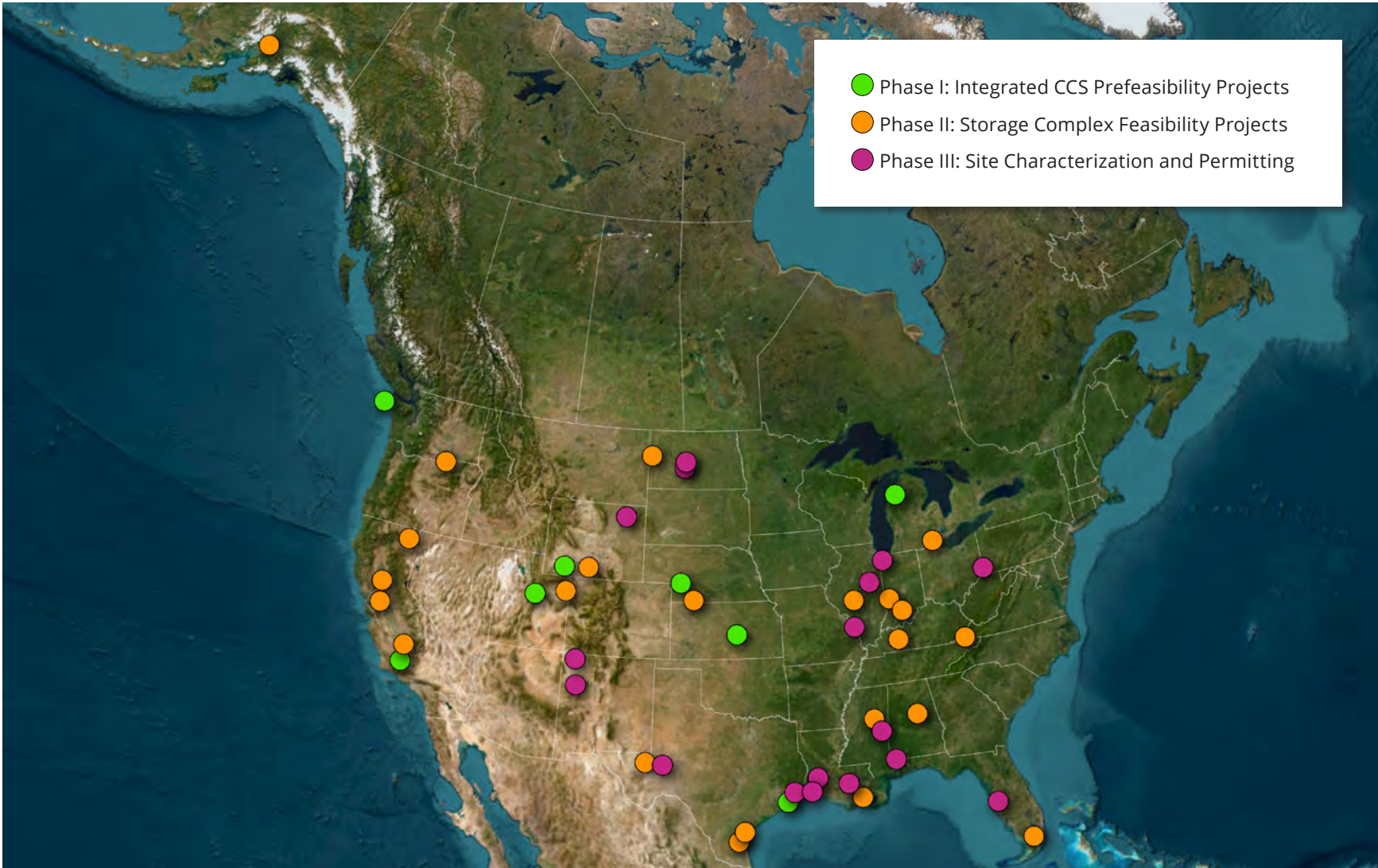


CARBONSAFE PROJECTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

The CarbonSAFE Initiative began in 2016 with the goal of addressing the key gaps on the critical path toward CCUS deployment. Building upon the knowledge and experience of RCSP efforts, this initiative is performing identification and detailed characterization of geologic storage sites. The vision of CarbonSAFE is to understand the development of a CCUS storage complex from the feasibility study until the point of injection through the following phases of project progress: integrated CCUS prefeasibility, storage complex feasibility, site characterization and permitting, and construction. CarbonSAFE will reduce technical risk, uncertainty, and the cost of commercial-scale saline storage projects. Results will improve the understanding of project screening, site selection,

characterization, baseline MVA procedures, and information necessary to submit appropriate permit applications for such projects.

The CarbonSAFE effort contributes to furthering the development and refinement of technologies and techniques critical to the characterization of potential storage complexes over 50 million metric tons. Project research will provide insight into the integration of site characterization information into reservoir simulations and design of injection and monitoring strategies. The progress made by CarbonSAFE will instill greater confidence that commercial-scale CCUS projects can be integrated in a technically and economically feasible manner.⁴⁵



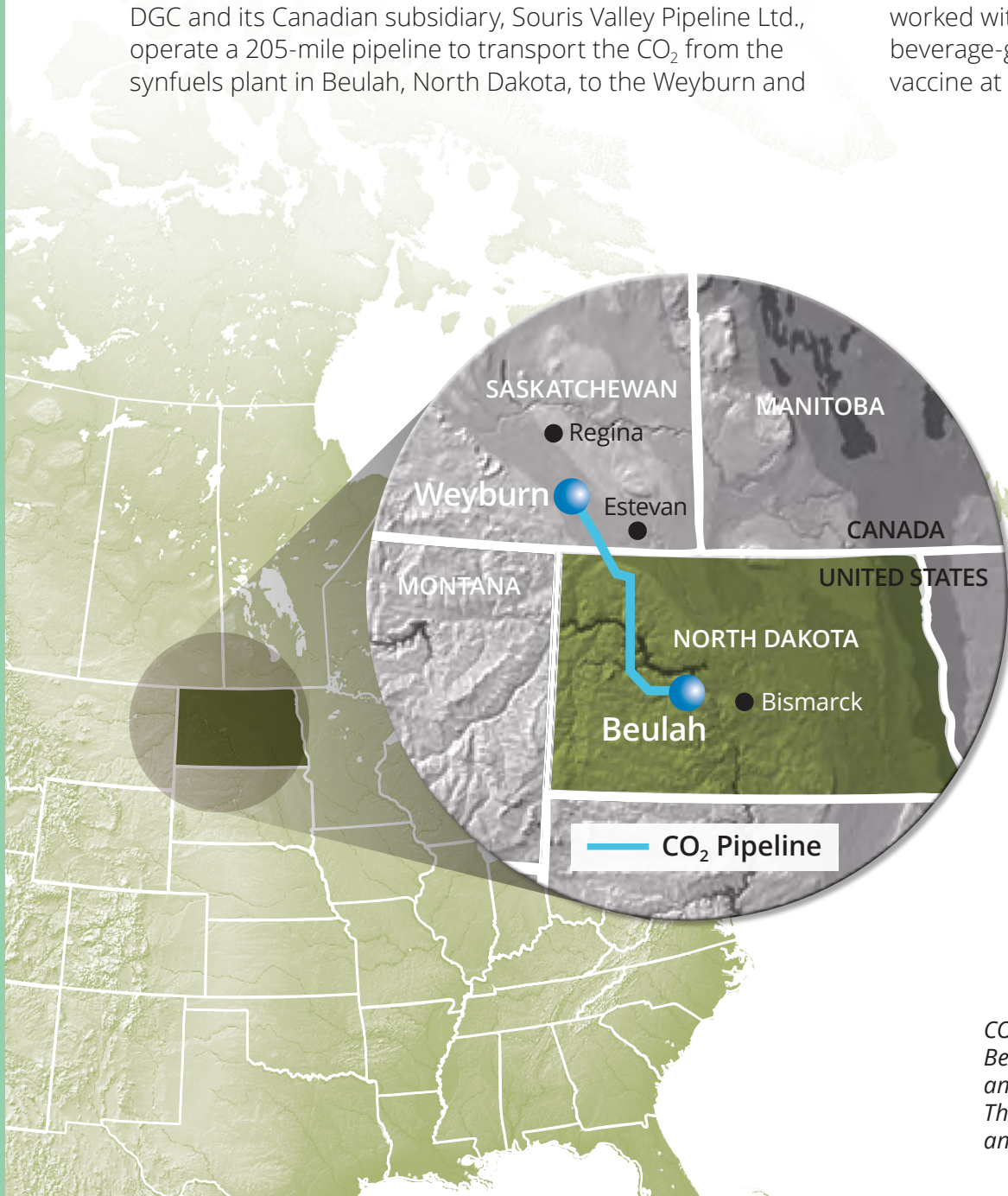
CO₂ CAPTURE AT GREAT PLAINS SYNFUELS PLANT

The majority of the CO₂ used in the Weyburn–Midale EOR project comes from Dakota Gasification Company's (DGC's) Great Plains Synfuels Plant, the only commercial-scale coal-to-natural gas facility in the United States. In November 2020, the synfuels plant reached a milestone: capturing 40 million metric tons of CO₂ since 2000. Approximately 2 million metric tons of CO₂ is captured each year, making it one of the largest carbon capture facilities in the world.⁴⁶

DGC and its Canadian subsidiary, Souris Valley Pipeline Ltd., operate a 205-mile pipeline to transport the CO₂ from the synfuels plant in Beulah, North Dakota, to the Weyburn and

Midale oil fields in southeastern Saskatchewan for EOR. CO₂ EOR at Weyburn has stored 36 million metric tons of CO₂ to date.⁴⁷

In July 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, DGC shipped its first beverage-grade CO₂ captured from the Great Plains Synfuels Plant's ammonia production facility; the shipment was for the commercial food and beverage industry. The first load was used to help balance pH levels in the water at water treatment plants in North Dakota. In December 2020, DGC worked with the North Dakota Department of Health to provide beverage-grade liquefied CO₂ to aid in keeping the COVID-19 vaccine at the recommended storage temperature.⁴⁶



CO₂ is captured from DGC's Great Plains Synfuels Plant in Beulah, North Dakota, and piped 330 km into the Weyburn and Midale oil fields in Saskatchewan, Canada, for EOR. The injection location covers an area of 21,000 hectares and produces 23,000 barrels of oil a day.⁴⁷

CO₂ MONITORING AND STORAGE PROJECT

Injection of CO₂ for EOR purposes began in the Weyburn oil field in 2000 and at the Midale oil field in 2005. The Weyburn Field was operated by Cenovus Energy until 2017, when it sold its majority stake in the project to Whitecap Resources.⁴⁸ Since inception, CO₂ injection into the Weyburn Field has averaged 1.7 million tonnes of CO₂, with more than 36 million tonnes of CO₂ stored⁴⁷ mainly sourced from the Great Plains Synfuels Plant but with an additional supply of CO₂ from Boundary Dam since 2014.⁴⁹

The Midale Field was operated by Apache Canada until it was sold to Cardinal Energy Ltd. in 2017.⁵⁰ In 2020, approximately 188,000 tonnes of CO₂ was injected in the Midale unit. Since 2005, nearly 5 million tonnes of CO₂ has been injected.⁵¹ As of 2023, the sale of CO₂ from DGC to Whitecap Resources and Cardinal Energy Ltd. represents the only instances of large quantities of captured CO₂ being traded across an international border.

Supplies from Great Plains to Weyburn and Midale represent the first case of CO₂ being traded between two countries.



CO₂ CAPTURE AT BOUNDARY DAM

The Boundary Dam Carbon Capture Project is the world's first commercial-scale, fully integrated CCUS project at a coal-fired power station, with postcombustion capture of CO₂ from the rebuilt Unit 3. The capital cost of Can\$1.2 billion was supported by funding from the provincial government of Saskatchewan and the federal government of Canada. Operated by the government-owned utility SaskPower, the project is designed to capture up to 1 MMt of CO₂ per year; between the commencement of operations in October 2014 and January 2023, SaskPower reports that over 5 million metric tons of CO₂ was captured.⁵²

Unit 3 provides 115 MW of power. In addition to reducing CO₂ emissions from Unit 3 by up to 90%, the capture process removes 100% of SO₂ emissions, which are converted to sulfuric acid for industrial use.

The main destination for captured CO₂ is the Weyburn oil field, with Whitecap Resources transporting the purchased CO₂ via a 66-km pipeline. A branch of the pipeline in close proximity to the power station feeds the Aquestore Project, which is designed to provide dedicated storage for unsold CO₂.



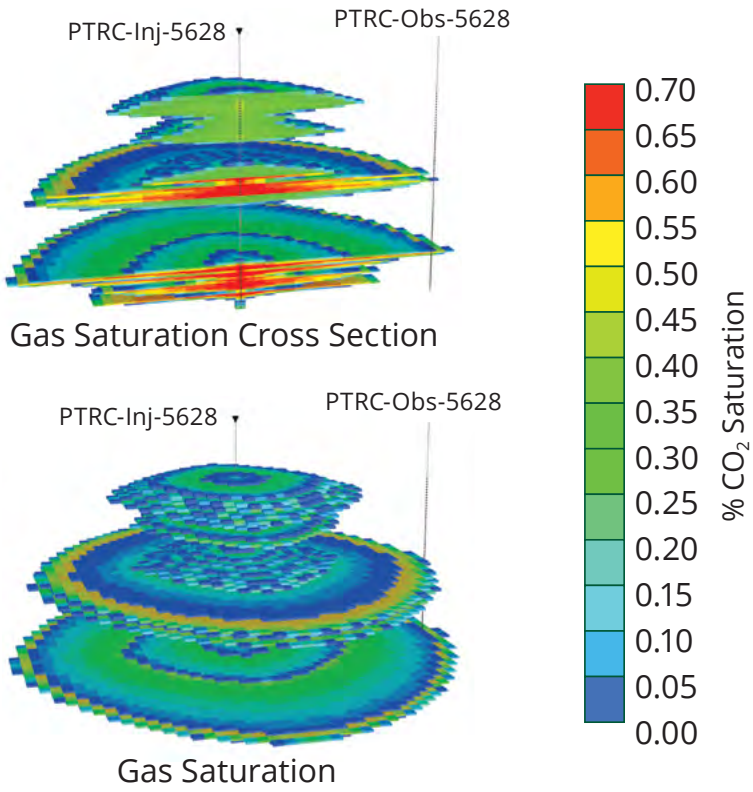
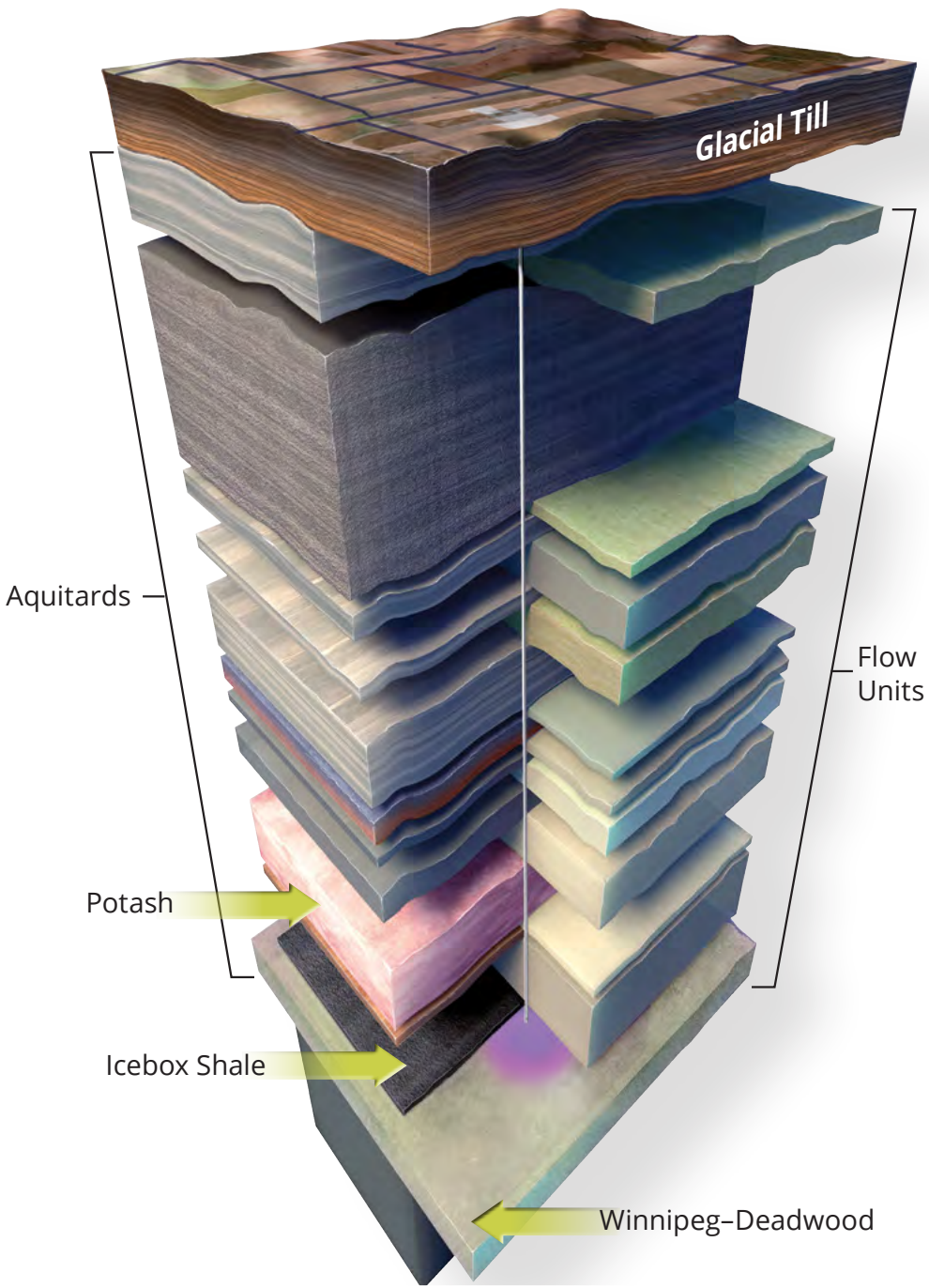
THE AQUISTORE PROJECT

Aquestore is a dual-purpose project.⁵³ From a commercial perspective, Aquestore provides a dedicated storage option for unsold CO₂ from Boundary Dam—in effect providing buffer storage to prevent any need for SaskPower to vent CO₂ from capture operations. Injection commenced in April 2015, making Aquestore the first dedicated storage project to operate in Canada. As of February 2023, over 500,000 tonnes of CO₂ had been injected.⁵⁴

Injection of CO₂ at Aquestore is via a single vertical well into the Winnipeg and Deadwood Formations at a depth of approximately 3.4 km below ground level.⁵³

Monitoring of the Aquestore site is managed by Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC), which installed the injection well plus an observation well and other monitoring infrastructure through funding by federal and provincial government agencies and private industry. In addition to providing monitoring data for the regulator in accordance with permitting of the storage site, Aquestore is run as a collaborative PTRC research project that aims to demonstrate that dedicated storage in a DSF is a safe and workable solution to reduce GHG emissions.

Established and novel technologies are under evaluation at Aquestore. These include cost-effective repeat 3D seismic surveys facilitated by a permanent array of 650 surface geophones, passive seismic monitoring, and downhole monitoring, including fiber-optic cables.⁵⁵



Carbon dioxide saturation within the injection plume resulting from a simulated 50-year injection scenario (37 MMt) at the PTRC Aquestore site. The model grid is nearly square, with sides approximately 5.6 km in length.

QUEST CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE PROJECT

Shell Canada Energy commenced operations at Quest, a fully integrated CCUS project located northeast of Edmonton, Alberta, in November 2015. As of the end of 2022, the Quest project captured and stored 7.7 million tonnes of CO₂. The cost to operate Quest is about 35% lower than what was forecast in 2015, and if Quest was built today, it would cost about 30% less thanks to capital efficiency improvements.⁵⁶

The capture plant, located at the Scotford refinery, was built as a modification to an existing steam methane reformer that produces hydrogen for upgrading oil sands bitumen into synthetic crude oil. Licensed Shell amine technology is used in the capture process, which reduces CO₂ emissions from the upgrading operations by approximately one-third.

Captured CO₂ is transported via a 60-km pipeline to a dedicated storage site and injected into the Basal Cambrian sandstone, a DSF, at a depth of around 2 km below the surface. Infrastructure at the site includes three injection wells and a host of monitoring technologies that provide opportunities for international research collaborations. The project is expected to store at least 27 MMt of CO₂ over the anticipated 25-year life of the upgrader, although the storage reservoir has a much greater storage potential.



ALBERTA CARBON TRUNK LINE



The ACTL system is the world's newest integrated, large-scale CCUS system.⁵⁷ Located in central Alberta, CO₂ captured from the NWR (North West Redwater Partnership) Sturgeon Refinery and the Nutrien Fertilizer facility is transported down a 40-cm-diameter, 240-km-long pipeline to mature oil fields near Clive, Alberta. Designed as the backbone infrastructure needed to support a lower-carbon economy in Alberta, the ACTL system captures industrial emissions and delivers the CO₂ to mature oil and gas reservoirs for use in EOR and permanent storage. The ACTL can transport up to 14.6 MMt of CO₂ per year, and as of July 2023, more than 4 million metric tons of CO₂ had been injected and stored in the Clive oil field.⁵⁸

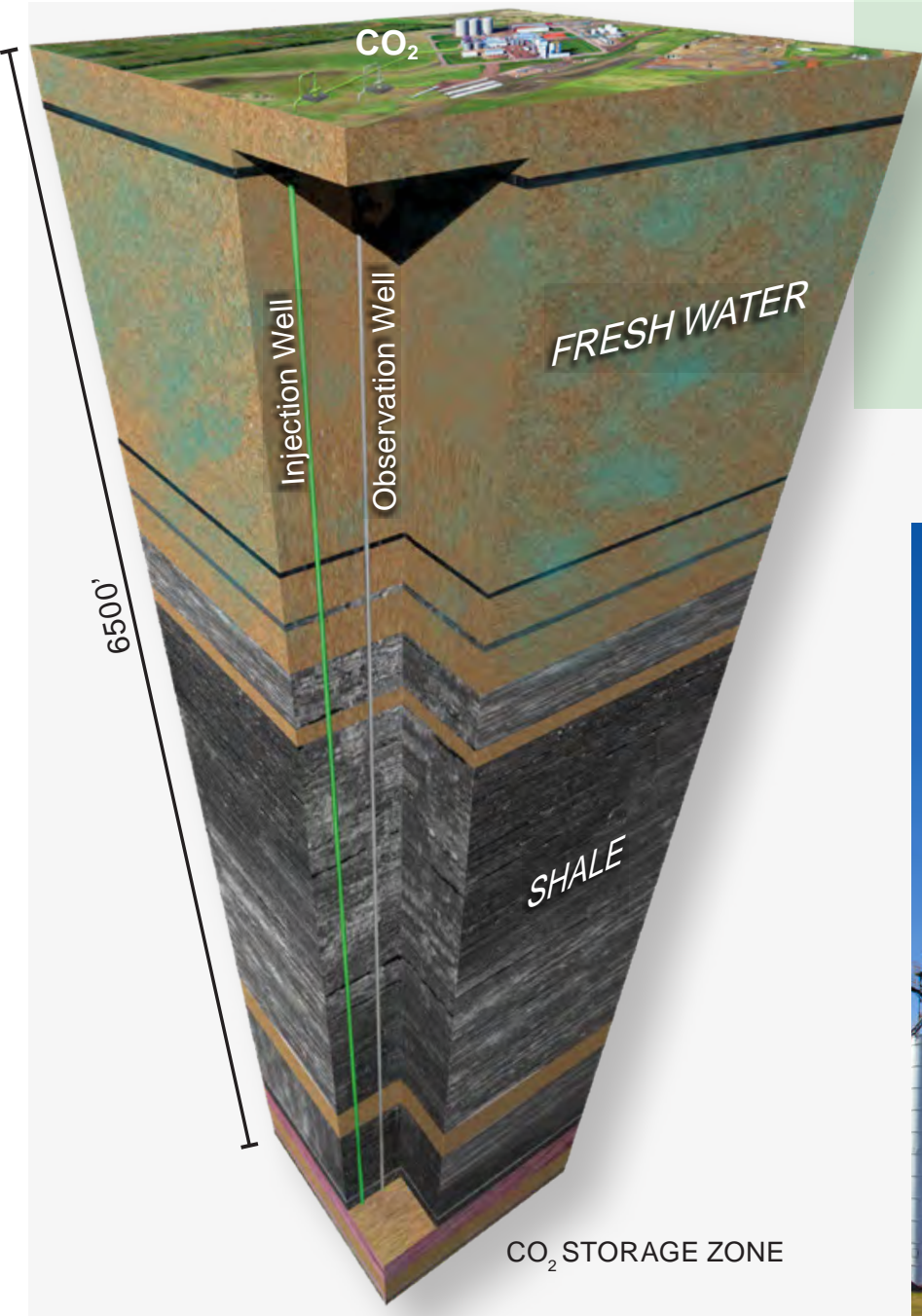
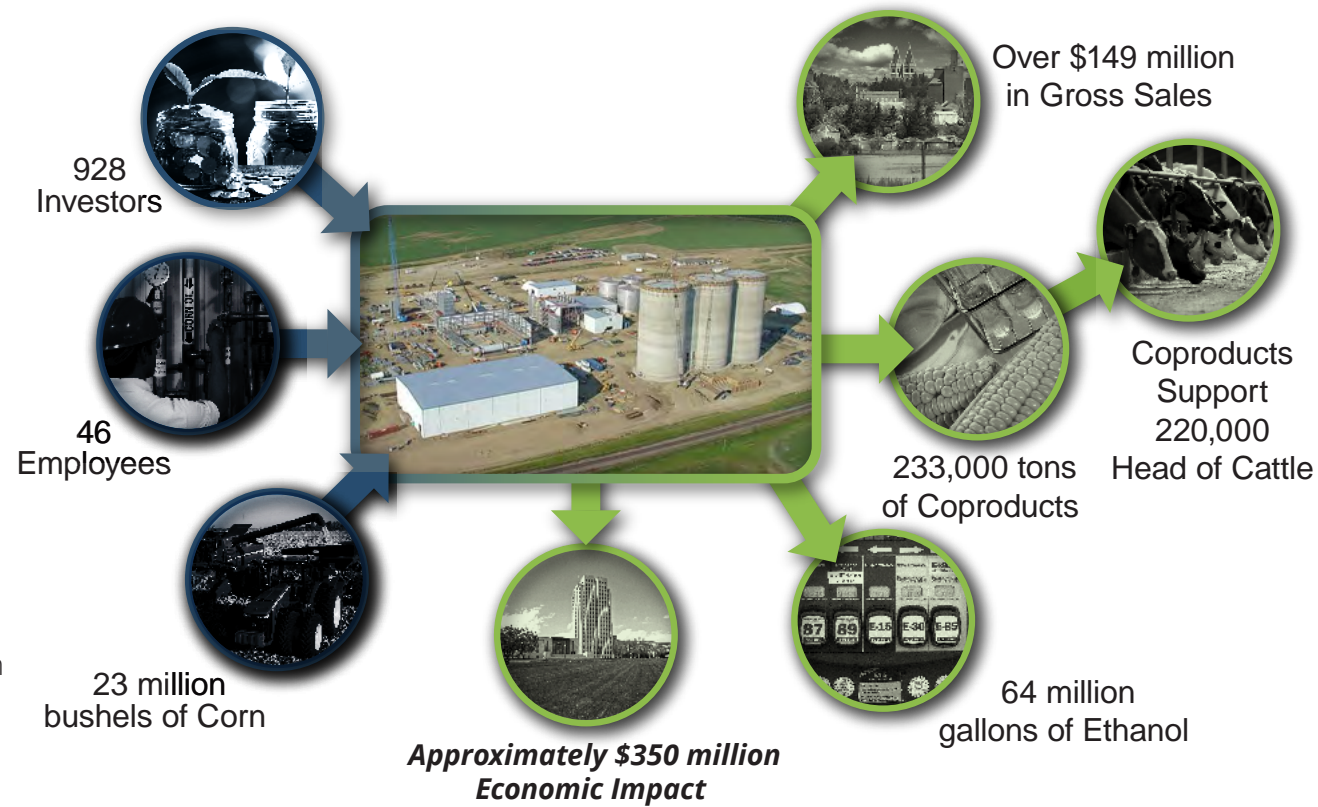


RED TRAIL ENERGY

Red Trail Energy, LLC (RTE), an ethanol producer near Richardton, North Dakota, is operating a CO₂ capture facility adjacent to the RTE ethanol facility to ultimately inject about 180,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually more than a mile below RTE property for permanent storage. After a 5-year investigative period conducted by the EERC, in partnership with the NDIC Renewable Energy Program and DOE, the RTE project was determined a technically viable option for significantly reducing CO₂ emissions from ethanol production.

This project resulted in the first permitted geologic storage facility in North Dakota, Red Trail Richardton Ethanol Broom Creek Storage Facility No. 1, and was established with formal approval of RTE's North Dakota CO₂ storage facility (Class VI) permit on October 19, 2021. Major activities included drilling a stratigraphic test (coring, testing, logging) well followed by extensive laboratory analyses and evaluation, modeling and simulation of potential CO₂ injection and storage, and continued collaboration with incentive and regulatory officials.

RTE established commercial contracts for the capture facility, installation of wells and monitoring equipment, flowline, and other carbon capture system infrastructure. When injection started on June 16, 2022, RTE became the first active Class VI project in North Dakota. Over the first year and a half of operations, RTE injected nearly 250,000 metric tons, for an average of about 500 metric tons per day, essentially meeting the designed goals of the system.



» Since beginning injection in June 2022, the RTE project has injected over 250,000 tonnes of CO₂, meeting designed capacities with no significant safety or operational issues, all while being within budget. Any slowdowns in CO₂ injections have only been a result of ethanol production slowdowns or project maintenance and upgrades.



PROJECT TUNDRA (CARBONSAFE NORTH DAKOTA)

Project Tundra is designed to capture 90% of the CO₂ produced at the Milton R. Young Station (about 4 million metric tons per year). This capture rate is the equivalent to taking 800,000 gasoline-fueled vehicles off the road. North Dakota-based Minnkota Power Cooperative (Minnkota) is leading the project, along with research support from the EERC through DOE's CarbonSAFE Initiative.

In the fall of 2020, the North Dakota CarbonSAFE project began Phase III of the DOE initiative, a 3-year effort building off of the success of Phase II and covering site characterization and permitting. Field activities over the project period include drilling three stratigraphic test wells and collecting nearly 20 square miles of 3D seismic data in the area around the Milton R. Young Station.

As part of the CarbonSAFE project, two North Dakota CO₂ storage facility permit applications were approved in January 2022, the second and third approved storage facility applications in the state. The project has also developed and received approval in April 2022 for an EPA-compliant MRV plan that meets the requirements of the IRS 45Q tax incentive program. Further, the project had a draft environmental assessment approved in August 2023 that has been published for public comment and, as of March 2024, is awaiting final approval.

As of March 2024, Project Tundra received approval for installation of Class VI injection wells. Minnkota is approaching a FID to begin construction of the project's capture system and injection and monitoring wells.



North Dakota CarbonSAFE is part of ongoing regional efforts to ensure reliable, affordable energy; the wise use of North Dakota's resources; and wide-scale commercial deployment of CCUS.

- January 2022 | Storage Facility Permit Applications Approved
- April 2022 | EPA MRV Plan Approved
- August 2023 | Draft Environmental Assessment Approved
- 2027 | First CO₂ Captured



DRY FORK STATION (CARBONSAFE WYOMING)

The University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources (UWY SER) leads the Wyoming CarbonSAFE project at Dry Fork Station in the Powder River Basin. Funded by DOE, Wyoming CarbonSAFE investigates the practical, secure, and permanent geologic storage of CO₂ emissions from coal-based electricity generation facilities near Gillette, Wyoming. The Wyoming CarbonSAFE team is characterizing the subsurface geology for suitability for CO₂ storage, preparing permitting documents, working to integrate CO₂ capture technologies, assessing regulatory and business issues, and helping to advance the project toward commercialization. Along with many committed industry, academic, and government partners, UWY SER has drilled a stratigraphic test well, conducted downhole petrophysical tests, analyzed core, collected and analyzed seismic data, and is committed to developing robust monitoring plans and communicating project details to the public.

INTEGRATED TEST CENTER

Dry Fork Station also houses the Integrated Test Center (ITC), which is among a select few facilities in the world that provides space for technology developers to evaluate technologies using actual coal-based flue gas from an operating coal-fired power plant. ITC is a public-private partnership—under UWY SER's supervision—fostering the next generation of energy technology. ITC allows for real-world testing at an active power plant and alleviates typical concerns of being able to transfer technology from a lab to a plant.



Wyoming's Carbon Valley:
a trifecta of private,
state, and federal
interests leveraging
one another toward a
common goal: CCUS.



ACCELERATING CCUS

A diverse commercial CCUS industry has begun to emerge in the PCOR Partnership region. Using a variety of business models, the active commercial CCUS projects are integrating private investment with federal and state incentives, such as the 45Q tax and Low-Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) programs. Further CCUS deployment in the PCOR Partnership region will build on the current commercial activity and be accelerated by facilitating the development of projects currently in the planning stages, supporting regional infrastructure, and investigating and addressing remaining barriers to widespread CCUS adoption.

CHALLENGES TO CCUS DEPLOYMENT

To accelerate commercial deployment of CCUS across the PCOR Partnership region, CCUS must be widely accepted as a suite of trusted, economical, and conventional technologies that are part of the overall carbon management solution. For this to happen, several challenges need to be addressed.

REGULATIONS AND PERMITTING – Although much has happened in the regulatory world of CCUS (e.g., states getting primacy, states establishing pore space ownership rulings, etc.), regulatory and permitting uncertainties (e.g., compliance risks) remain a challenge to accelerating CCUS deployment. Ongoing efforts to permit CCUS projects in states with and without Class VI primacy will clarify the permitting process and establish the needed pathways to receive all necessary project approvals.

LONG-TERM LIABILITY – The project operator usually has primary responsibility for the CO₂ storage project during the injection phase. However, monitoring and remediation responsibilities may vary in the postinjection period, which may last many decades. The uncertainty in the scale and duration of postinjection responsibility may make some CCUS project developers wary.

ECONOMICS – For companies to deploy CCUS technologies, they will bear costs associated with carbon capture, transportation, and storage. Companies need to understand the existing regulatory environment and tax and other incentive programs well enough to see prospective CCUS deployment as profitable over the long term, thus justifying the investment and acceptance of any risk.

TECHNOLOGY PROOF OF CONCEPT – Although several commercial-scale CCUS projects are in place, operational experience with CCUS technologies in real-world conditions is still greatly needed. Each large-scale carbon capture project that is successful leads to the next level of understanding and improvements in permitting as well as capture, transport, and storage technologies.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT – Most of the large-scale CO₂ sources in the PCOR Partnership region are not near large CO₂ storage opportunities. Increasing the adoption of CCUS will entail cost-efficient means of moving captured CO₂ to areas with ideal geologic storage opportunities. Large-scale deployment of CCUS will require a marked increase in commitment by both government and industry to plan and build the needed CO₂ transportation infrastructure.



RAMPING UP CCUS DEPLOYMENT

Looking ahead, the PCOR Partnership plans to support CCUS deployment across the region through the following activities:

1. Build upon assessments of regional storage data to verify the target formations' ability to store CO₂.
2. Facilitate the development of the infrastructure required to transport CO₂ from the source to the injection site.
3. Facilitate the development of the rapidly evolving North American regulatory and permitting framework for CO₂ storage.
4. Identify opportunities for CCUS, and support development of projects by PCOR Partnership partners.
5. Continue collaboration with the other RCSP Program partnerships.
6. Provide outreach and education for CO₂ storage stakeholders and the general public.

Through these efforts, the PCOR Partnership will help CCUS projects overcome key challenges, including cost-effective capture of CO₂, through successful integration with fossil fuel conversion systems. Advances in CCUS technology and project deployment will allow continued access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy.



REGULATION

CCUS policy is taking a prominent position in the climate management debate occurring at national, regional, and local levels, and the legal framework for the geologic storage of CO₂ continues to evolve.

In areas where extensive oil and gas production activities have taken place (in particular, EOR or acid gas injection), the regulatory framework is well established. In other jurisdictions, less regulatory framework may be in place for geologic storage of CO₂. Government organizations—which vary by jurisdiction—may have oversight for various aspects of the CCUS project, including the permitting, construction, health and safety, liability, protection of water supplies, and monitoring. EPA has promulgated rules for various aspects of carbon management and reporting; many states are moving forward with their own rules and regulations to accommodate CCUS projects.

Because of the evolving nature of regulatory frameworks at various levels of government, this atlas provides general overviews of select rules and policies currently under debate; this atlas can be considered up to date as of February 2024, unless otherwise noted.

To facilitate the exchange of information, ideas, and experiences among oil and gas regulatory officials, the PCOR Partnership hosts Regulatory Roundup meetings. The meetings inform regional regulatory officials about the current status and evolving nature of regulations that affect CO₂ capture, compression, transport, injection for CO₂ storage, or CO₂ EOR. These meetings allow for improved coordination of regulatory strategies that will ultimately enhance opportunities for CO₂ storage and CO₂ EOR in the region.

PRIMACY

EPA creates minimum regulations, and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) establishes a process for U.S. states to apply to EPA for the authority to regulate underground injection. This is known as primary enforcement authority, or primacy. When a state demonstrates to EPA that it has established an appropriate level of statutory authority and administrative regulations, EPA grants the state primacy. Under the UIC (underground injection control) Program, primacy is distinguished by individual injection well classifications.

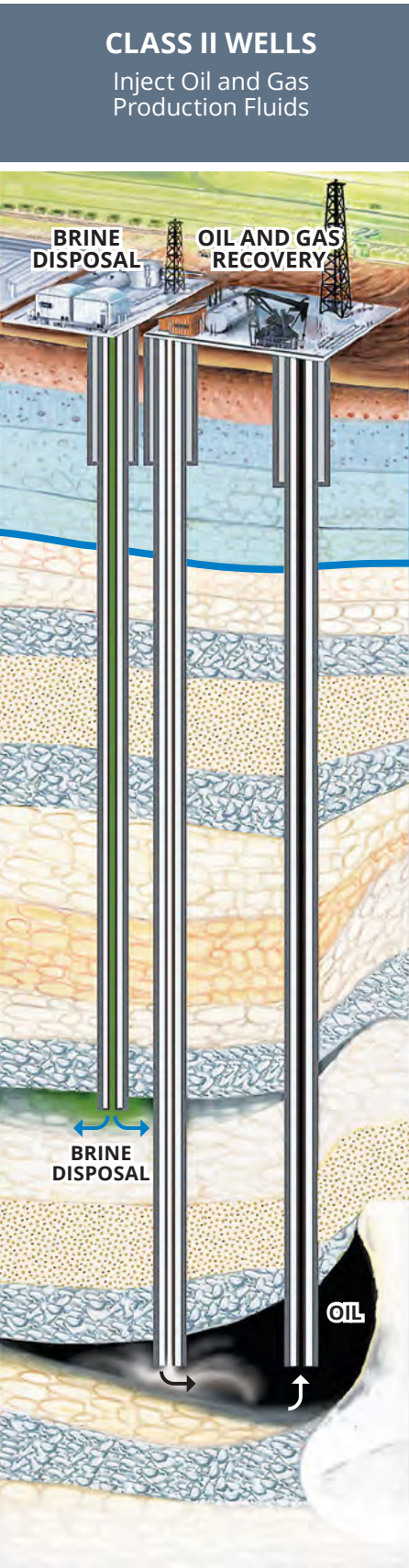
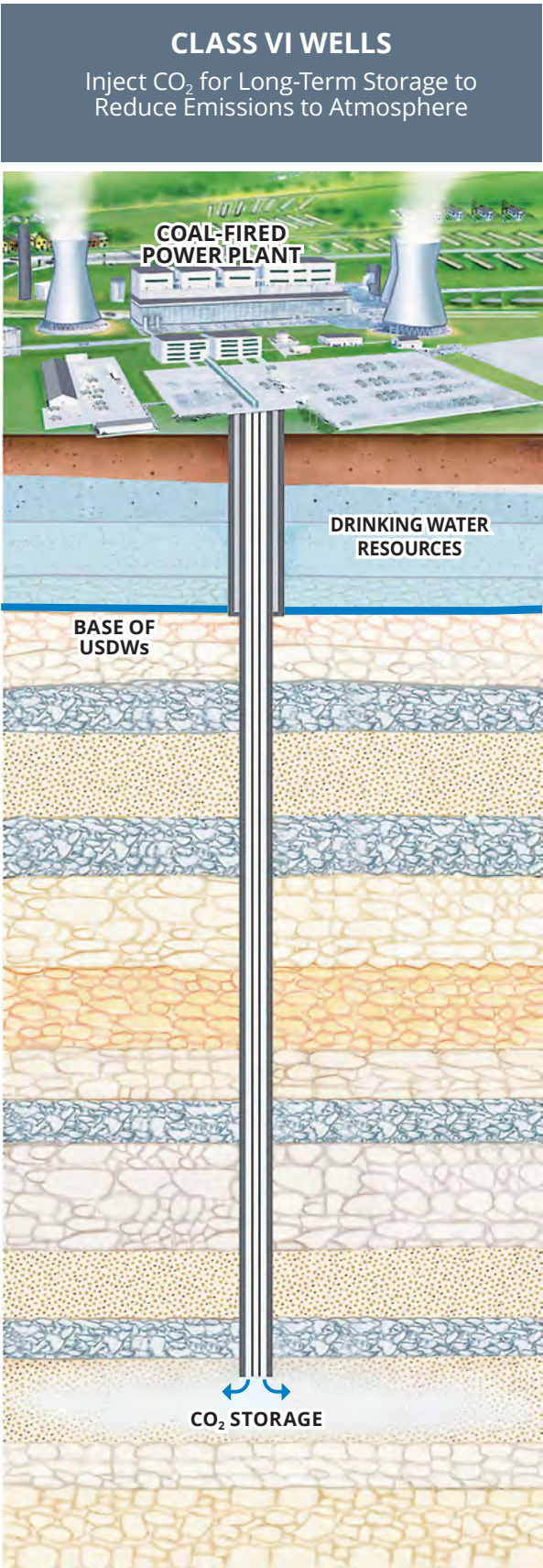
In the PCOR Partnership region, North Dakota and Wyoming both have received Class VI primacy. If state primacy has not been established, the EPA regional office enforces the federal UIC Program regulations.

UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

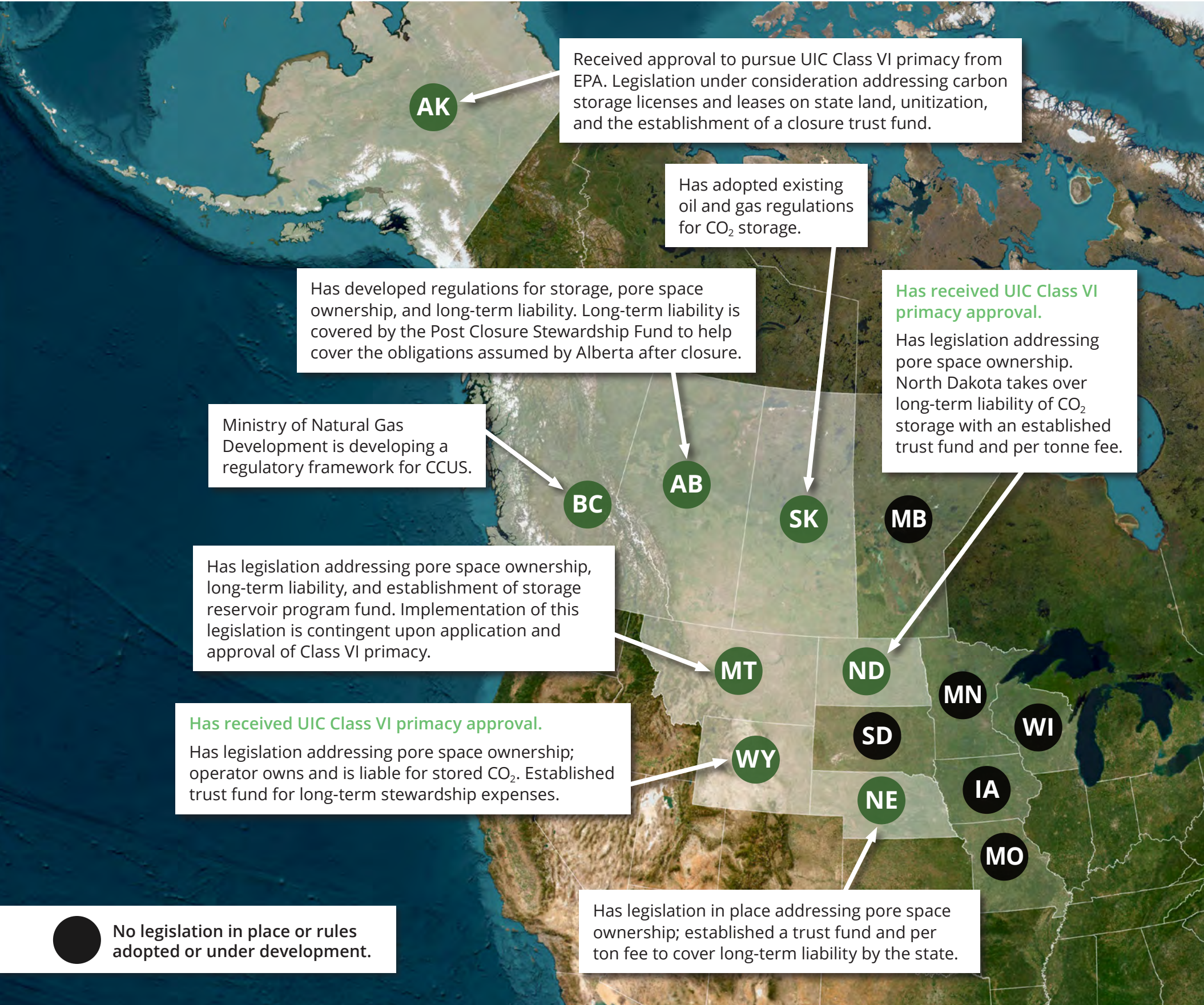
Regulations for CO₂ injection are established under the SDWA UIC Program. The UIC Program is a U.S. federal regulatory program administered by EPA and designed to protect USDWs.

In December 2010, EPA published the federal requirements for Class VI wells, which are wells used to inject CO₂ for the sole purpose of geologic storage. Class VI wells have specific criteria in place to protect USDWs. These criteria include requirements for extensive site characterization, well construction, well operation, comprehensive monitoring, financial responsibility, and reporting. EPA acknowledges that CO₂ EOR stores CO₂ while producing oil during EOR operations and that CO₂ injection under Class II rules can recognize the incidentally stored volume.

Class II wells are used only to inject fluids associated with oil and natural gas production. A Class II well can either be used for disposal purposes to inject waste fluids associated with oil and gas production or to enhance oil and gas recovery. Injection of CO₂ for EOR is regulated and permitted as a Class II injection well.



REGULATORY STATUS



KEY CONCEPTS

PORE SPACE

Pore space can be defined as “the free space between the mineral grains of a geologic formation” or “a cavity or void, whether natural or artificially created, in a subsurface sedimentary stratum.” In either case, the cavity or space is filled with some type of fluid prior to injection: typically oil and brine in an oil field or just brine in a DSF. During CO₂ injection, the injected CO₂ displaces most of the fluid originally in the pore spaces. When developing CO₂ storage projects, project developers need to ensure they have rights to the necessary pore space in a prospective storage formation.



In many countries, subsurface pore space is owned by the federal government. In the United States, only a handful of states have clarified pore space ownership: North Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Alaska, and Montana. To access the pore space needed to store CO₂, the CO₂ storage operator must pursue pore space access agreements with the parties that own the pore space. These agreements involve negotiations surrounding the value of the pore space. This value likely translates into payment terms of \$/tonne/unit of land. Forced unitization (or amalgamation) of pore space is permitted in some states. In this case, if some percentage of owners agree (e.g., 60%–80%), the remaining owners can be required to participate with equitable compensation. This approach is very similar to the unitization process used in the oil and gas industry. Until there is a broader adoption of defined pore space management policy, pore space access will remain an obstacle to widespread CCUS implementation.



LONG-TERM LIABILITY

Long-term liability is broadly recognized as a significant challenge to widespread CCUS. During and immediately after the active injection phase, it is generally understood that the injection operator carries the liability for items such as personal injury, subsurface trespass, mitigation of leaks, etc. The main challenge is determining the appropriate policy framework to manage CCUS sites after closure. The time frame for geologic storage site management could extend for many decades beyond site closure. Without a clear understanding of if and how the long-term liability can be transferred to local or federal government, the investment risk to initiate a CO₂ storage project will remain high. North Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Alberta have established policies to transfer long-term liability to the state/province. These policies are the foundation for expanding this concept to additional states and provinces.



TAX CREDIT

First enacted in October of 2008, Section 45Q of the U.S. tax code provides a performance-based tax credit for carbon capture projects and is intended to promote investment in CCUS implementation. To boost response to the 45Q tax credit program and broaden eligibility to other industries, the 2018 Bipartisan Budget Act reformed the tax credit program. The revised 45Q reduced the cost and risk to private capital of investing in the deployment of carbon capture technology across a range of industries.

Changes included 1) a larger credit amount; 2) a start-of construction deadline and 12-year claim period; 3) allowing the credit for CO₂ utilization in addition to EOR and for DAC, as well as allowing smaller facilities to claim the credit; and 4) allowing owners of carbon capture equipment to claim tax credits instead of the entity capturing the CO₂, which facilitates tax equity investment.

The deadline to begin construction was further extended for 2 years, to January 1, 2026, in the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020 (Division EE of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021; P.L. 116-260).


P.L. 117-169, commonly referred to as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA), modified and further extended the Section 45Q tax credit. In addition to modifying the base credit rates and definition of qualified facilities, the IRA allowed a larger credit for qualified facilities or carbon capture equipment that meet certain prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements. In addition, the IRA extended eligibility to claim the credit to certain nonprofits (“direct pay”) and entities without ownership interests (“transferability”) and extended the deadline to begin construction to the end of 2032.⁵⁹

	Equipment in service after 2/8/2018 and before 1/1/2023	Equipment in service after 12/31/2022 and under construction before 1/1/2033
Claim Period	12 years once facility is in service	12 years once facility is in service, 5 years if transferred
Annual Capture Requirements (metric tons)	Power: at least 500,000 DAC and other: at least 100,000	Power: at least 18,750, capture design capacity not less than 75% baseline emissions DAC: at least 1000 Other: at least 12,500
Credit Value (\$/metric ton)	Saline storage: up to \$50 CO ₂ EOR and other: up to \$35	Saline storage: base credit \$17 (\$36 for DAC), \$85 (\$180 for DAC) if requirements met CO ₂ EOR and other: base credit \$12 (\$26 for DAC), \$60 (\$130) if requirements met
Eligibility	Entity that owns the capture equipment and ensures the utilization or storage	Entity that owns capture equipment and ensures utilization or storage. Direct pay may apply for certain tax-exempt entities.

TAX CREDIT

In addition to federal tax incentives, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana offer a variety of tax incentives for projects involving CCUS.⁶⁰ For example, North Dakota eliminates sales tax on all capture-related equipment, CO₂ sold for EOR, pipeline construction, and CO₂ EOR infrastructure. In addition, North Dakota reduces the coal conversion tax when CO₂ is captured, allows for a 10-year property tax exemption on pipeline equipment, and eliminates oil and gas extraction tax for 20 years during tertiary CO₂ EOR. Wyoming has established tax incentives to spur CO₂ utilization. The state eliminates tax on the sale of CO₂ used in tertiary CO₂ EOR and allows for a severance tax credit when oil is produced from CO₂ injection. Montana offers a reduced market value property tax rate for carbon sequestration equipment. A notable law in Montana requires that all new coal plants capture and sequester at least 50% of their CO₂ emissions.

State	Incentives
North Dakota	Sales and use tax exemption Property tax exemption Gross receipts tax reduction
Wyoming	Sales tax exemption Severance tax credit
Montana	Reduced property tax



45Q

Globally, the most progressive CCUS-specific incentive.⁶¹

Recent Actions	
May 2020	IRS proposes regulation for 45Q tax credits.
December 2020	Congress approves 2-year extension of 45Q. Construction must start by January 1, 2026.
August 2022	IRS expands eligibility qualifications and extends construction start deadline to 2032.
May 2024	IRS issues final regulations for “direct pay,” allowing 45Q tax credits as payment for federal income tax.

LOW-CARBON FUEL MARKETS

The objective of low-carbon fuel programs is to reduce the carbon intensity (CI) of fuels used for transportation, including gasoline, diesel, and their alternatives. The low-CI fuels that generate credits include ethanol, biodiesel, renewable diesel, compressed natural gas (CNG) and biogas, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and biogas, hydrogen, and electricity for electric vehicles (EVs). Currently, ethanol is the greatest contributor to the alternative transportation fuel market. By adding CCUS, these fuel producers are competitively able to market an even lower-CI-value fuel to petroleum importers, refiners, and wholesalers regulated by the LCFS Program.

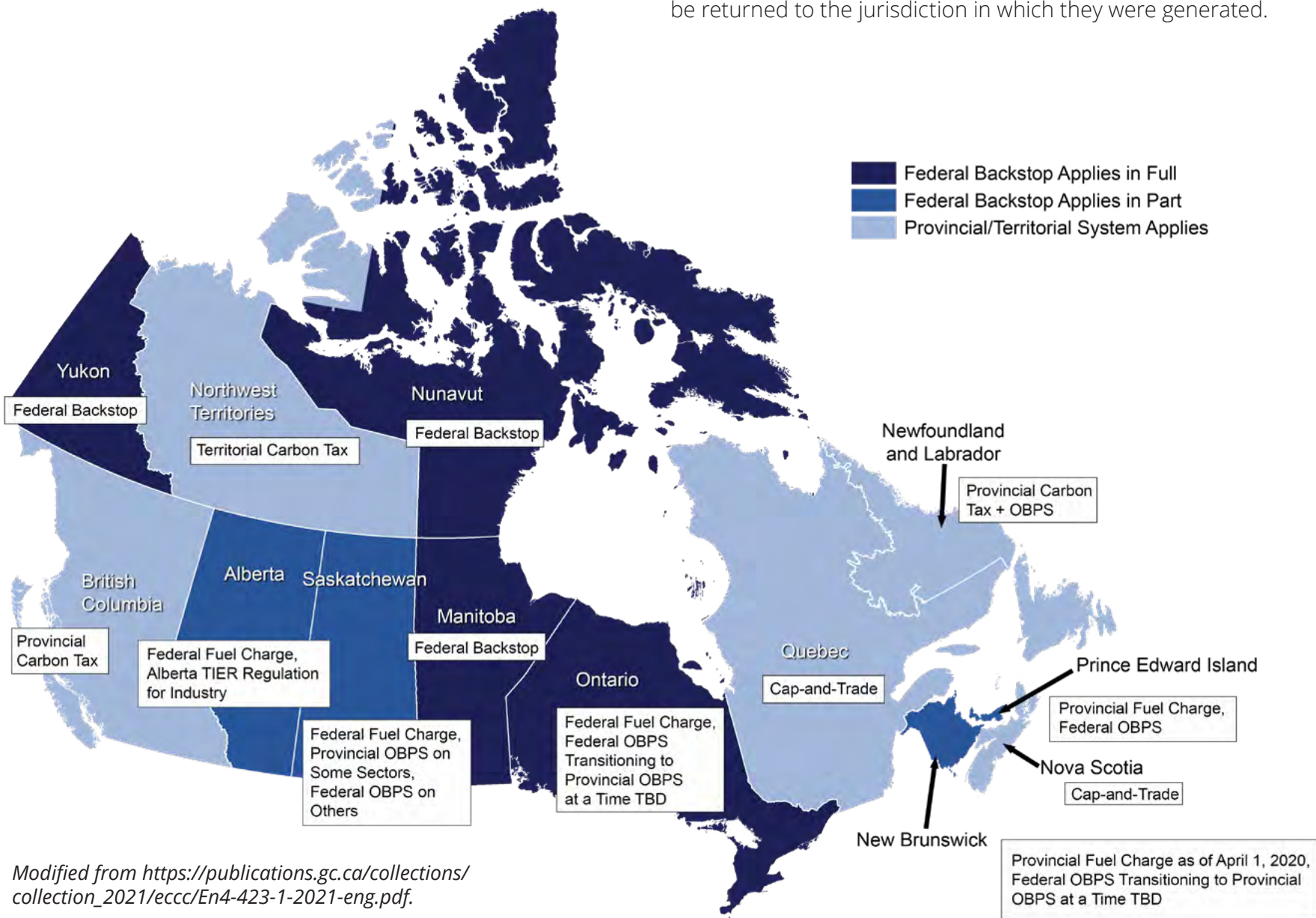
- Established
- Considering
- Introduced

The details and standards for these state government programs are determined by the legislators and regulatory agencies that develop and design them. California, Oregon, and British Columbia have active low-carbon fuel programs. Other areas of the United States looking to pass bills to establish low-carbon fuel programs are Washington State, Colorado, and several midwestern states. Canada and Brazil are also exploring these standards.

CANADIAN INCENTIVES

In its 2021 budget, the Canadian federal government proposed to introduce an investment tax credit for capital invested in CCUS projects, with the goal of reducing CO₂ emissions by at least 15 MMt annually. The investment tax credit, the Output-Based Pricing System (OBPS), will be available to multiple industrial sectors, including cement, refining, power generation, hydrogen generation, and DAC. The tax credit is not intended for CO₂ EOR projects. The credit is not yet active. It will take effect once parliament passes enabling legislation; the plan is to make it retroactive to 2022.^{62,63}

In October 2016, the Canadian Prime Minister announced the Pan-Canadian Approach to Pricing Carbon Pollution, which gave provinces and territories the flexibility to develop their own carbon pollution pricing system along with guidance to ensure the systems are stringent, fair, and efficient. The Canadian federal government also committed to implementing a federal carbon pollution pricing system in provinces and territories that request it or do not have a carbon pollution pricing system that meets the federal benchmark, thus creating a federal backstop. As of 2021, the federal carbon price was Can\$30/tonne; it will increase to Can\$170/tonne by 2030. All direct proceeds from carbon pollution pricing under the Canadian federal system will be returned to the jurisdiction in which they were generated.



Modified from https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/eccc/En4-423-1-2021-eng.pdf.

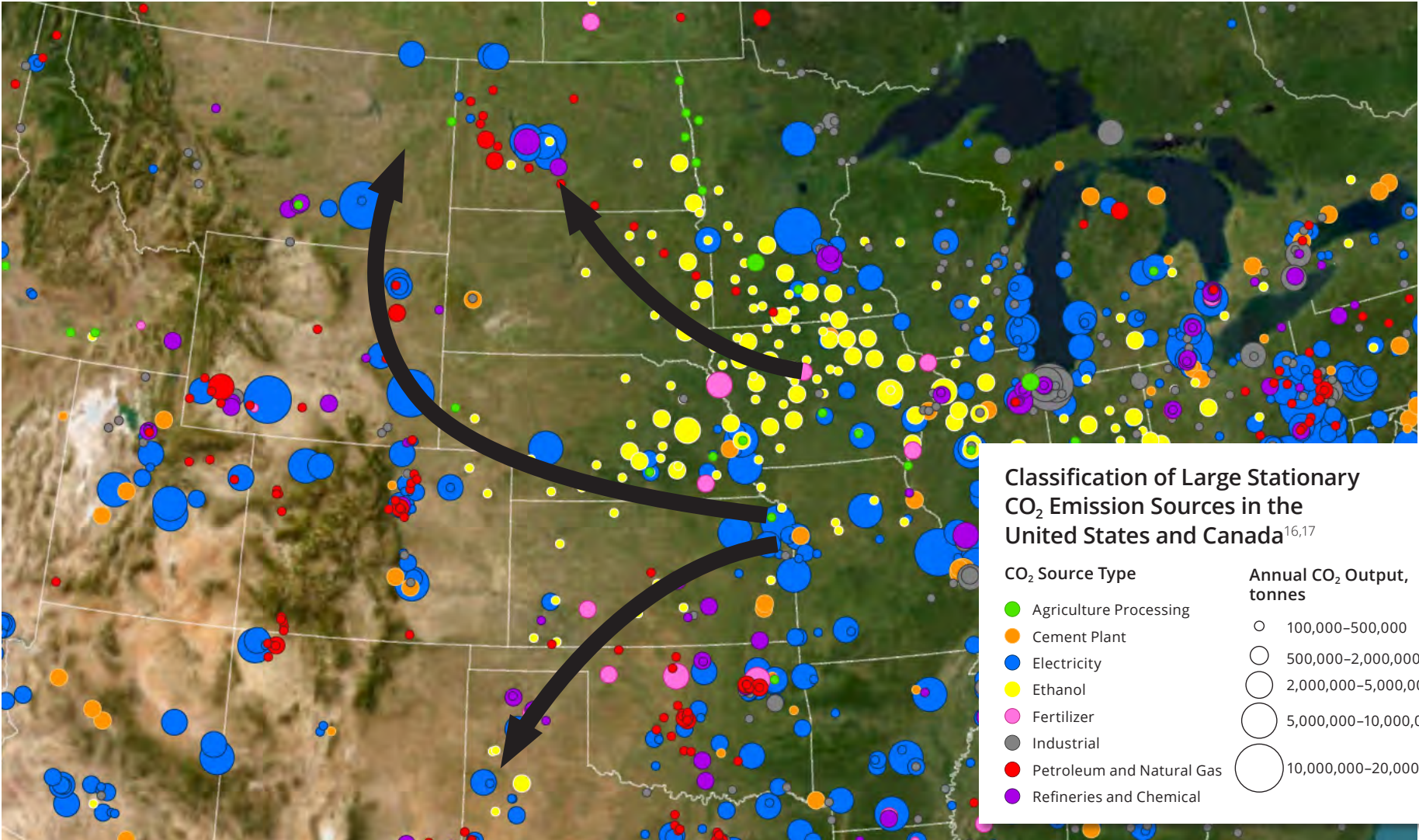
INFRASTRUCTURE

The United States currently has the world's most extensive CO₂ pipeline network; however, more infrastructure is needed to enable widespread deployment of CCUS in the country. For example, most of the large-scale CO₂ sources in the PCOR Partnership region are not near large CO₂ storage opportunities. Increasing the adoption of CCUS in the region will require cost-efficient means of moving captured CO₂ to areas with ideal geologic storage opportunities. Without the transport piece of the puzzle, there is little incentive to pursue the capture piece.

Instead of constructing many new point-to-point pipelines, a more strategic approach using prescribed trunk lines and

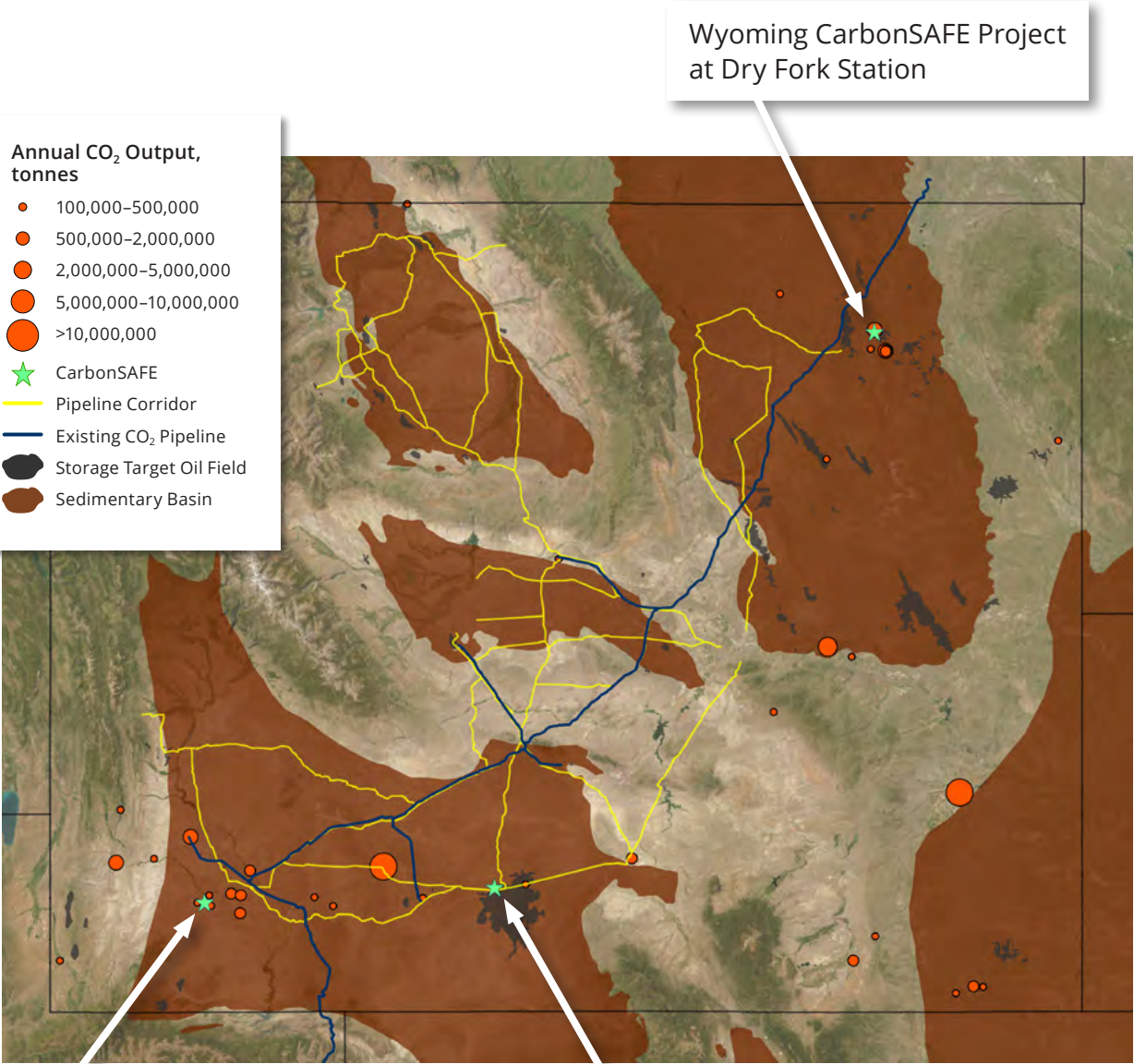
connector pipelines would be economically advantageous for efficiently enabling widespread commercial CCUS deployment. For example, the ACTL, which had strong Canadian government infrastructure support, was designed to accommodate future expansion of CCUS. The 240-km pipeline has nearly 90% of its capacity available to accommodate future CO₂ sources. Two newly planned projects in the PCOR Partnership region involve the development of industrial CCUS hubs with shared CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure.⁶⁴ The development of additional shared infrastructure, such as pipelines, can be a strong incentive to trigger new investments.

Hypothetical CO₂ Trunk Routes



WYOMING PIPELINE CORRIDOR INITIATIVE

A notable example of facilitating infrastructure development in the PCOR Partnership region is the Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative (WPCI). WPCI was formed to promote the development of a network of CO₂ pipelines throughout Wyoming for transportation of CO₂ from emission sources (such as power plants) to suitable storage locations or for other uses (such as EOR). Under the leadership of the Wyoming governor's office and in collaboration with researchers, industries, and other state agencies, WPCI proposes pipeline routes that would cover almost 2000 miles and cross federal, state, and private lands in central and eastern Wyoming. Project development continues to progress along these pipeline corridors.



Sweetwater Carbon Storage Hub CarbonSAFE Project

The Sweetwater Carbon Storage Hub CarbonSAFE project will comprise over 100,000 acres of leased pore space and over 550 million metric tons of CO₂ storage capacity. The project will provide a carbon management solution for industrial emitters in southwestern Wyoming and across the Mountain West. In December 2023, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality issued three Class VI UIC permits in relation to the project, which are the first to be issued in the state of Wyoming.

Williams Echo Springs CarbonSAFE Project

Started in 2023, UWY SER, in collaboration with Williams (a midstream natural gas company), is leading a storage complex feasibility study to develop a dedicated CO₂ storage hub for current and future industries in the Echo Springs area of south-central Wyoming. The 2-year study plans to permit and drill a deep stratigraphic test well and interpret the resulting data, models, and documents for further site development. Expected outcomes from the study include confirming which of the six stacked formations at Echo Springs can store at least 50 million metric tons of CO₂.

Whether from a capture-ready nearly pure CO₂ source associated with an ethanol plant or from the retrofit of an 800-MW coal-fired power plant, implementing CCUS is an expensive endeavor. For an industry to move forward with a CCUS project, an appropriate business model must be adopted.

Selling captured CO₂ as a commodity is the easiest business model if the buyer and seller can agree on the CO₂ sale price and a long-term contract. This type of arrangement defines a traditional CO₂ EOR situation.

Without a market price for the CO₂ and an amicable buyer-seller relationship, alternative business cases are required. To incentivize CCUS where a market does not exist, the U.S. government has established a tax credit program for storing CO₂. The value of these tax credits provides the business case to move forward with CCUS projects to offset the cost of implementation. Canada has recently proposed an investment tax credit for capital invested in CCUS projects,

with the goal of reducing emissions by at least 15 MMt of CO₂ annually.

Some CCUS projects, like those associated with ethanol plants, can bolster their business case by capitalizing on increased commodity values (more money per gallon of ethanol). Leveraging carbon markets, like the LCFS established in California or Oregon, can provide direct financial gain to an ethanol company implementing CCUS. The projects may be able to stack the financial benefits of increased commodity prices and the tax credits gained from the U.S. government. This combination is the driver for recently announced large-scale gathering and transport of CO₂ from ethanol plants in the United States.

The Canadian federal government has put a tax on CO₂ emissions (currently Can\$30/tonne). Under this situation, there may be financial benefit to capture and store the CO₂ rather than pay the tax. This potential financial benefit would be the business case for CCUS.

CCUS can play a vital role in reducing atmospheric CO₂ levels while simultaneously preserving the option of using abundant and low-cost domestic fossil energy resources. However, the scale of CCUS deployment needed to result in significant reductions will require thousands of CCUS deployments around the world over the next three to four decades. The expansion of a new technology at that rate is challenging but achievable, particularly when the technology becomes routine and impediments are mitigated. Research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) programs, such as those currently conducted by DOE's RCSP Program, are critical for demonstrating CO₂ storage in diverse geologic settings and will establish the basis for CCUS's widespread global deployment.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND CCUS

Environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) are intangible factors that contribute to the sustainability and ethical impact of investments. The approach to, assessment of, and reporting of ESG factors are growing considerations for investors, shareholders, and the public who seek greater levels of transparency to evaluate risk exposure. An increasingly central aspect of many ESG assessment and rating schemes is a corporation's exposure to climate change-related risks.

Despite broad awareness of the potential for CCUS within the investment and rating communities, substantial uncertainty remains regarding its more widespread deployment. As such, CCUS is undervalued in its potential for improving a company's ESG performance.⁶⁵ Perhaps as CCUS matures, it will better boost ESG ratings. In the near term, ESG factors can play a contributing role in the development of commercial CCUS projects that are founded on more robust business cases.



ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

Public awareness and support are critical to the development of new energy technologies and are widely viewed as vital for CCUS projects. CCUS remains an unfamiliar technology to many members of the public, and local opposition to specific project proposals can be significant in some cases. However,

enhanced and coordinated public outreach is improving awareness of the role of CCUS as one option to reduce GHG emissions. To that end, the PCOR Partnership is working to increase CCUS knowledge among the general public, regulatory agencies, policymakers, and industry.

Educational Workshops



Media Relations



Landowner/ Stakeholder Relations

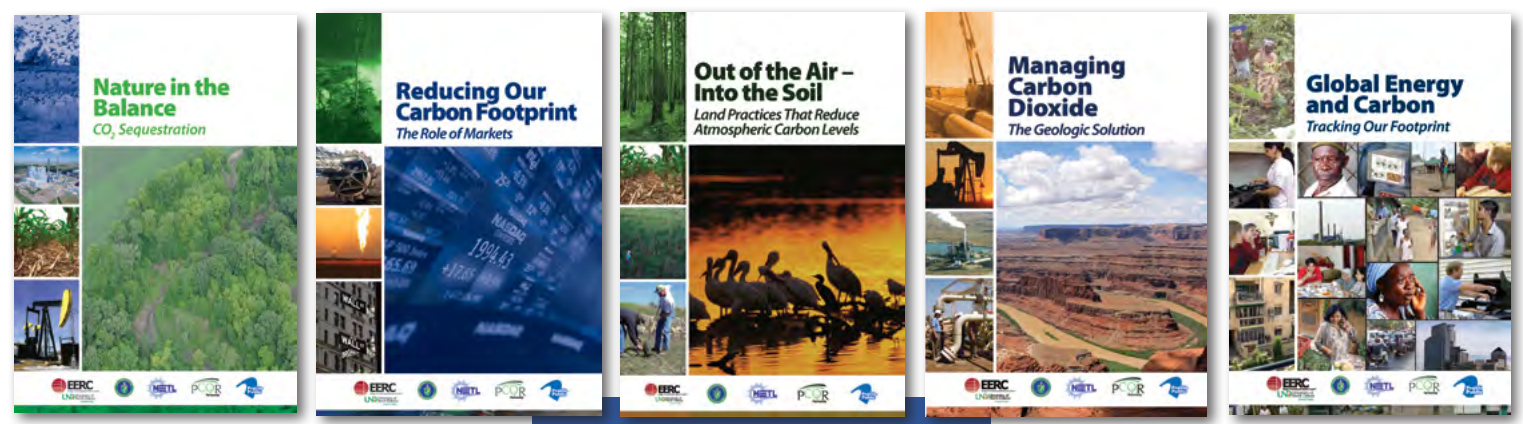


TAKE IT ON THE ROAD

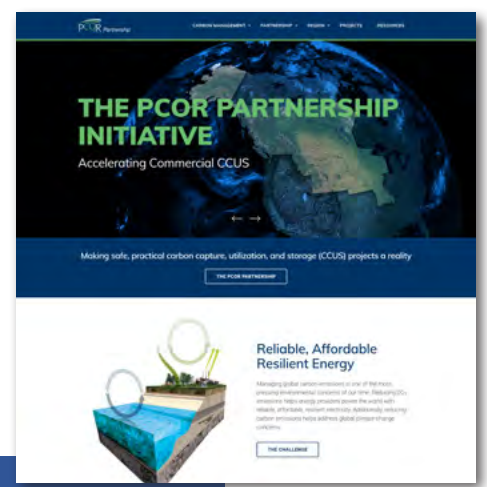
Engaging the public, policymakers, and industry on CCUS remains an essential component of PCOR Partnership activities. This is done through presentations and participation at meetings and public and industry events throughout the region.

TAKE IT TO PRIME TIME

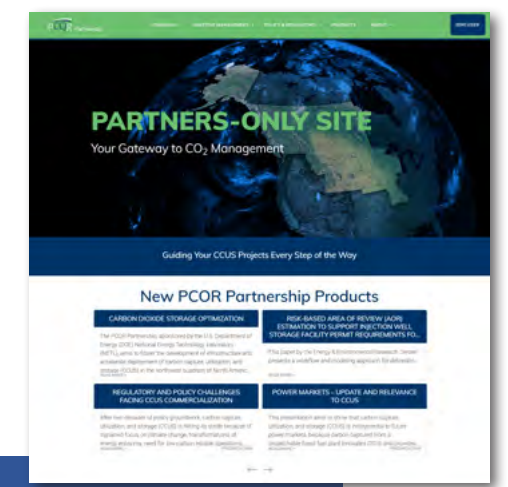
The PCOR Partnership has collaborated with Prairie Public Broadcasting to provide educational activities and documentary productions.



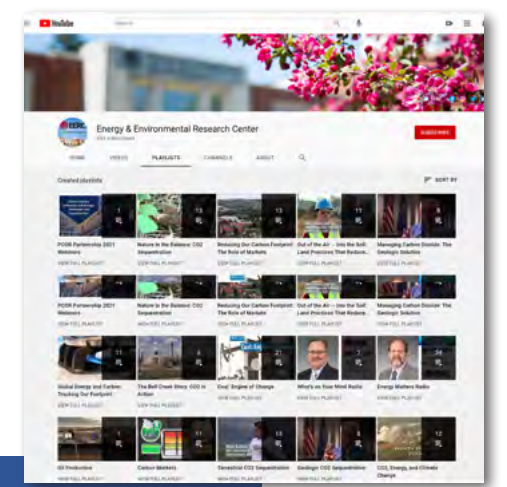
Award-Winning Documentaries



Public Web Site



Partners-Only Web Site



Video Clip Library

TAKE IT ONLINE

Separate public and partners-only websites provide information in terms and context tailored to meet the needs of the distinct demographics.

TAKE IT WITH YOU

Scientific fact sheets, presentations, posters, and reports inform technical audiences, while products such as documentaries, presentations, the regional atlas, and nontechnical posters tell the story of CCUS for a general audience.



NOMENCLATURE

ACTL	Alberta Carbon Trunk Line
bbl	barrel
CarbonSAFE	Carbon Storage Assurance Facility Enterprise
CCA	Cedar Creek Anticline
CCS	carbon capture and storage
CCUS	carbon capture, utilization, and storage
CH₄	methane
CI	carbon intensity
CO₂	carbon dioxide
CNG	compressed natural gas
CO₂eq	CO ₂ equivalent
DAC	direct air capture
DGC	Dakota Gasification Company
Denbury	Denbury Onshore, LLC
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DSF	deep saline formation
ECBM	enhanced coalbed methane
EERC	Energy & Environmental Research Center
EOR	enhanced oil recovery
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESG	environmental, social, and corporate governance
EU	European Union
EV	electric vehicle
FEED	front-end engineering and design
FID	financial investment decision
GHG	greenhouse gas
Gt	gigatonne or billion tonne
H₂O	water
IEA	International Energy Agency
InSAR	interferometric synthetic aperture radar
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
ITC	Integrated Test Center
LCA	life cycle analysis
LCFS	low-carbon fuel standard
LNG	liquefied natural gas
mg/L	milligram per liter
Minnkota	Minnkota Power Cooperative
MRV	monitoring, reporting, and verification
MMt	million tonne
MVA	monitoring, verification, and accounting
MWh	megawatt-hour
NDIC	North Dakota Industrial Commission

NETL	National Energy Technology Laboratory
N₂O	nitrous oxide
NWR	North West Redwater Partnership
O₃	ozone
OBPS	Output-Based Pricing System
PCOR	Plains CO ₂ Reduction (Partnership)
PCO₂C	Partnership for CO ₂ Capture
PDM	permanent downhole monitoring
ppm	part per million
psi	pound per square inch
PTRC	Petroleum Technology Research Centre
RCSP	Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership
R&D	research and development
RD&D	research, development, and demonstration
RTE	Red Trail Energy, LLC
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SER	School of Energy Resources
stb	stock tank barrel
TDS	total dissolved solids
UIC	underground injection control
USDW	underground source of drinking water
UWY	University of Wyoming
VSP	vertical seismic profile
WPCI	Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative

CCUS UNITS AND CONVERSION FACTORS

Prefixes			
T	tera	10 ¹²	trillion
G	giga	10 ⁹	billion
M	mega	10 ⁶	million
k	kilo	10 ³	thousand
m	milli	10 ⁻³	one-thousandth
μ	micro	10 ⁻⁶	one-millionth
n	nano	10 ⁻⁹	one-billionth

Conversion of Mass to Volume of CO₂ (all at 1 atm)		
standard temperature	short ton	tonne (metric ton)
0°C/32°F (scientific)	16.31 Mcf	17.98 Mcf
60°F (oil and gas industry)	17.24 Mcf	19.01 Mcf
20°C/68°F (utilities)	17.51 Mcf	19.30 Mcf
Mcf = 1000 ft ³		

Volume				
barrel of oil	X	42.00	=	U.S. gallon
	X	34.97	=	imperial gallon
	X	0.1590	=	cubic meter
U.S. gallon	X	0.0238	=	barrel
	X	3.785	=	liter
	X	0.8327	=	imperial gallon
imperial gallon	X	1.201	=	U.S. gallon

Weight				
short ton	X	2000	=	pound
	X	0.9072	=	metric ton
metric ton (tonne)	X	1000	=	kilogram
	X	1.102	=	short ton

Length/Area				
mile	X	1.609	=	kilometer
kilometer	X	0.6214	=	mile
hectare	X	2.471	=	acre
	X	0.0039	=	square mile
acre	X	0.4049	=	hectare
square mile	X	640.0	=	acre
	X	259.0	=	hectare
	X	2.590	=	square kilometer

Note: Most data in this atlas are described in metric units. However, some imperial units are used according to original data sources or industry standard (e.g., barrels of oil).

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To learn more about the PCOR Partnership and its activities, contact:

Kevin Connors
PCOR Partnership Program Manager
701.777.5236
kconnors@undeerc.org

To obtain educational materials or schedule a presentation, contact:

Nikki Krueger
Director of Communications and Information Services
701.777.5428
nkrueger@undeerc.org

Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)
University of North Dakota
15 North 23rd Street, Stop 9018
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9018
701.777.5000 | eercinfo@undeerc.org
undeerc.org



