

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Community Engagement

June 2024



## Welcome

In this newsletter:

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Community Outreach and Engagement 101

Welcome to the second Texas-Louisiana Carbon Management Community newsletter! We are thrilled to share the latest developments with you and provide resources and information related to TXLA CMC.

the phonebook. Please feel free to share our newsletter with anyone interested in joining the phone book to build connections or they may opt-out and only keep up with TXLA CMC news and events.

News

As we move forward, we plan to send future newsletters with a targeted theme to fulfill your requests about specific carbon capture and storage (CCS) topics. These topics will include community benefits, environmental benefits, technical information from the expertise of each of our universities, and more.

Finally, if you wish to share news about projects, opportunities, or developments that you or your organization are involved in, please do not hesitate to reach out to us so we can share your news.

Opportunities

A goal of this newsletter series is to cover basics for community outreach, offer tips for effective engagement, address frequently asked questions, and share recent CCS-related activities from our six universities. We plan to include helpful links to additional resources and informational materials.

We look forward to serving all of our communities. If you have any questions for any of our six universities, in regard to CCS, please contact us at [txlacmc@beg.utexas.edu](mailto:txlacmc@beg.utexas.edu). This project is funded for 2024–2026 by Department of Energy's (DOE's) National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) project DE-FE32361.

Resources and Links

We updated the TXLA CMC invitation form to include the option of receiving emails and newsletters without joining

[Texas A&M University-Kingsville](#)

[University of Houston](#)

[Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi](#)

[Lamar University](#)

[The University of Texas at Austin](#)

[Louisiana State University](#)

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT 101

## Key Definitions

### Outreach:

One-way communications that help generate attention to a topic or an issue

*Examples: Setting up a booth at a fair, information sessions with a planned presentation*

### Engagement:

Two-way conversations that provides opportunities for mutual learning

*Examples: Coffee-chats, roundtable discussions*

## Questions for Self-Reflection

Am I listening and asking the right questions?

Were the discussions surrounding the project, or any benefits, collaborative?

Are developments following community engagements mutual? Sustained? Reciprocal?

Have I been inclusive of the history and goals of the community?

## Overview

Outreach and engagement are crucial for raising CCS awareness and disseminating information. Early and successful community engagement fosters cooperation and reduces risks for developing projects. Here are some tips and best practices:

- Research the community's history beforehand. Showing up without prior knowledge of the history and goals of the community may not convey a strong interest in their concerns.
- Be aware of your audience's needs and consider providing additional support for in-person events or meetings such as translators, transportation, childcare, handout materials, or other resources.
- You may consider dressing casually, and/or with the idea of fitting in with your community.
- It is important to build trust and connections. This may often take form in making contact with a spokesperson who is a trusted community member. Additional contacts may also include advocacy groups, local government, and others.
- Many projects will take time to get off the ground, do not disappear after making the obligatory appearances. We recommend continuing to maintain and grow your contacts.
- Effective engagement relies on listening and responding to ensure collaborative discussions. Listen to feedback and reflect (see the reflection questions on the bottom left of this page).
- Include the community while writing your community benefits plan.

## What do community benefits look like in practice?

This is not an all-inclusive list, but here are some common examples which highlight benefits that are sustainable and reciprocal:

- Improving local infrastructure (roads, drainage, internet access, access to emergency services, etc.)
- Committing to workforce developments in the community
- Investing in educational programs or job training
- Targeting contracting commitments from local businesses

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## NEWS

### The University of Texas at Austin



From left to right, Priyansh Dhandha, Taegon Hibbitts, Isabella Gutierrez, and Ashtyn Christian.

The Gulf Coast Carbon Center's (GCCC) researchers, in collaboration with the Jackson School of Geosciences at The University of Texas at Austin, is mentoring four undergraduate students, and three are part of a 9-week long summer internship through a Research Traineeship Experience (RTX) program. RTX undergraduate students Priyansh Dhandha, Taegon Hibbitts, and Ashtyn Christian will be conducting independent research projects under the mentorship of Dr. Susan Hovorka, Dr. Sahar Bakhshian, Ramon Gil-Egui, and Dr. Hassan Dashtian.

Additionally, Dr. Tip Meckel and Dr. Seyyed Hosseini will also mentor students during the summer on CCS-related projects.

Priyansh, working with Dr. Bakhshian and Ramón Gil-Egui, will utilize natural language processing to analyze sentiment surrounding CCS. Taegon, working with Dr. Dashtian, will focus on satellite data to automate the classification of methane super emitters. Ashtyn, working with Dr. Hovorka, will create a map showcasing the base of USDW in counties along the Texas coastline. Isabella, working with Dr. Meckel, will help locate and organize various CCS map files.

In addition, Muhammad Haseeb Mukhtar, currently pursuing a PhD in petroleum engineering at the University of Houston, will work with Dr. Hosseini. As a reservoir engineer, Muhammad will simulate wellbore leakage and develop a leakage risk profile for carbon storage.

In other outreach activities, GCCC is collaborating with the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) on Class VI regulator training and is also working to design a CCS fact sheet brokerage page to help make information about CCS more accessible.



Muhammad Haseeb Mukhtar

### Lamar University

At Lamar University, Dr. Tracy Benson is involved with the Lamar Intro to Engineering (LITE) program, a summer camp designed for 7th and 8th graders. As a part of this program, students will learn about carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon capture basics. Additionally, Dr. Benson participated in a well-attended workshop sponsored by the Lamar Office of Undergraduate Research, which brought together academic institutions and industrial representatives to discuss biogas and CO<sub>2</sub> utilization.

Taking advantage of Lamar University's proximity to many CCS projects in Beaumont, TX, Dr. Daniel Chen invited representatives from Bayou Bend CCS to his class to discuss education for CO<sub>2</sub> storage.

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# NEWS

## Louisiana State University

Dr. Mehdi Zeidouni served as an Expert Witness for Louisiana's Legislature by addressing questions and concerns raised by officials and members of communities potentially affected by CCS activities at Lake Maurepas for Louisiana's Task Force on Local Impacts of CCS. The addressed concerns were mainly in regard to the extent and migration of CO<sub>2</sub> plumes, and potential for leakage with respect to wells and faults.

Additionally, Dr. Zeidouni completed a service-learning certification training via Dr. Sarah Becker's office at LSU's Center for Community Engagement, Learning, & Leadership (CCELL). Dr. Zeidouni's syllabus was also approved for a service-learning option for students starting in Fall 2024; these students will have a chance to work on findings from Dr. Zeidouni's research in collaboration with a community partner of their choice.

## Texas A&M University - Kingsville



Texas A&M University - Kingsville officials and stakeholders from the South Texas DAC Hub met on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 to discuss collaborative interests regarding the development of the DAC facility in Kleberg County.

Dr. Jong-Won Choi will meet with stakeholders working on the South Texas DAC Hub to further projects focusing on community engagement during TAMUK's Engineer Week for K-12.

Dr. Jingbo Louise Liu will host panel discussions on Achievement in Energy Transition and Smart Materials at the American Chemical Society National Meeting. Additionally, her collaboration with the U.S. Air Force Academy focuses on green energy storage to achieve carbon neutral goals.

The TAMUK team will develop lessons for a freshman seminar class to introduce engineering and science students to relevant topics such as carbon capture, sequestration, and conversion. These lessons will be suitable for undergraduate and K12 students. During this summer, Dr. Liu will mentor two groups of students to carry on sustainable energy and forensic research to create green synthesis technology, which will help mitigate carbon emissions.

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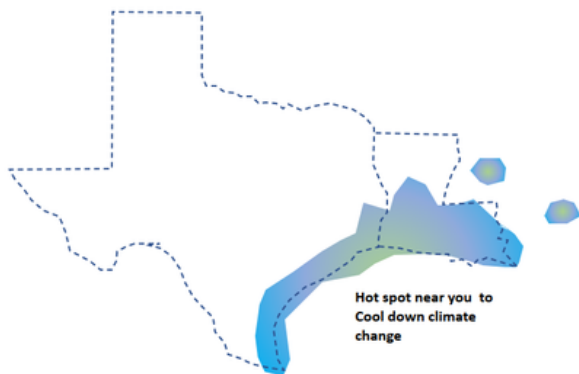
## OPPORTUNITIES



Louisiana State University's Craft & Hawkins Dept of Petroleum Engineering department is accepting applications for a **Postdoctoral Researcher** interested CO<sub>2</sub> storage. This post-doctoral researcher will develop and perform analytical and numerical modeling for coupled processes related to flow in porous media, especially in low-permeability shale reservoirs. Learn more [here](#).

The Regional Energy Democracy Initiative (REDI) pilot [applications](#) are now open till **July 31st, 2024**.

REDI aims to empower communities in the U.S. Gulf South region by fostering collaboration between minority serving institutions, community-based organizations, and public and private partners to aid the development of community benefits to further Energy Justice and Equity.



The Gulf Coast Carbon Center is looking for K-12 teachers in the Gulf Coast region (shown to the left) who are interested in incorporating CCS education in the classroom. We will be attending the Conference for the Advancement of Science Teaching ([CAST24](#)) in November of 2024 to further educational outreach initiatives. Please share this information with any K-12 instructors you may know.

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## RESOURCES AND LINKS

Explore the Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) Toolkit from the Office of Energy Justice and Equity, offering essential resources for understanding and implementing community benefits agreements in private sector development, emphasizing benefits to communities, developers, and government stakeholders, here:

<https://www.energy.gov/justice/community-benefit-agreement-cba-toolkit>

Read the Rocky Mountain Institute's overview on community benefits plans and what they contribute to the energy transition here:

<https://rmi.org/community-benefits-plans-driving-equitable-clean-energy-development/>

Review DOE's Carbon Management Resource Portal, a resource hub providing information about various carbon management topics. Navigate through factsheets, FAQs, reports, videos, research articles, and more, here:

<https://www.energy.gov/fecm/carbon-management-resource-portal>

Access a detailed overview about DOE's requirements for community benefit plans, explore templates, view FAQ's, and learn how these plans prioritize community engagement, workforce investment, diversity, equity, and more, here:

<https://www.energy.gov/infrastucture/about-community-benefits-plans>

Discover the Louisiana Decision Support Tool from the Great Plains Institute, which couples geospatial analyses of environmental, regulatory, and legal constraints with analyses of potential environmental justice constraints:

<https://carbonactionalliance.org/communities/decision-support-tool/>

Utilize the National Wildlife Federation's Community Takeaways toolkit that provides resource materials, best practice recommendations, findings from two listening sessions with community members in Louisiana, and more:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mCmDo2SzBzCXoTlxCQUICu2uvVQ8nhcO/view>

### QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Reach us at the Gulf Coast Carbon Center at the Bureau of Economic Geology

Email:  
txlacmc@beg.utexas.edu

Leave a Comment:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/xAGXyxRtJt?origin=lprLink>

**Dr. Susan Hovorka**  
Principal Investigator

Email: susan.hovorka@beg.utexas.edu  
Phone: 512.471.4863

**Angela Luciano**  
Project Manager

Email: angela.luciano@beg.utexas.edu  
Phone: 512.471.0318