



Bipartisan Policy Center

The Commercial Case for Direct Air Capture of Carbon Dioxide

BPC Direct Air Capture Advisory Council

Direct air capture (DAC) of CO₂ from the atmosphere has attracted significant investor attention in recent years, but, until recently, was often perceived as too expensive to be relevant. This white paper outlines the growing commercial case for DAC, a technology which will play a critical role in reducing climate change risks this century. It was developed by the Bipartisan Policy Center's DAC Advisory Council, which includes leaders from academia, the private sector, labor, and the NGO community. The report is the second of a three-part series by the Council that outlines the environmental imperative, the commercial case, and the federal policy case for deploying DAC technologies at scale.

In recognition of the benefits that DAC offers, this white paper outlines the strong commercial case for DAC using three key observations:

- **DAC projects are already being deployed around the world** with a variety of different business models and strategies. The investor attention these projects have attracted point to the significant growth potential for DAC in the coming decades.
- **Deployment of DAC leads to cost reductions** that will enable the scale-up of additional DAC capacity. Earlier stage technologies require a history of operation to attract investors and recent progress with DAC projects are quickly writing this history. This will enable the cost reductions necessary for deploying DAC in service of the climate challenge.
- **With continued policy support, financing opportunities for DAC show promise.** Short term financing will rely on policies at both the federal and state level, along with burgeoning support from processes that make use of CO₂ as a feedstock. Longer term financing will be

driven by the climate change mitigation benefits and the growth of carbon-to-value industries. This will result in the direct creation of thousands of jobs and support for U.S. manufacturing.

DAC merits serious attention in any renewed federal commitment to energy technology RD&D because of the specific advantages it offers and the benefits it can provide as part of a diversified, practical, and cost-effective strategy for addressing climate change. This work sets the stage in anticipation of our third, and final, report that outlines necessary federal policy recommendations for facilitating the at scale requirements of DAC.

