

Community Benefits Plan

DE-FE0032266, Uinta Basin CarbonSAFE II: Storage Complex Feasibility
The University of Utah

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to summarize the specific objectives the University of Utah is committing to in its Community Benefits Plan (CBP), in quantifiable terms with SMART milestones.

A. General Project Information

1. Construction Information

The proposed CO₂ storage site is ~10 miles southeast of the Bonanza Power Plant, the primary source of CO₂. The Uinta Basin CarbonSAFE II project activities are not characterized as “construction” but rather limited to the data acquisition through the drilling of a stratigraphic test well to reduce the geologic and storage resource uncertainty associated with the development of the CO₂ storage complex.

Location 1: Uintah County, Utah, approx. 37 miles to the SE of the town of Vernal, Utah

- a. Any known construction labor risks or threats that could cause delays to the schedule: None
- b. Potential public and worker health and safety risks and hazards: None
- c. Known possibilities of labor disruption: None
- d. Plans for coordination among various employers (i.e., prime contractors and subcontractors): Prime Recipient oversight of all Subrecipients and Subcontractors/Vendors; and CBP lead
- e. Plans for resolution mechanism to avoid potential project delays (including issues that may arise among contractors and subcontractors as well as employees): Performance oversight for tasks, schedule, and budget provided by an experienced Prime Recipient; risk assessment and mitigation techniques; a multiple Principal Investigator strategy for internal decision-making; and a CBP engagement strategy with impacted communities for input on the project.
- f. The general contractor or Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contractor, if known: Not Applicable
- g. The primary business of the general contractor or engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) contractor: Not Applicable

Location 2: University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

- a. Any known construction labor risks or threats that could cause delays to the schedule: None
- b. Potential public and worker health and safety risks and hazards: None
- c. Known possibilities of labor disruption: None

- d. Plans for coordination among various employers (i.e., prime contractors and subcontractors): Coordinate with Prime Recipient, Subrecipients, and Subcontractors/Vendors; CBP support
- e. Plans for resolution mechanism to avoid potential project delays (including issues that may arise among contractors and subcontractors as well as employees): University oversight for tasks, schedule; risk assessment and mitigation techniques
- f. The general contractor or Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contractor, if known: Not Applicable
- g. The primary business of the general contractor or engineering, procurement, construction (EPC) contractor: Not Applicable

2. Locations and Communities Affected

The proposed Uinta Basin CarbonSAFE Phase II project is located in the highest desert environment on the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) land (T9S R25E), approximately 37 miles southeast of Vernal, Uintah County, Utah. There are three Census tracts that qualify as a Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) according to the Justice40 definitions of a DAC due to the residents' combination of low educational attainment (3 tracts) and either workforce development concerns (3 tracts) or health outcome concerns (1 tract). These communities, while at risk of ozone as an environmental pollutant in the area on the EJScreen Tool, are not recognized as Environmental Justice communities when ozone is combined with demographic factors. It is located in a Census tract with very low population, which eliminates many potential impacts on the population related to work at the site. Because this is located adjacent to tribal land, one especially important consideration for this project is cooperation with tribal leadership.

B. Community and Labor Engagement

1. Community and Labor Stakeholders Engaged to Date

The project team has an extensive history of collaboration and longstanding relationships with communities in eastern Utah. When preparing the submission of this proposal, the project team laid the groundwork for two-way communication with key community partners. The project team has conducted a preliminary scoping exercise to identify community-based organizations representing local residents and businesses, local and state government agencies, and tribal communities.

The project team secured an in-person meeting with the Ute tribal leadership, which occurred on June 22, 2022. During the meeting, the project team presented tribal leaders with information regarding the proposed project, including potential impacts to tribal interests and plans to establish communication channels between the project and the tribal community. The project team also advised tribal leadership on plans to follow up with more complete information as the project moves forward. The meeting allowed tribal leadership to ask questions and provide feedback on the project concept.

A timeline and description of engagement activities to date can be found in Table 1.

Table 1. Stakeholders and organizations engaged by the project.

Name of Organization or Community of Interest	Type of Engagement	Engagement Date
Ute Tribal Business Council	Community input	June 2022
Utah Office of Energy Development (OED)	Energy policy developer	August 2022
Deseret Power	Committed Source of the CO ₂ for the project	May 2022
Enefit American Oil	Industry landowner of the study site and committed land for right-of-way (ROW) of carbon sequestration hub	June 2022
Green Leaf Resources	CO ₂ source	March 2022
State Institutional Trusts Lands Administration (SITLA)	Committed land use and pipeline rights-of-way for the potential regional carbon sequestration hub	July 2022
American Gilsonite	Committed land use	July 2022
Hohn Engineering PLLC	Stratigraphic well drilling operator	May 2023
KGH Operator	Leasing contract holder of the SITLA lands under land and mineral rights, and committed 2D seismic lines donation	August 2022
Bayless Producer LLC	Committed 2D seismic lines donation	July 2022
Milestone Carbon	Support the stratigraphic well drilling and Class VI well permitting	August 2022

2. Community and Labor Stakeholders to be Engaged

The project team will complete a thoughtful and comprehensive assessment of the community to develop a well-informed and a full Community and Labor Stakeholder Engagement effort.

The project team has already undertaken preliminary characterization work, which lays a solid foundation for the assessment. The comprehensive assessment that will occur at the outset of this project will detail the community demographics and dynamics, public processes, and decision-making procedures. The assessment will identify stakeholders and organizations, their interests, and what they represent. The project team will prioritize inclusivity while conducting the assessment to ensure disadvantaged communities are fully represented. Table 2 details a list of stakeholders the project team will engage. The project team intends to work with the organizations in the table to determine if there may be subsets of groups or communities that may face additional impacts that are not fully captured at the group or community level.

Table 2. Stakeholders and organizations to be engaged by the project.

Name of Organization or Community of Interest	Type of Engagement	Engagement Frequency	Intended Engagement Outcome
Ute Tribal Business Council	Community input	Annually	Letter of support
Ute Energy	Community input	Annually	Letter of support
Uintah County	Community-engaged project development	Annually	Public outreach
Naples City	Community-engaged project development	Annually	Public outreach
Vernal City	Community-engaged project development	Annually	Public outreach
Uintah Basin Applied Technology College	Education	Quarterly	Workforce development
Utah State University Eastern Center for Diversity and Inclusion	Education	Quarterly	Workforce development
University of Utah Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute	Research & design	Quarterly	Research collaborations
University of Utah Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office	Research & design	Quarterly	Research collaborations
Utah Association of Energy Users	Community input	Annually	Public outreach
Utah Department of Environmental Quality	Technical assistance	Annually	Technical assistance
Utah Clean Energy	Community input	Annually	Public outreach
Utah Department of Public Utilities	Community input	Annually	Public outreach
Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs	Community input	Annually	Public outreach
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining	Technical assistance	Annually	Technical assistance
Utah Office of Consumer Protection	Community input	Annually	Public outreach
Utah Health Department	Community input	Annually	Public outreach
Utah Mining Association	Community input	Annually	Public outreach
Utah Office of Energy Development	Technical assistance	Annually	Technical assistance
Seven County Infrastructure Coalition	Community input	Annually	Public outreach

Including the proper expertise will enable the team to effectively engage local leadership from the outset of the project. It is crucial that local community members are equal partners in informing and developing the plan for engagement. To demonstrate its commitment to partnership with the community, the project will include an Advisory Board composed of representatives from industry, state and local government, non-government organizations

(NGOs), and community members. As the needs of the community become clearer throughout the project, it is possible that Advisory Board membership will be expanded to promote inclusivity. The Advisory Board will hold regular meetings to discuss the project's technical issues, economic effects, and community impacts.

3. Workforce and Community Agreements

The project team has not committed to negotiate a workforce and/or project labor agreement (PLA). As part of the scope of work under this project, the project team will undertake an evaluation of all relevant stakeholder groups. The project has an established community benefits plan and engagement strategy. One outcome of the project team's community engagement strategy is to understand the community's understanding of benefits related to carbon reduction activities here, and how these, in turn, relate to the social, environmental, economic, and energy goals of the greater community. Therefore, a Community Benefits Agreement is possible in the future.

4. Other Community and Labor Engagement Goals, Commitments, and Milestones

The goal of the project team's community engagement is to address the needs of stakeholders in the region and to understand how CCUS may play a role in the area's future success. This will be accomplished by facilitating two-way engagement and establishing mechanisms to ensure the engagement is meaningful and effective. The project team's strategy will be centered on relationship-building with rural and tribal communities, in concert with support from the University of Utah. As rural Utah transitions away from fossil fuels, the project team, the University of Utah, and the community have an opportunity to plan for a vibrant economic future. Within the project period of performance, there will be three milestones: (1) complete preliminary stakeholder engagement, (2) identify initial community advisory board members and develop the plan for engagement, and (3) finalize the plan for engagement.

C. Investing in Job Quality and a Skilled Workforce

1. Collective bargaining

The project team does not intend to hire additional workers outside of the core project team necessary to execute the CarbonSAFE Phase II project scope.

2. Union support

The project team does not intend to hire additional workers outside of the core project team necessary to execute the CarbonSAFE Phase II project scope.

3. Job quality

a. Ongoing Operations and Production Jobs

Jobs created through the research phase of the project are expected to be filled by a mixture of individuals with the existing skills to complete the project while incorporating a teaching component into the project. The project team anticipates recruiting and training student talent, including individuals from groups historically underrepresented in STEM fields.

Commitment C3a.1: Recipient will provide workforce education and training:

While the Phase II assessment of the storage complex feasibility portion of the project is unlikely to create extensive private sector jobs, the associated development and deployment of CCUS technology has the potential for significant job creation and economic revitalization. During the assessment phase of the project, the jobs are expected to be research centric. These jobs will likely include student researchers interested in pursuing careers in clean energy.

To advance educational opportunities in CCUS, the Energy & Geoscience Institute (EGI), University of Utah will develop a course in CCUS with a focus on geologic sequestration, which will be available to students and professionals as part of the development of EGI's new Resilient Energy Certificate program. The course will provide a background in technical, environmental and policy issues relevant to carbon capture, as well as CO₂ utilization and sequestration technologies.

EGI's Resilient Energy Certificate program will serve as a valuable solution to help avert a shortage of qualified workers in a critical industry. The program will equip students with the necessary skills to leverage the robust opportunities in the energy sector, bridging the skills gap and empowering energy sector professionals to tackle the intricate challenges surrounding energy production and utilization, promoting a reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy supply. By the end of the project, to advance educational opportunities in CCUS, EGI will develop a course in CCUS with a focus on geologic sequestration that will be available to students and professionals as part of the development of EGI's new Resilient Energy Certificate program. The course will provide a background in technical, environmental and policy issues relevant to carbon capture, as well as CO₂ utilization and sequestration technologies.

Commitment C3a.2: Recipient will enact recruitment strategies for local communities including underserved groups:

CCUS deployment at the Uinta Basin and associated jobs would be created in a coal community with economic disadvantages. In this geographic area, there are three Census tracts that qualify as a Disadvantaged Community according to the Justice40 definitions of a DAC due to the residents' combination of low educational attainment and either high unemployment or health burden. In the near term, research-related jobs may be created in the host and/or surrounding communities. During this project, the project team anticipates 10-20 jobs related to well-drilling operations. The project team will include plans to recruit individuals from the local community and historically underserved or underrepresented groups. A strategy the project team may deploy is working with the Utah State University Eastern Office of Equity and Inclusion Center to recruit workers from diverse backgrounds. The project team will also reach out to the Ute Tribe Business Council in an effort to recruit tribal members.

D. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

To promote a sustainable and just energy transition and meet ambitious climate goals, it is imperative to support Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) not only through outreach efforts, but also within the project team. Just as the work with the greater community involves negotiating complex relationships amongst many different stakeholders, the project team is comprised of a variety of individuals bringing a diversity of experiences to their work. In this CarbonSAFE Phase II project, the project team has a valuable opportunity to purposefully craft DEIA experiences that expand the knowledge of the project team in ways that may profoundly reshape all future professional work for team members. Given that the team is committed to learning how to integrate DEIA, the project team has initiated a self-reflection process in tandem with an assessment of DEIA, or more often, DEI, at the respective institutions. This has informed the DEIA implementation for the project.

Commitment D1. Refine team DEIA goals, outcomes, and implementation strategies for the project.

In the first 60 days, the project team will work with the University of Utah to organize training related to DEIA and principles in community-based research (CBR). This training will build on a self-directed course created by an interdisciplinary group of scholars grounded in action research related to university-community partnerships, environmental justice, and gender studies, youth engagement, and leadership. When DEIA goals, outcomes, and implementation strategies are finalized, they will be shared with the Advisory Board for feedback and finalization, and project-specific DEIA goals, outcomes and strategies will be updated that can be integrated into the Justice40 Initiative and Community and Labor Engagement efforts.

Commitment D2. Enhance the project team's understanding of tribal nations and best principles and practices for engagement.

By the middle of the project, the project team will attend training organized by the University of Utah on working with tribal governments, with special emphasis on long-term planning and energy, if possible. Learnings from the training will be reported to the Advisory Board and integrated into the Community Engagement and Justice40 efforts. The project team currently proposes \$30,000 for higher education among tribal youth, which supports a meaningful relationship between the project team, the University of Utah and tribal communities. The contract amount for this activity is \$12,300.

Commitment D3. Include persons from groups underrepresented in STEM as student researchers or post- doctoral researchers.

By the end of the project, the team will target employment of multiple student researchers or post-doctoral students from underrepresented communities/underrepresented groups in the STEM workforce to work on the CarbonSAFE project. Between 60 days and 120 days of the project start date, the project will identify which students from underrepresented communities in STEM have been, or will be hired, for work related to the project. Reporting of outreach efforts and hiring results will be included in the mid-project updates and the final project report. The contract amount for this activity is \$4,000.

E. Justice40 Initiative

The proposed Uinta Basin CarbonSAFE Phase II project is located in the highest desert environment on the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) land (T9S R25E), approximately 37 miles southeast of Vernal, Uintah County, Utah. There are three Census tracts that qualify as Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) according to the Justice40 definitions of a DAC due to the residents' combination of low educational attainment (3 tracts) and either workforce development concerns (3 tracts) or health outcome concerns (1 tract). These communities, while at risk of ozone as an environmental pollutant in the area on the EJScreen Tool, are not recognized as Environmental Justice communities when ozone is combined with demographic factors.

While other tracts in these counties do not qualify for special consideration as a DAC according to EJScreen or Justice40 indices, there are still concerns for these communities. Much of the study area is on or adjacent to tribal nation. In addition, many tracts in these counties have low levels of either high school completion or secondary education enrollment. Coupled with potential job losses related to power plant and mine closures/reductions, this county is at risk of financial losses related to the energy transition.

The current anticipated primary benefits of locating geologic carbon sequestration activities here are:

- (1) a decrease in environmental exposure and burdens;
- (2) an increase in the clean energy job pipeline and job training for individuals;
- (3) increases in clean energy enterprise creation (e.g., minority-owned or diverse business enterprises); and
- (4) increased parity in clean energy technology access and adoption.

1. Other: (Recipient may identify additional, measurable benefits)

An important source of information regarding the viability of CCUS in the area will come from the Advisory Board, community members, and subject matter expert (SME) feedback. This will become especially important as the project team begins to better characterize community benefits and disbenefits, and how both the project team and the local community can communicate their needs to one another. The project team will use a continuous improvement process throughout the project that will first solicit additional information not yet included in the geographic information systems (GIS) from the community, then improve either the interface, explore additional data needs, or work to better understand the needs of the community and project team. The project's GIS will be used by both project researchers and the community, who will incorporate local quantitative and qualitative data sources, and will allow ground-truthing of Justice40 data to enhance and encourage two-way conversations about what is important at this site. This will lead to additional GIS and data improvements, with the goal of having a GIS ready at the end of the Phase II proposal that will be used for project team planning, community engagement efforts, and support the development of a community benefits agreement in subsequent proposals.

Benefit E1.1: Develop geodatabase to inform energy justice work with the community.

By the end of the project, the project team will create a geodatabase of stakeholders (address, areas of influence), physical data (pipeline extent, geology, rivers, lakes), geographic data (areas of archeological importance, towns, schools), demographic data (location of ground-truthed disadvantaged communities, economic status, demographic profiles), risks, and disbenefits to facilitate understanding of areas of concern to the project team.

2. Anticipated or potential negative environmental impacts

The locations of anticipated sources, pipelines, and Class VI wells in locations away from population centers eliminates many of the potential negative community impacts. There are some known concerns with respect to geologic carbon sequestration, which include:

1. environmental concerns associated with wells and drilling;
2. concerns related to constructing/extending pipeline;
3. plume migration; and

4. induced seismicity.

F. Summary Table

Category and Commitment	Budget Period 1 milestone
Community and Labor Engagement	
<i>Complete preliminary stakeholder engagement.</i>	<i>90 days after the start of the project.</i>
<i>Identify initial community advisory board members.</i>	<i>90 days after the start of the project.</i>
<i>Finalize the plan for engagement.</i>	<i>90 days after the start of the project.</i>
<i>Create four informational videos to post to website.</i>	<i>Ongoing throughout project.</i>
<i>Conduct at least four outreach events, including on-site kick-off meeting and end-of-project reporting update.</i>	<i>Ongoing throughout project.</i>
Investing in Job Quality and a Skilled Workforce	
<i>C3a.1 Recipient will provide workforce education and training.</i>	<i>Initial course will take place spring semester 2024. The possibility of creating a certificate program will occur fall 2024, and is being considered by faculty now.</i>
<i>C3a.2: Recipient will enact recruitment strategies for local communities including underserved groups.</i>	<i>Ongoing throughout project.</i>
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility	
<i>D1. Develop and deliver DEIA and principles in community-based research (CBR) training.</i>	<i>60 days after the start of the project.</i>

<i>D2. Enhance the project team's understanding of tribal nations and best principles and practices for engagement.</i>	<i>9 months into project.</i>
<i>D3. Identify ways to increase the pool of jobs applicants to include those traditionally under-represented in STEM fields.</i>	<i>Beginning 8 months into project, identify at least three organizations, groups, or conferences to post job advertisements to increase pool of applicants.</i>
<i>Conduct research on best practices for gathering diversity statistics and retention rates of students participants; create report of best practices.</i>	<i>Between 15 months and 24 months.</i>
Justice40 Initiative	
<i>E1.1 Develop geodatabase to inform energy justice work with the community.</i>	<i>Ongoing; Initial database development at 11 months, to be updated throughout the project.</i>