

Mandate for the WG on public perception

2024

In 2023, the Working Group (WG) on public perception focused on studying the role of public awareness in the deployment of industrial carbon management (ICM) projects and providing input to the Industrial Carbon Management Strategy. The priority of the WG for 2024 will be to support the implementation of the Strategy by defining concrete actions.

Members of the WG are invited to collect and discuss best practices based on existing projects (and guidelines):

- for project promoters in defining a step-by-step approach in involving the public/local communities at different stages of projects implementation (e.g. from which phase of projects implementation civil society should be involved? etc.), and
- for Member States/public authorities in communicating and raising awareness about ICM technologies at a local and national level, and in involving local communities.

The aim is to deliver by the end of the year a set of recommendations/and examples of best practices for project promoters and Member States on how to engage with the public in relation to ICM technologies and projects. The fourth edition of the CCUS Forum in Pau (France) on 10-11 October, will be an opportunity to provide a progress report on the work done by the working group.

Main elements to consider, but not be limited to:

- Mapping project implementation phases for the identification of the timeline, key milestones and actors in the: design of the project, potential application for permits, construction etc. Subsequent identification of opportunities for communicating on the benefits, costs, risks and mitigation measures of ICM and involvement of stakeholders.
- Update the discussion on drivers for acceptance and opposition in the general perception for ICM technologies and the design of targeted communication strategies based on best practices.
- Identification of effective pathways for the redistribution of benefits stemming from ICM projects to communities impacted by their involvement.
- Identification of Member States role in supporting project promoters in the communication about ICM.
- What would be the hurdles of closely involving local populations and more broadly civil society in the implementation of projects?
- What were the main challenges experienced in recent projects in terms of involving the public? Do these challenges depend on the specificity of given technologies?
- How to best communicate about the balance between benefits, costs and risks of ICM projects?
- How project promoters could use transparency to build trust with the public and local communities?

- Collect suggestions on what public authorities may do to stimulate the use of best practices themselves and by project developers?