

# Ogmius



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CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY RESEARCH  
COOPERATIVE INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER



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## Introduction to Ogmius Exchange

# A

ir capture – direct removal of carbon dioxide from



the ambient air - is beginning to receive more attention, especially in light of recent reports that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are increasing much more rapidly than expected, and that certain climate changes will be “irreversible” (<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2009/01/28/0812721106.full.pdf+html>) for 1,000 years. The Center’s Roger Pielke, Jr., has an upcoming article in the May issue of the journal

Environmental Science and Policy on air capture (see Recent Papers and Publications below). The Economist recently ran an article titled Scrubbing the Skies ([http://www.economist.com/science/tq/displaystory.cfm?story\\_id=13174375](http://www.economist.com/science/tq/displaystory.cfm?story_id=13174375)) that discusses the technology.

This edition of Ogmius features University of Colorado energy policy expert and Center Faculty Affiliate Paul Komor’s ([http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/about\\_us/meet\\_us/paul\\_komor/](http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/about_us/meet_us/paul_komor/)) perspective about the possible pitfalls of pursuing air capture as a climate change response strategy.

Comments welcome!  
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## Ogmius Exchange

### *Air capture: The latest distraction?*

By Paul Komor

# T

echnologies under consideration for



addressing climate change fall into two categories: those commercially available, at reasonable cost, and already in use; and those higher up the R&D pipeline, not yet commercially available, and considerably more speculative. Examples of the first type (which I’ll call the A list) include some forms of renewable energy (hydro, wind,

biomass), energy efficiency, and nuclear fission.

The latter (the B list) are considerably more numerous, and include for example geoengineering (such as seeding the oceans with iron), ‘enhanced geothermal’ (also called hot dry rock), various exotic renewable technologies (such as OTEC [ocean thermal energy conversion] and wave power), and nuclear fusion. All these technologies have their estimated costs, their advantages and disadvantages, and their proponents and opponents. For most of these technologies, one can find analyses arguing that, if a few

## S&T News CEJournal

**O**ur friends at CU's Center for Environmental Journalism recently launched a blog, CEJournal, that includes contributions from the five Ted Scripps Fellows in Environmental Journalism, other prominent environmental journalists,



students of the environmental emphasis at the School of Journalism & Mass Communication, and guest bloggers. Recent posts include "Fake Plastic Trees: Cure for Global Warming?", "Warming, drought afflict mature forests of the West", and "New study shows Antarctica has been warming for 50 years." Be sure to check out the very well written and informative CEJournal at <http://www.cejournal.net/>.

## S&T News

### *Many Strong Voices for Tackling Climate Change By the Many Strong Voices Team*

**A**s climate change takes an ever-increasing toll on communities around the world, the Many Strong Voices project assists by joining coastal communities from around the Arctic with those from the 51 Small Island, Developing States Project (SIDS; <http://www.sidsnet.org>) in order to share and enhance knowledge of and action on climate change. The project aims are to:



1. Develop capacity to strengthen the role of these regions in negotiations on reducing greenhouse gases and on

climate change adaptation.

2. Raise awareness about the effects and vulnerabilities of climate change in these regions.
3. Increase understanding of needs and solutions, including through research.
4. Motivate action on addressing and preventing climate change's adverse impacts.

The focus is catalyzing local action through the complementary contributions of capacity building, research, education, and outreach. Many Strong Voices provides the inspiration, impetus, and opportunity to build and maintain local processes linked to national and international endeavors in order to lead to positive action for positive change. For more information visit <http://www.manystrongvoices.org>.

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