The Evolution of UK Policy on CCS and Air Capture

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Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is the key to the low carbon transition aspirations of many governments around the world with commercial deployment anticipated in the 2020s. However, the industry is nascent, and there is a critical need to prove the integrated use of the technology at scale, particularly in the power sector, before commercial development can be stimulated. In recognition of this challenge increasing amounts of public money are being allocated to demonstration projects with the USA, UK, Australia and Canada emerging as leaders.

Dr. Fox will describe current UK CCS policy in an international context and provide a clear snapshot of the nation’s current demonstration and commercial deployment models. Building on this, he will discuss the evolution of UK air-capture policy, providing unique insight into the 18 month shift from taboo subject to government acceptance. The Institution of Mechanical Engineers played a central catalytic role in this transition. Fox will discuss the latest thinking from his vantage point as lead advocate for adoption of this technology in climate change policy.

Dr. Tim Fox has a wide range of research and engineering experience gained across many industrial sectors including nuclear power, chemical processing and renewable energy. He has worked in commercial enterprises, government agencies and educational institutions in the UK, Australia, Canada and The Netherlands. Tim is currently Head of Energy and Environment at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) in London. His role involves developing and communicating the Institution’s policies on energy, environment and sustainability issues, authoring thought-leadership reports and providing input to government policy making. He regularly talks on these topics and frequently appears in the national and international press and broadcast media.

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