

A Green Q&A on Carbon Capture and Storage

➤ **What is CCS?**

CCS stands for 'Carbon Capture and Storage' and is a controversial and expensive technology aiming to capture the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fuel combustion in order to transport and then store the carbon in an underground storage site.

➤ **What are the concerns?**

CCS faces substantial public opposition due to the risks when transporting or storing carbon under people's homes. Moreover there are concerns that carbon capture and storage is being used as a fig leaf by the fossil fuel industry in order to continue with business as usual.

➤ **What is the position of the Greens?**

The Greens want Europe to stop the addiction to fossil fuels. The Greens/EFA group therefore thinks that **CCS should not be used as an excuse to continue building coal-fired power plants.**

There are serious doubts about the commercial viability of CCS which is one of the reasons why most of the CCS projects in the EU ended up being withdrawn. **Under no condition should public money be used to make up for the shortage of funding for CCS in the power sector**, since there is absolutely no need for CCS to reduce the carbon footprint of energy.

➤ **What is the alternative suggested by the Greens?**

The Greens believe that Europe **should rather spend its money and time in the power sources of the future** such as wind, solar, geothermal energy and energy savings, in accordance with the IEA naming energy efficiency as the number one fuel. Fossil fuels - coal in particular - must be phased-out in order to achieve a nearly 100% renewables based economy by 2050. This can be achieved by an adequate carbon price, binding targets to encourage renewable energy & energy efficiency and the

introduction of an Emission Performance Standard (a CO₂-limit) for all new and existing power plants in Europe.