State of the American Carbon Management Industry

Domestically and globally, the carbon management industry—carbon capture, removal, transport, utilization, and storage technologies continue to mature as countries and companies invest to accelerate the deployment of clean technologies across emitting sectors. However, deployment of this suite of technologies still faces significant policy, regulatory, and market hurdles that continue to chill investment and slow sector scale up in the US.

WHAT ROLE DOES CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAY IN THE US ECONOMY?

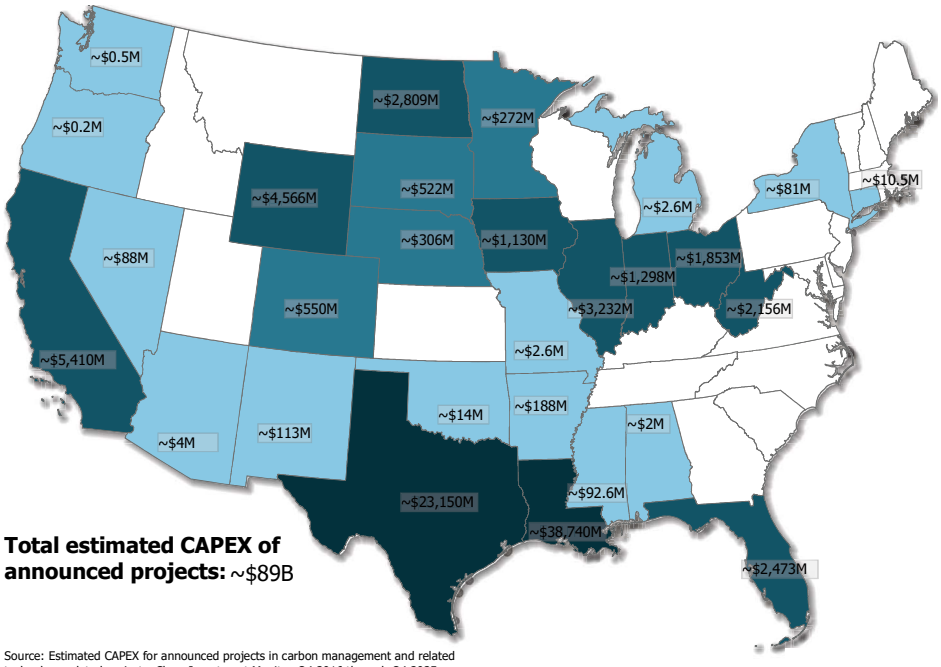
As corporate buyers and governments place increasing value on cleaner energy and materials, carbon management has a unique position to play in boosting American manufacturing competitiveness on the global stage. With bipartisan federal support through existing policies, these technologies can generate thousands of high-wage jobs across construction, engineering, and operations while also improving local air quality by reducing criteria air pollutants emitted by facilities.

STATE OF THE CARBON MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY – METRICS AND STATISTICS

The United States is arguably the global leader in deploying carbon capture technologies, accounting for nearly 40 percent of the global deployments to date. In total, the US has 33 commercial-scale facilities currently operating, with a collective capacity to capture and store approximately 26 million metric tons of CO_2 per year. Already, domestic carbon management projects have safely and securely stored more than 180 million metric tons of CO_2.

In addition to operating projects, 334 projects have been announced in the United States at various stages of project deployment and technology readiness, as of March 2026. **In just the past ten years, the carbon management sector has invested about $89 billion in the American economy across various regions and sectors.**

Figure 1: Total estimated capital expenditure investments through 2025



Source: Estimated CAPEX for announced projects in carbon management and related technology related projects. Clean Investment Monitor. Q4 2016 through Q4 2025. Accessed 03/09/2026.

Note: Hawaii and Alaska do not have actual investments reported.

CARBON CAPTURE COALITION

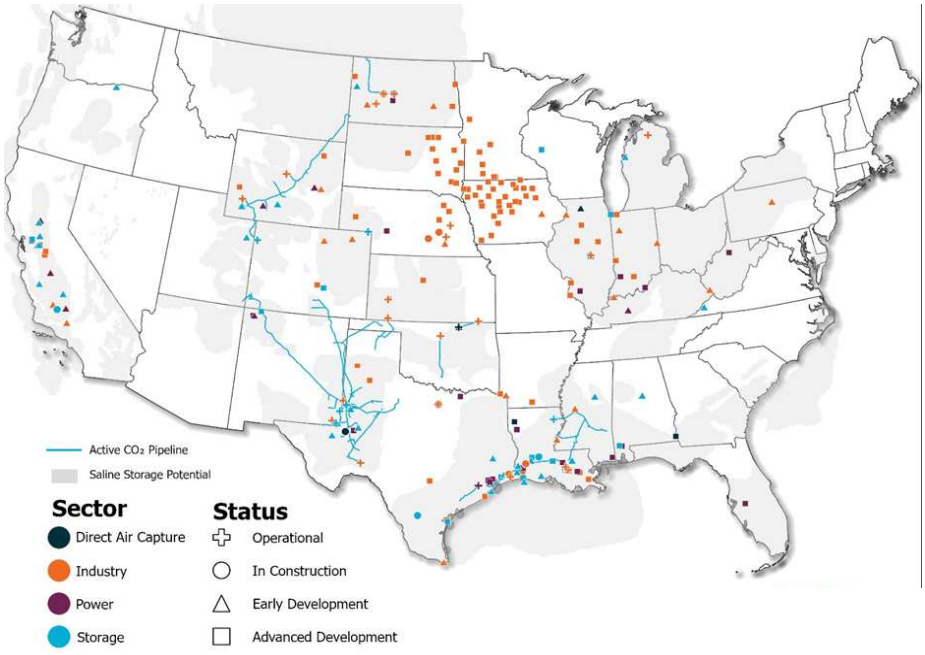
March 2026

The pace and scope of project development have been steadily accelerating since the supportive framework was cemented through the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (See Figure 1). This is evidenced by several measurable factors, including the number and diversity of global and domestic project announcements (See Figure 2).

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR CONTINUED AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

The federal Section 45Q tax credit is still widely considered the most effective policy to incentivize private-sector investment in the deployment of carbon capture and direct air capture technologies and supporting infrastructure, as evidenced by the current project pipeline. However, Congress and the administration must address gaps in the current federal policy framework by providing supportive regulations and policies to enable these technologies to realize their full deployment potential (see the table below).

Figure 2: Publicly announced and operating carbon management projects.



Sources: Global CCS Institute; Tallgrass Trailblazer System Map; Summit Carbon Solutions.
Note: An additional 94 projects are not shown due to lack of location data.

Challenges to project deployment	Areas for Congress and the administration to address
Timely & predictable project permitting	Improved permitting efficiency for the approval and construction of Class VI wells and CO_2 pipelines.
Regulatory certainty	Ensure that federal deregulatory actions do not adversely affect the deployment of carbon management projects. • The federal government should prioritize: • 45Q guidance from 2022 and 2025 changes to the tax credit • Clear guidance for substantiating geologic storage for the purposes of electing the 45Q tax credit in the potential absence of current reporting mechanisms • Rulemaking to modernize CO_2 pipeline safety standards
Durable policies that support the deployment of capture technologies across sectors	The 45Q tax credit value falls short for several crucial sectors, including power, heavy industry, and direct air capture.
Stable federal funding for next-generation technology innovation	Provide robust, sustained federal funding to support research, development, demonstration and deployment activities.

PREPARING FOR FUTURE DEMAND

Thanks to sustained bipartisan support from Congress, the US has a global edge in developing and deploying carbon management technologies. While inflation and rising project costs have created near-term headwinds, the historic surge in demand for clean, firm power generation, driven by artificial intelligence, data centers, and the increased electrification of the industrial and transport sectors is creating new opportunities to catalyze deployment.