

## Enforcing producer responsibility on the fossil fuel industry

Imagine a single policy, imposed on a single industry, that would, if enforced consistently, stop fossil fuels from causing global warming within a generation. The policy in question is the Carbon Takeback Obligation, requiring extractors and importers of fossil fuels to dispose, safely and permanently, of a progressively rising fraction of the carbon dioxide generated by their activities and (crucially) the products they sell, with that fraction rising to 100% by the year of Net Zero.

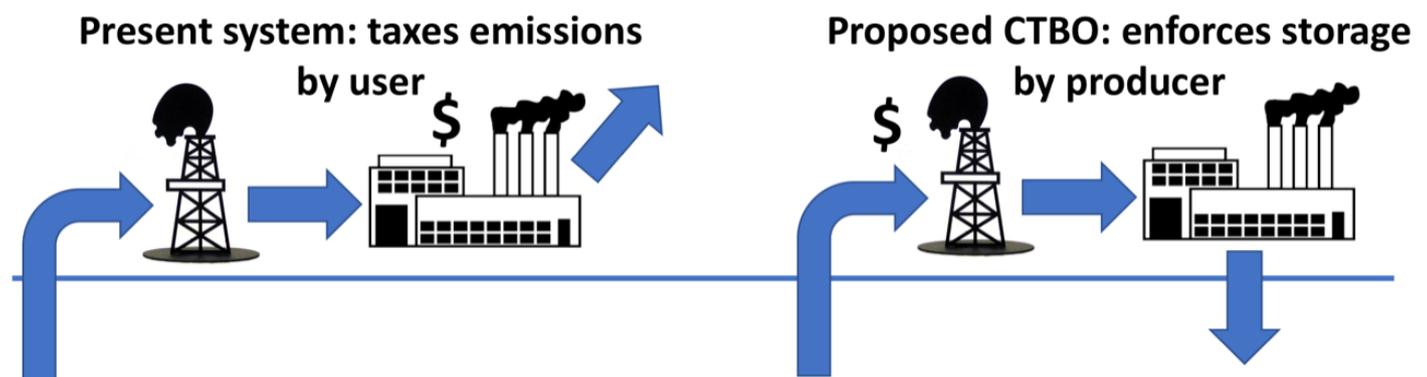
A new study published in the international energy journal *Joule* explores, for the first time, the economic implications of imposing a carbon takeback obligation on the global fossil fuel industry, and shows it provides an affordable and low-risk route to net zero emissions, particularly if complemented by conventional measures to reduce near-term fossil fuel demand.

**“Despite the perceived high cost of carbon dioxide capture and storage, we show that the cost to the world economy of a Carbon Takeback Obligation, even if entirely passed on to fossil fuel consumers, is no higher than the cost of mitigation in conventional scenarios meeting similar goals driven by a global carbon price.”**  
*Stuart Jenkins, Lead author (07502 113 876; [stuart.jenkins@wadham.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stuart.jenkins@wadham.ox.ac.uk))*

**“Investment in carbon dioxide capture and geological storage has, to date, been dependent on state subsidies, and consistently far below what is required to meet Paris climate goals. Carbon Takeback provides the fossil fuel industry itself with the strongest possible incentive to make amends: survival.”**  
*Prof. Stuart Haszeldine, co-author (07791 035 320; [s.haszeldine@ed.ac.uk](mailto:s.haszeldine@ed.ac.uk))*

**“Carbon Takeback has consistently been dismissed by the climate policy establishment as much more expensive and risky than the alternative of driving down consumption by changing consumer behaviour or through a global carbon price. But these options are hardly risk-free. Getting to net zero means carbon prices rising to \$1000 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050: 100 times the hike that brought out the gilets jaunes.”**  
*Prof. Myles Allen, co-author (07776 306 691; [myles.allen@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:myles.allen@ouce.ox.ac.uk))*

**“A Carbon Takeback policy as proposed in this paper will provide a safety net to make sure we achieve net zero emissions even if we don’t manage to reduce the use of fossil fuels quickly enough. It extends the responsibility of producers to take care of the waste generated by the use of their products. The polluter pays to clean up. And the costs are included in the product price. As it should be.”**  
*Margriet Kuijper, independent expert and not a co-author on this study*



**Read the paper:**

[https://www.cell.com/joule/fulltext/S2542-4351\(21\)00489-X](https://www.cell.com/joule/fulltext/S2542-4351(21)00489-X)

For more information and related papers see: [carbontakeback.org](http://carbontakeback.org)



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