DATA FOR PROGRESS

Advancing Equitable Deployment of Regional DAC Hubs

One-Pager

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In November 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which set aside \$3.5 billion to create four direct air capture (DAC) hubs: technologies that take carbon pollution out of the atmosphere and store it permanently. Following the passage of the legislation, Data for Progress conducted workshops in four geographically diverse communities — East Houston, Texas; Beaver County, Pennsylvania; Bakersfield, California; and Rock Springs, Wyoming — to understand communities' attitudes toward carbon removal and appetites for a prospective DAC hub, in addition to fielding a national conjoint analysis to understand what an ideal DAC hub project looks like to adults in the U.S. Read the full memo here.

Under conditions set by community members, we find that:

- In East Houston, **71% of workshop participants** think their community would be supportive of hosting a DAC hub, with **14% unsure and 14% believing their community would be opposed.**
 - Participants agree that should a DAC hub be sited in their community, they would want a
 project to include strong community participation with the help of civil society
 organizations and clear, enforceable benefits like affordable housing.
- In Beaver County, less than half of participants (47%) think their community would strongly support a DAC hub, while almost one-third (32%) expect opposition.
 - Many participants are wary of any new industry coming into the area. After being burned
 in the past, residents acknowledge that a potential DAC hub would have to support
 long-term job guarantees and provide high transparency about potential risks.
- In Bakersfield, participants exhibit the highest assessments of community support for a DAC hub, with **75% believing that their community would support a project**.
 - A successful hub would need to include measures that ensure community transparency, guarantee local jobs, make use of renewable energy as a power source, and minimize the water intensity of a project.
- In Rock Springs, **50% of workshop participants believe that their community would somewhat support a DAC hub**, but only 6% think it would strongly support one.
 - Respondents are more likely to support DAC development if a project prioritizes job creation and includes physical and social infrastructure upgrades for the community.
- In a national conjoint analysis, 68% of respondents strongly or somewhat support building DAC facilities in the U.S., including 77% of Democrats, 65% of Independents, and 60% of Republicans.