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## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

# Texas signs largest offshore lease for carbon capture and storage in U.S. history

ExxonMobil is leasing more than a quarter million acres of subsea land off the co.

of Galveston, Chambers, and Jefferson Counties to trap and store carbon dioxide permanently. Funds from the lease will benefit Texas' Permanent School Fund.

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**Andrew Schneider** (<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/author/andrew-schneider/>)

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*General Lanc*

Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham and Dominic Genetti, Senior Vice President, ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions, sign the largest carbon sequestration transportation and storage lease in United States history.

The Texas General Land Office is leasing more than a quarter of a million acres offshore to ExxonMobil to permanently trap carbon emissions. The move could have benefits for both the environment and public schools.

The lease of 271,068 acres of submerged state land off the coasts of Galveston, Chambers, and Jefferson Counties is the latest such lease the state has made, as well as the largest in U.S. history according to Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham.

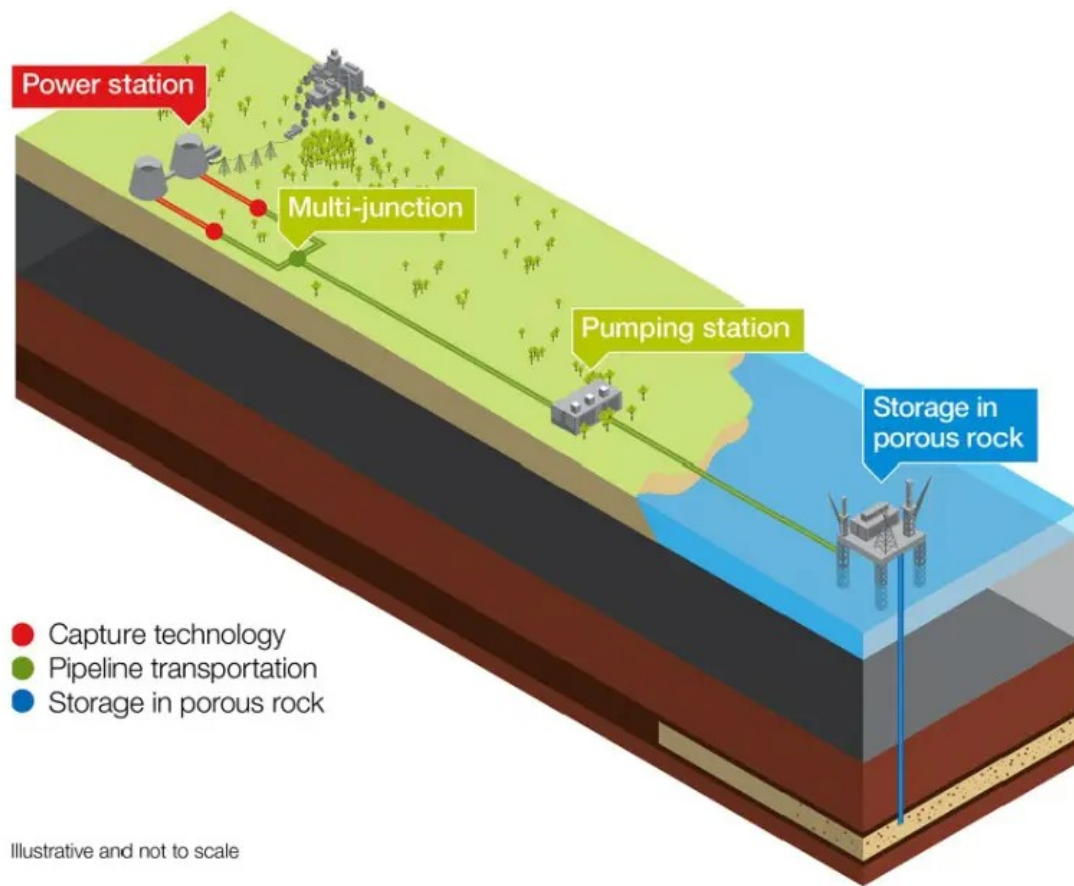
"As the steward of 13 million acres of energy-rich state land, I am proud to partner with ExxonMobil in utilizing state land for innovative solutions that can help ensure future energy production," Buckingham said in a statement. "Energy independence is vital to ensuring our state and country remain economic leaders around the globe."

Funds generated by the lease would go to the state's [Permanent School Fund](https://texaspsf.org/) (<https://texaspsf.org/>). Buckingham said the funds from this particular lease will run into millions of dollars.

"As a mom, I have long said that educating our children is the most important thing we do, and I am thrilled that the revenue from this lease will go toward benefiting our great state along with our Texas school children," Buckingham said.

Tip Meckel, a research professor with the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin, said the technology of carbon capture is sound.

"In Europe, in the Greater North Sea area, they've been doing offshore CO2 storage for 25 years," Meckel said. "So the concept of storing CO2 in an offshore setting in the deep geology is very well demonstrated from that activity."



*Department of Energy and Climate Change via*

National Grid graphic demonstrating the CCS process.

Meckel said that the size of the project means it has the potential to have a real impact.

"It would be an extremely significant ability to reduce CO2 from the entire Southeast Texas region," Meckel said. "That's the kind of scale that would provide for permanent storage for energy regions, including the Ship Channel, Baytown, Beaumont-Port Arthur, where a lot of our emissions centers are."