

Geoengineering Is a Dangerous Distraction



Instead of cutting pollution and transitioning off fossil fuels, polluters are pushing risky, untested technology that interferes with nature and puts communities at risk.

Geoengineering refers to a set of dangerous, largely untested **activities and practices that deliberately intervene in and alter Earth's systems** with the alleged intention of reducing the effects of climate change or removing / capturing carbon dioxide (CO2).

Risky practices that try to remove or capture CO2 haven't been **proven** to work at the scale needed, rely on high emitting **practices**, and oftentimes the captured CO2 is utilized to accelerate new oil and gas production—directly fueling the industry causing the crisis. Not only does this put communities' **health and livelihoods** at stake but it simultaneously increases emissions and pollution.

Trying to address climate change without phasing out fossil fuels is like plugging one leak while the boat is flooding from every direction — you can't win if the source of the damage stays untouched.

No matter where they're located, all geoengineering projects:

- Pose **unnecessary risks to the health of communities** and ecosystems, some **states** and **global** entities and governments have already banned and rejected these projects
- Threaten the stability of our planet by **interfering with Earth's natural processes** while being largely unproven at the scale needed to meaningfully address climate change
- **Treat the planet like a lab**, with communities as test subjects by **risking large-scale and irreversible impacts** to our most vulnerable ecosystems and communities
- **Violate communities' rights to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)** and Tribal Sovereignty by moving forward without meaningful **consultation** or **permission** from Tribal nations. FPIC is the internationally recognized right of Indigenous Peoples to give – or withhold – consent for projects that may harm their ecosystems.

If big money interests are able to move these speculative geoengineering projects forward they would take place...

On land:

- Using fans and chemicals to capture CO2 from the air
- Pumping CO2 underground to store it in rocks

... that could result in degradation of land and the environment.

In the atmosphere:

- Releasing particles to thin out clouds or make them more reflective
- Spraying reflective particles into the air to block sunlight

... that could alter critical water cycles and the balance of sun rays hitting / reflecting off Earth.

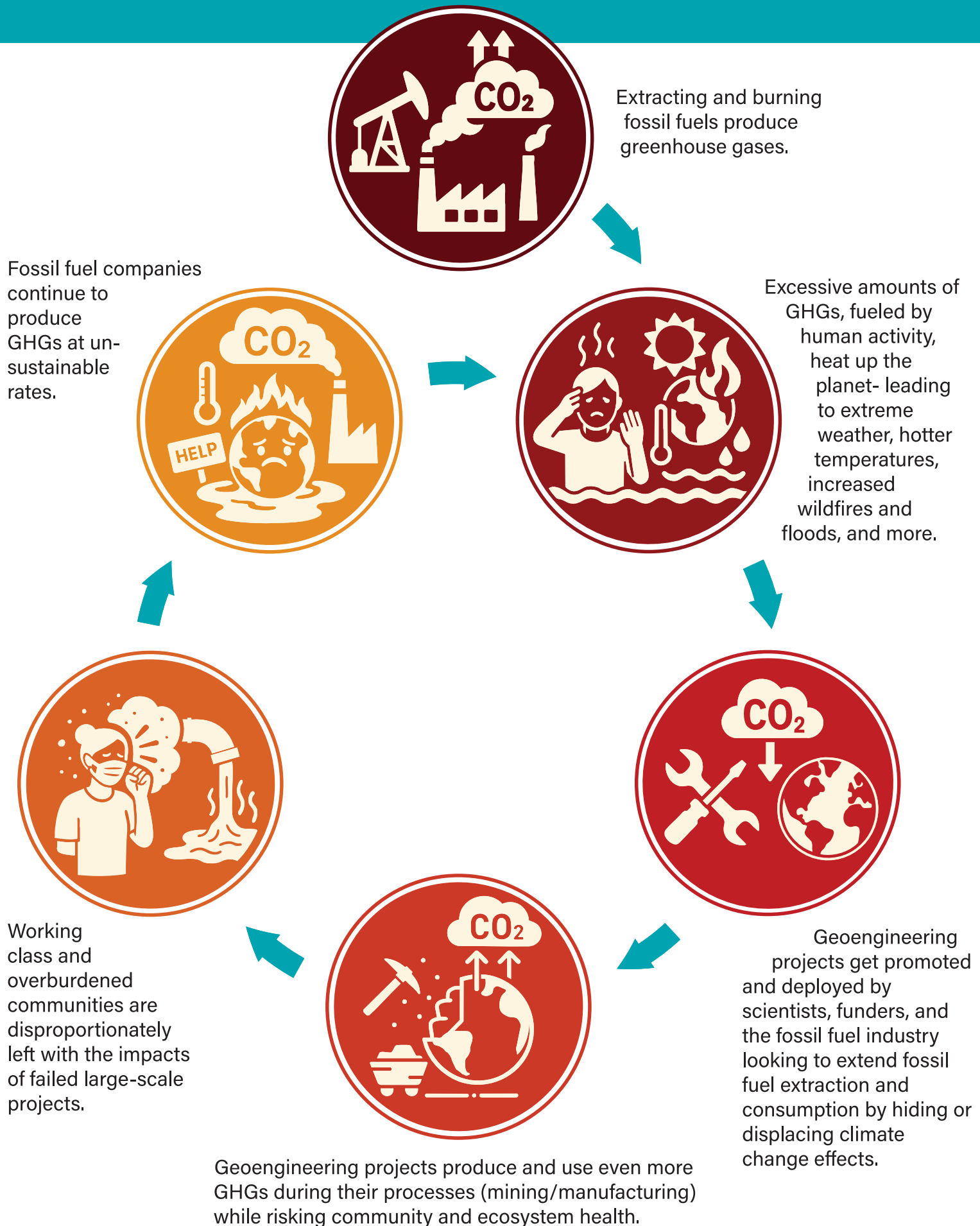
In oceans/waterways:

- Dumping lye or iron into oceans and waterways
- Manipulating Arctic ice to slow melting or change its composition

... that could pollute waterways and marine ecosystems we depend on for survival, recreation, and livelihood.



Geoengineering projects don't solve the **root causes of climate change**; they **perpetuate and contribute to the system** that's making us sick and harming our communities.



What's the Solution?

Let's power our lives with energy that will leave future generations with a better planet.

We need community-owned/ operated microgrids consisting of solar and wind that provide clean low-cost energy to households and communities. These models already **exist** and are ready to be invested in, replicated, and scaled.

It's time to leave the extractive economy behind. A **Just Transition** means **investment in communities that are on the frontlines of climate change, in green careers, and in green infrastructure** to ensure no worker is left behind in the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy and safeguard our communities from climate change impacts.

Overburdened communities deserve clean air and water. **Polluters responsible for poisoning the people, water, air and land in our communities must be held accountable** for their impacts to our health and the environment. Instead of trying to find new revenue streams for a dying industry, they should be supporting the transition from a dig, burn, and dump economy to a safe and regenerative one that is affordable, reliable, and healthy for us all.

What you can do

Stay informed:

Use the [mapping tool](#) to find projects located near you.



<https://map.geoengineeringmonitor.org>

Learn the specifics:

Read fact sheets developed by [Climate Justice Alliance](#) and [Hands Off Mother Earth \(HOME\) Alliance](#).

Get involved:

Support the work of HOME [Alliance](#), the only alliance fighting geoengineering at the international level.

Voice your concerns and take action:

Attend your local city council, zoning, or planning board meetings to voice concerns about projects popping up near you.

Contact your local/state officials to tell them:

We don't have time for distractions. Polluters want to gamble with unproven tech while communities suffer. We must invest in real, local climate solutions—not experiments that put our people and planet at risk.

¹ Russell LM, Rasch PJ, Mace GM, Jackson RB, Shepherd J, Liss P, Leinen M, Schimel D, Vaughan NE, Janetos AC, Boyd PW, Norby RJ, Caldeira K, Merikanto J, Artaxo P, Melillo J, Morgan MG. Ecosystem impacts of geoengineering: a review for developing a science plan. *Ambio*. 2012 Jun;41(4):350-69. doi: 10.1007/s13280-012-0258-5. Epub 2012 Mar 20. PMID: 22430307; PMCID: PMC3393062.

² According to the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), the effectiveness of many geoengineering techniques remains theoretical and untested on a large scale.

https://www.ciel.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/CIEL_briefing_The-Risks-of-Geoengineering_October2024.pdf

³ Trisos, C.H., Amatulli, G., Gurevitch, J. et al. Potentially dangerous consequences for biodiversity of solar geoengineering implementation and termination. *Nat Ecol Evol* 2, 475–482 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41559-017-0431-0>

⁴ Suarez, P. and van Aalst, M.K. (2017), Geoengineering: A humanitarian concern. *Earth's Future*, 5: 183-195. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2016EF000464>

