

# FINANCIAL TIMES

## Captured carbon is being put to commercial use

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Sir, Sam Gomersall ([Letters](#), January 21) claims that “to avoid locking in carbon emissions from new gas power plants, [carbon capture and storage] is essential”. We entirely agree that carbon capture is essential to mitigate climate change and ocean acidification. Yet merely storing captured carbon underground is unnecessarily wasteful and costly.

Instead, as some of the 11 finalists in the \$25m [Virgin Earth Challenge](#) are demonstrating, it is now becoming commercially viable to capture and then use CO<sub>2</sub> as a valuable input in various chemical engineering processes, especially those that produce construction materials. This is true even without any monetary credit for the captured carbon, and even if the carbon has to be captured from the ambient air instead of from concentrated waste gases emitted by a power plant.

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