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You deal with fossil fuels, among other things. How can you contribute to climate protection?

From a global perspective, fossil fuels will be with us for a very long time to come - in the current crisis, we are becoming painfully aware of this dependency. Now, of course, there are two sides to the problem - on the one hand, the expansion of alternative energies is not happening fast enough for various reasons. But how do we deal with our emissions from fossil fuels in the meantime? Decarbonization is the keyword here. It's not just the combustion, but also the production and transportation of fossil fuels that plays a major role.

Incidentally, geological reservoirs can be used to generate energy in a variety of ways - also sustainably - keywords are large-scale energy storage (hydrogen, heat) and geothermal energy generation.

What do you enjoy most about your work?

On the one hand, my position gives me quite a lot of freedom in terms of research and teaching and I can therefore work on topics that I consider relevant and that interest me the most - certain limits are of course set by funding opportunities. On the other hand, it is a great pleasure to accompany some students and perhaps future colleagues on their way from BSc studies to industry and science and to convey values.



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Institution: Montanuniversität Leoben

Subject area: Reservoir Engineering, Geoenergy Engineering, sustainable and energetic use of the subsurface through large-scale energy storage (hydrogen, heat), fossil fuels and decarbonization (CCS), geothermal energy production

Role in the member organization: Chair of Reservoir Engineering and Head of Department PE, Sustainable Development Panel (currently Chair)



How can another organization/institution benefit from me and my work?

I hope that the scientific community (research) and our students (teaching) will benefit from our work. Of course, we also want to put our work into practice, which we can do through collaborations with industry.

As far as climate-related topics are concerned, however, it is not just about technical issues, but also about social and political discourse. In the CCCA, I hope to have found a platform where important discussions can be held in this regard and where we - or I - can contribute our expertise and contribute to sustainable developments.

What makes the CCCA special for you?

The CCCA is still quite new to me at the moment and I probably still have a lot to learn. no good overview of all activities and goals.

Maybe I'll try it from my point of view: some CCCA and climate-relevant topics, such as geological CO₂ storage, are not yet legally permitted in Austria (and the global situation is different) and are not well accepted by society. Contributing to the technical solution of a problem alone is therefore only of limited use. Acceptance and implementation are not achieved in this way and require a broad discourse. The CCCA is an excellent network that can achieve this. I would be delighted to contribute to this with my expertise!

What are the biggest challenges in the coming years?

Let me relate this question to the energy transition and climate protection: even if there are many obstacles, I think that the biggest challenge is a social rethink. Even though the topic is increasingly in the media and the urgency of the issue is becoming more and more apparent, we are not acting accordingly. New technologies and infrastructure are necessary, but will not be enough.

