



Wednesday, September, 17, 2014

## UT's leading climate change researchers present at GHGT-12 conference

AUSTIN, Texas – September 17, 2014 -- Researchers from The University of Texas at Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering will present their carbon capture and storage research papers at the international GHGT-12 conference in October, 2014.

The GHGT-12 conference is the world's leading conference that brings together international experts to discuss research and technology developments that could decrease greenhouse gas emissions particularly in the field of Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS).

Dr. Gary Rochelle of the Cockrell School of Engineering and recipient of the Carol & Henry Groppe Professorship leads a team of researchers that includes 16 Ph.D. students, two faculty members, and two professionals.

They focus on a range of topics that include: control of air pollution by acid gases, carbon dioxide, and air toxics; CO<sub>2</sub> capture, flue gas desulfurization, acid gas treating, CO<sub>2</sub> mass transfer with chemical reaction, electrolyte thermodynamics, and reaction kinetics in aqueous solutions.

The group is quantifying the thermodynamic and kinetic phenomena in technologies for removing hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide by absorption/stripping with alkanol amine solutions. This technology has grown in importance with new amine alternatives and increased interest in marginal natural-gas resources and CO<sub>2</sub> capture from flue gas.

The purpose of this integrated research effort is to provide the technical basis for a demonstration on an existing coal-fired power plant in Texas.

The research has generated interest from process suppliers, power companies, and amine suppliers from across the world as an effective way to control CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from existing coal-fired power plants and future coal-fired power plants. The first commercial systems will start to appear about 2016.

Dr. Rochelle leads the largest academic program on this technology in the world and it is one of only two in the United States. The program is supported by \$500,000 per year from Luminant Energy and more than \$750,000 from another 28 companies.

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The University of Texas at Austin has always played a prominent role in climate change research and has shown prominent participation in past GHGT conferences, which greatly influenced the decisions to host this year's conference in Austin, Texas.

UT researchers are excited to collaborate with other researchers around the world about technology that will help reduce the carbon footprint around the world.

**About the Center for Lifelong Engineering Education**

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