

Low carbon mine site energy initiatives



PROJECT DETAILS

Funding Programme:
Research Fund of Coal and
Steel (RFCS)
Sub-Programme:
Coal Research
Funding Scheme:
Research Project
Project Reference:
00004;
UE-10-RFCR-CT-2010-00004
Project Duration:
36 Months (from 2010-07-01
to 2013-06-30)
Total Project Value:
€ 2.326.014
EU Grant-Aid:
€ 2.326.014
Funding to UniOvi:
€ 339.708

Website:
<http://www.lowcarbonmining.eu/>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LOWCARB sets out to turn around the net effect of coal mining on the planet's climate. Coal has powered the industrialization of nations and continues to do so in the developing world but of all energy "sources", coal delivers the largest amount of greenhouse gas per unit energy released. Economic pressures will mean that coal continues to be used extensively for several decades and although the technology of carbon capture and storage will dramatically reduce the total CO₂ released from coal consumption in new-build generating stations from around 2020, coal will continue to cause serious climate issues for several decades. Overall, LOWCARB aims to develop measures at coal mine sites which reduce the carbon footprint of coal. Specifically, LOWCARB will:

- Exploit all resources naturally present at both working and non-producing coal mine sites to facilitate and to deliver directly low- or zero- carbon energy or energy-resultants. (Cooling services provided to nearby facilities is an example of an energy-resultant).
- Re-examine the operation of working coal mines such that the net CO₂ production arising from the use of energy in this operation is minimized.
- Minimize the direct release of methane from mines into the atmosphere.

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