



LETTER

# Carbon Capture

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To the Editor:

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**"Possibly Unavoidable Answer on Climate,"** by Eduardo Porter (Economic Scene, Nov. 20), is commendable for its recognition that we are in a race against time to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. His confidence in nuclear energy as a means for heading off the impending

crisis, however, is misplaced for several reasons, the most important of which is that technology is available that can be scaled up far more rapidly, cheaply and with no risks to the health and safety of adjacent communities.

Capturing carbon from air is now possible in a way that not only eliminates emissions but also reduces carbon levels and uses carbon for business purposes.

One such "carbon negative" power plant that I helped create is fully operational at SRI (formerly Stanford Research Institute) in California. Others are coming online and attracting investors.

Carbon-negative technologies are essential, as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns, after years of policy makers' procrastination. They also offer a way to transfer clean energy technology to developing countries, whose economic growth now depends on steadily increasing, disastrous use of fossil fuels.

GRACIELA CHICHILNISKY  
New York, Nov. 22, 2013

*The writer, a professor of economics and statistics at Columbia University, is director of the Columbia Consortium for Risk Management.*

A version of this letter appears in print on November 28, 2013, on page A30 of the New York edition with the headline: Carbon Capture.

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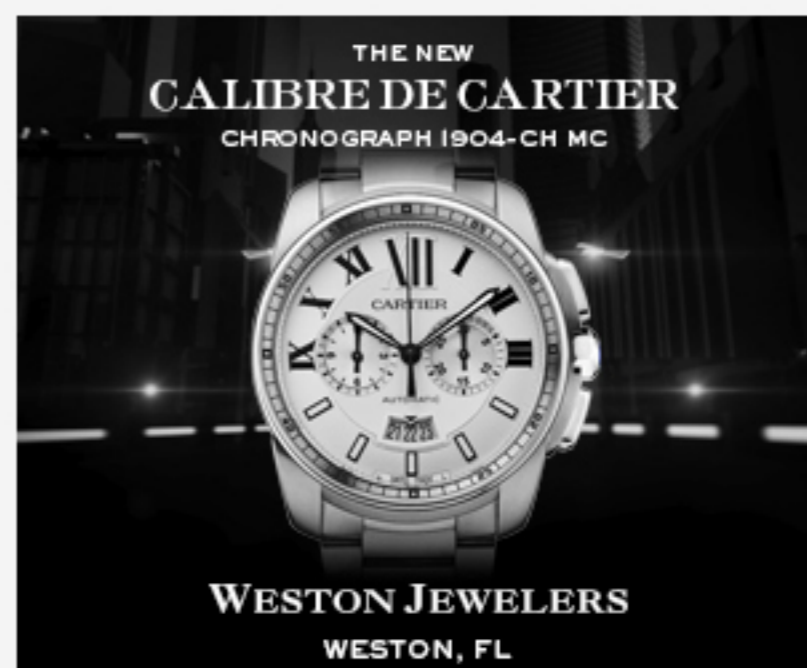
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