The Paris agreement to curb climate change calls for a dramatic shift away from fossil fuels and the greenhouse gasses they emit, especially carbon dioxide. Switching to renewable energy helps, but that won’t happen fast enough to keep temperatures from rising to dangerous levels. That’s why scientists and researchers all over the world also are working on new ways of keeping carbon out of the atmosphere.

At an industrial site in Alberta, a province in North America, Royal Dutch Shell, an oil company recently hosted a grand opening for its Quest carbon capture and storage project. It’s part of Shell’s oil sands business. Turning oil sands into crude oil emits a lot of carbon dioxide. So Shell tries to capture some of that greenhouse gas before it gets into the air.

The technology in the Quest project has been around for a while, but it’s still expensive. The cost of building and operating this one plant over the next decade is about $970 million. For all that money it captures only a third of the CO2 that’s produced here.

For many companies, such a plant isn’t an attractive investment because it’s not profitable.