TED演讲者: Jennifer Wilcox | 珍妮佛 威尔考克斯

演讲标题: A new way to remove CO2 from the atmosphere | 从大气中除去二氧化碳的新方法

内容概要: Our planet has a carbon problem -- if we don't start removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, we'll grow hotter, faster. Chemical engineer Jennifer Wilcox previews some amazing technology to scrub carbon from the air, using chemical reactions that capture and reuse CO2 in much the same way trees do ... but at a vast scale. This detailed talk reviews both the promise and the pitfalls.

地球遇到了碳的问题,如果我们再不开始除去大气中的二氧化碳,气候变热的速度就会加快。化学工程师珍 妮佛 威尔考克斯带我们看这些了不起的科技,用化学反应的方式清除空气中的二氧化碳;其过程和树木很类 似,但规模更大。这场巨细磨遗的演说,探讨除碳的承诺和所面对的困难。

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www.XiYuSoft.com	锡育软件	
Four hundred parts per million: that's the approximate	百万分之四百, 那是现今空气中, 二氧化碳的大约	
concentration of CO2 in the air today.	浓度。[00:12]	
What does this even mean?	那到底是什么意思? [00:20]	
For every 400 molecules of carbon dioxide, we have anothe		
million molecules of oxygen and nitrogen.	氧和氮的分子。[00:21]	
In this room today, there are about 1,800 of us.	现在在这间房间中, 我们大约有 1800 人,[00:29]	
Imagine just one of us was wearing a green shirt, and you're		
asked to find that single person.	求去找到那一个人。[00:33]	
That's the challenge we're facing when capturing CO2	那就是现今我们想要直接 捕获空气中的二氧化碳	
directly out of the air.	时, 所遇到的问题。[00:41]	
Sounds pretty easy, pulling CO2 out of the air.		
1 7 7/1 3	[00:47]	
It's actually really difficult.	其实真的很困难。[00:51]	
But I'll tell you what is easy: avoiding CO2 emissions to begi	n但告诉各位什么很容易: 一开始就避免排放二氧化	
with.	碳。[00:52]	
But we're not doing that.	但我们没有这么做。[00:58]	
So now what we have to think about is going back; pulling	所以现在我们必须回过头去; 把二氧化碳从空气中	
CO2 back out of the air.	抽出来。[01:01]	
Even though it's difficult, it's actually possible to do this.	即使很困难,还是有可能做到的。[01:08]	
approximate: vt.近似;使接近;粗略估计/vi.接近于;近似于/adj.[数]近似	的;大概的 molecules: n.[化学]分子,微粒;[化学]摩尔	
(molecule的复数) dioxide: n.二氧化物 to begin with: 首先;本来		
And I'm going to share with you today where this technolog		
is at and where it just may be heading in the near future.	不远的将来, 它可能的发展方向。[01:12]	
Now, the earth naturally removes CO2 from the air by	地球本身自己就会 把二氧化碳从空气中除去, 透过	
seawater , soils, plants and even rocks.	海水、土壤、植物, 和甚至石头来做这件事。 [01:19]	
And although angingers and scientists are doing the	多数 1 提加机构 写表数数 A 在 加速收收的数域模	
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high enough surface area to process all of the air required, 来处理所有必要的空气, 因为,别忘了, 我们试着在 -百万个分子中 捕集四百个分子。[02:21] because remember, we're trying to capture just 400 molecules out of a million. Using the liquid-based approach to do this, you take this 如果要用液体方法来捕集, 你就要用这大表面积的 high surface area packing material, you fill the contactor with包材, 把接触器用包材装满, 用幫浦将液体分布至 包材的各处, 还可以用风扇,如图的前方所示, 让空 the packing material, you use **pumps** to distribute liquid across the packing material, and you can use fans, as you can 气通过液体产生泡泡。[02:34] **see** in the front, to **bubble** the air through the liquid. The CO2 in the air is separated from the liquid by reacting 空气中的二氧化碳和液体分离, 因为它会和溶液中 结合力极强的 二氧化碳分子发生作用。[02:52] with the really strong-binding CO2 molecules in solution. And in order to capture a lot of CO2, you have to make this 为了要捕集很多二氧化碳,这个接触器必须要做得 contactor deeper. 很深。[03:03] contactor: n.开关;电流接触器 pumps: n.[机]泵;脉动(pump的复数);抽运器;无带轻便舞鞋/v.用泵送;抽动;汲取;盘问(pump的 三单形式) as you can see: 正如你所看到的;你是知道的 bubble: n. 气泡,泡沫,泡状物;透明圆形罩,圆形顶/vi.沸腾,冒泡;发出气 泡声/vt.使冒泡;滔滔不绝地说 But there's an **optimization**, because the deeper you make 但有个最佳化的点, 因为接触器越深, 你就要花更 多能源来把空气打过去。[03:09] that contactor, the more energy you're spending on bubbling all that air through. So air contactors for direct air capture have this unique 所以,直接捕集空气的空气接触器 在设计上有这项 characteristic design, where they have this huge surface area, 独特的特征, 有很大的表面积, 厚度相对就很薄。 but a relatively thin **thickness**. And now once you've captured the CO2, you have to be able 一旦你捕集到了二氧化碳, 你就得要回收那些用来 to recycle that material that you used to capture it, over and 捕集它的材料, 一次又一次。[03:25] over again. The scale of carbon capture is so enormous that the capture 碳捕集工作的规模是很庞大的, 捕集过程必须要是 永续的, 材料不能只用一次就丢。[03:34] process must be **sustainable**, and you can't use a material And so **recycling** the material requires an enormous amount 而回收那些材料就需要很大量的热, 因为,想想看: 在空气中, 二氧化碳会被稀释, 和它结合的材料非 of heat, because think about it: CO2 is so dilute in the air, that material is <mark>binding</mark> it really strong, and so you need a lot常强而有力, 因此会需要很大量的热, 才能回收那 些材料。[03:42] of heat in order to recycle the material. optimization: n.最佳化,最优化 bubbling: n.冒泡,[化工]鼓泡;气泡形成 thickness: n.厚度;层;浓度;含混不清 over and over again: adv.一再地;反复不断地 enormous: adj.庞大的,巨大的;凶暴的,极恶的 sustainable: adj.可以忍受的;足 可支撑的;养得起的;可持续的 recycling: n.(资源,垃圾的)回收利用/v.回收;再循环利用(recycle的现在分词) dilute: adj.稀 释的;淡的/vt.稀释;冲淡;削弱/vi.变稀薄;变淡 **binding:** n.装订;捆绑;粘合物/adj.有约束力的;捆绑的/v.捆绑(bind的ing形式) 如果用那样的热来将材料回收, 会发生的结果是,从 And to recycle the material with that heat, what happens is 空气中稀释的 二氧化碳所取得的浓缩二氧化碳 现 that **concentrated** CO2 that you got from dilute CO2 in the air is now released, and you produce high-purity CO2. 在被释出了,产生了高纯度的二氧化碳。[03:57] And that's really important, because high-purity CO2 is 那很重要, 因为高纯度的二氧化碳比较容易液化, easier to liquify, easier to transport, whether it's in a pipeline 比较容易运送, 不论是透过管线或是卡车都一样, 更容易直接使用,比如,用来当燃料或化学物质。 or a truck, or even easier to use directly, say, as a fuel or a [04:10] chemical. 所以,关于那能源,我想要再多谈一点。[04:24] So I want to talk a little bit more about that energy. The heat required to **regenerate** or recycle these materials 重新产生或回收这些材料所需要的热 会直接影响 absolutely dictates the energy and the subsequent cost of 到能源 和做这件事的后续成本。[04:28] doing this. So I ask a question: How much energy do you think it takes 所以我要问一个问题: 你们认为要花多少能源 才能 to remove a million tons of CO2 from the air in a given year? 在一年内把空气中的 100 万吨 二氧化碳除去? [04:40] The answer is: a power plant. 答案是:一座电厂的能量。[04:51] 需要用一座电厂才能直接 捕集空气中的二氧化 It takes a power plant to capture CO2 directly from the air. 碳。[04:52] Depending on which approach you choose, the power plant 看你选的方法是哪一种, 用的可能是三到五百万瓦 特的电厂。[04:56] could be on the order of 300 to 500 megawatts. concentrated: adj.集中的;浓缩的;全神贯注的/v.集中(concentrate的过去分词) regenerate: vt.使再生;革新/vi.再生;革 新/adj.再生的;革新的 dictates: 规定/命令/使听写/影响/使人相信 subsequent: adj.后来的,随后的 megawatts: n.百万瓦 特(megawatt的复数) 要选哪一种电厂,也要十分谨慎。[05:03] And you have to be careful about what kind of power plant If you choose coal, you end up emitting more CO2 than you 如果选择燃煤电厂, 最终排放的二氧化碳 可能比捕 集到的还多。[05:07] Now let's talk about costs. 现在来谈谈成本。[05:13] An energy-intensive version of this technology could cost 这种技术,如果用的是高能源的版本,每吨可能要花

you as much as \$1,000 a ton just to capture it.	上 \$1,000, 这只是捕集的成本。[05:15]
Let's translate that.	让我把它转成白话。[05:24]
If you were to take that very expensive CO2 and convert it to	
a liquid fuel, that comes out to 50 dollars a gallon.	燃料,那么算起来会是每加仑 \$50。[05:25]
That's way too expensive; it's not feasible .	那实在太贵了,不可行。[05:32]
So how could we bring these costs down?	我们要如何减低成本? [05:35]
That's, in part , the work that I do.	我有部分工作在处理这个问题。[05:37]
www.XiYuSoft.com	锡育软件
There's a company today, a commercial-scale company, that	
can do this as low as 600 dollars a ton.	\$600 的价格。[05:41]
There are several other companies that are developing	还有好几间其他公司在开发技术, 想要把价格压到
technologies that can do this even cheaper than that.	比那更低。[05:47]
I'm going to talk to you a little bit about a few of these	我要跟各位谈谈 这当中的少数几间公司。[05:53]
different companies.	
emitting: n.发出,散发;发射/v.散发;喷出(emit的现在分词) feasible: adj.可	了行的;可能的;可实行的 in part: 部分地;在某种
程度上	·
One is called Carbon Engineering.	其一是「炭工程 (Carbon Engineering) 」。
	[05:57]
They're based out of Canada.	该公司位在加拿大。[05:58]
They use a liquid-based approach for separation combined	他们用液态的方式来做分离, 再搭配燃烧足够且便
with burning super-abundant, cheap natural gas to supply	宜的天然气,来供应必要的热。[06:00]
the heat required.	
They have a clever approach that allows them to co-capture	他们有个很聪明的方法,可以同时捕集空气中的二
the CO2 from the air and the CO2 that they generate from	氧化碳,以及燃烧天然气所产生的二氧化碳。
burning the natural gas.	[06:09]
And so by doing this, they offset excess pollution and they	透过这么做,可以抵消掉额外的污染,并减少成本。
reduce costs.	[06:19]
Switzerland-based Climeworks and US-based Global	瑞士的「气候工程(Climeworks)」 采用不同的
Thermostat use a different approach.	方式。[06:25]
They use solid materials for capture.	它们用的是固态的捕集法。[06:31]
Climeworks uses heat from the earth, or geothermal , or even	
excess steam from other industrial processes to cut down on	至是工業过程中过重的烝汽,以减少污染以及成本。[06:34]
pollution and costs.	
Global Thermostat takes a different approach.	全球恒温公司用的方式不同。[06:44]
They focus on the heat required and the speed in which it	他们把焦点放在必要的热 以及热通过材料的速度,
moves through the material so that they're able to release	这么一来,就可以快速地释放和产生 那些二氧化碳,
and produce that CO2 at a really fact rate which allows there	
and produce that CO2 at a really fast rate, which allows them	佐徳 1900年 うめく 女子 55, 走 1900年 190
to have a more compact design and overall cheaper costs.	便宜。[06:46]
to have a more compact design and overall cheaper costs. offset: n.抵消,补偿;平版印刷;支管/vt.抵消;弥补;用平版印刷术印刷/vi.装支	便宜。[06:46] 管 Thermostat: n.恒温器;自动调温器/vt.为配备
to have a more compact design and overall cheaper costs. offset: n.抵消,补偿;平版印刷;支管/vt.抵消;弥补;用平版印刷术印刷/vi.装支恒温器;用恒温器控制 geothermal : adj.[地物]地热的;[地物]地温的 cut do	便宜。[06:46] 管 Thermostat: n.恒温器;自动调温器/vt.为配备
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permanently removed from the atmosphere forever, which 去, 也就是,把它放回到地底, 因为它最初是从地底 来的。[08:04] means putting it back underground, where it came from in the first place. But let's face it, nobody gets paid to do that today -- at least 但要面对现实,现今没有人 能靠做这种事赚钱 至少赚不了多少钱。[08:17] So the companies that are developing these technologies are 所以。在开发这些技术的公司 其实是想要把二氧化 actually interested in taking the CO2 and making something 碳拿来 做成有用的东西,有市场的产品。[08:22] useful out of it, a **marketable** product. It could be liquid fuels, **plastics** or even synthetic **gravel**. 可能是液态燃料、塑胶,或甚至合成碎石。[08:32] 别误会我的意思——这些碳市场是很棒的。 And don't get me wrong -- these carbon markets are great. But I also don't want you to be **disillusioned**. 但我也不希望各位的幻想破灭。[08:42] These are not large enough to solve our climate crisis, and so 刚谈的这些都还不足以 解决我们的气候危机, 我们 what we need to do is we need to actually think about what 需要做的是要真正去思考 要花什么代价。[08:45] it could take. 对于碳市场,有一个优点我一定会说,那就是,因为 One thing I'll absolutely say is positive about the carbon markets is that they allow for new capture plants to be built, 它们, 新的捕集厂得以建立起来, 而每建立一座捕 集厂, 我们就会学到更多。[08:54] and with every capture plant built, we learn more. permanently: adv.永久地,长期不变地 in the first place: 首先;起初 marketable: adj.市场的;可销售的;有销路的 plastics: n.塑料;整形外科;外科修补术 gravel: n.碎石;砂砾/vt.用碎石铺;使船搁浅在沙滩上;使困惑 disillusioned: adj.醒悟的;幻想破灭 的;不抱幻想的/v.使幻想破灭(disillusion的过去分词);唤醒 allow for: 考虑到,虑及 And when we learn more, we have an opportunity to bring 当我们学到更多, 我们就有机会把成本降低。 [09:06] But we also need to be willing to invest as a global society. 但我们这个全球共同体也得要 愿意去投资。 [09:11] We could have all of the clever thinking and technology in 我们或许有各种聪明的想法和技术, 但那还不够让 the world, but it's not going to be enough in order for this 这项技术对于气候产生够显着的影响。[09:18] technology to have a significant impact on climate. We really need regulation, we need **subsidies**, taxes on 我们很需要法规, 我们需要补助, 碳相关的税。 [09:28] carbon. There are a few of us that would absolutely be willing to pay 很少有人会愿意付更多, 但需要做的是, 要让碳中 和与负碳的途径 便宜到社会上大部分人都能负担, more, but what will be required is for carbon-neutral, 这样才能对气候有所影响。[09:34] carbon-negative paths to be **affordable** for the majority of society in order to impact climate. In addition to those kinds of investments, we also need 除了那些投资之外, 我们也需要在研究和开发上做 投资。[09:49] investments in research and development. 所以,看起来会是什么样子? [09:55] So what might that look like? 1966 年,美国将大约一半的 国内生产总值投资在 In 1966, the US invested about a half a percent of gross domestic product in the **Apollo** program. 阿波罗计画上。[09:57] subsidies:补助金,补贴,津贴(subsidy的名词复数) affordable: adj.负担得起的 In addition to:除...之外 investments: n.[经]投资,投资的财产;投资学(investment的复数形式) Apollo: n.阿波罗(太阳神);美男子 It got people safely to the moon and back to the earth. 该计画让人类安全登陆月球,并返回地球。[10:06] Half a percent of GDP today is about 100 billion dollars. 当年国内生产总值的一半, 约等于现今的 1000 亿。[10:11] 已经知道直接捕集空气 是我们对抗气候变迁之战 So knowing that direct air capture is one front in our fight 的前线, 想像一下,若我们能投资 20%, 即 200 亿 against climate change, imagine that we could invest 20 元,会如何。[10:15] percent, 20 billion dollars. Further, let's imagine that we could get the costs down to a 此外,也想像一下,我们能把成本降低,降到每吨 100 dollars a ton. 100元。[10:25] 那会很困难,但这也是让 我的工作很有趣的原因之 That's going to be hard, but it's part of what makes my job 一。[10:31] And so what does that look like, 20 billion dollars, 100 dollars 所以, 200 亿元, 每吨 100 元, 会是什么样子? That requires us to build 200 synthetic forests, each capable 那会需要建造 200 座合成森林, 每一座每年都能够 of capturing a million tons of CO2 per year. 捕集 100 吨的二氧化碳。[10:39] That adds up to about five percent of US annual emissions. 加起来,总共约是 美国每年排放量的 5%。[10:48] 听起来不很多。[10:53] It doesn't sound like much. Turns out, it's actually significant. 结果发现,其实是很重大的。[10:55] If you look at the emissions associated with long-haul 如果看看长程货车运输 以及商業飞机 相关的排放, trucking and commercial aircraft, they add up to about five 它们加起来大约是 5%。[10:57] fight against: v.对抗;反对;与.....作斗争 long-haul: adj.长途的;长运距的;长时间的 trucking: n.货车运输;货车运输业;以货

易货/v.交易;打交道;用卡车运(truck的ing形式) aircraft: n.飞机,航空器 add up to: 合计达,总计达

Our dependence on liquid fuels makes these emissions really 我们对于液态燃料的依赖, 让这些排放非常难避 免。[11:05] difficult to avoid. So this investment could absolutely be significant. 所以,这项投资绝对是重要的。[11:11] Now, what would it take in terms of land area to do this, 200 要花费多少土地面积,才能做到 200 座捕集厂? It turns out that they would take up about half the land area 结果算出来是大约温哥华土地面积的一半左右。 of Vancouver. That's if they were **fueled** by natural gas. 前提是要用天然气来当燃料。[11:26] But remember the **downside** of natural gas -- it also **emits** 但别忘了,天然气也有不利的一面,它也会排放二氧 化碳。[11:28] 所以,如果用天然气 来直接做空气捕集, 最后只能 So if you use natural gas to do direct air capture, you only end up capturing about a third of what's intended, unless 捕集到 预期量的三分之一左右,除非你有聪明的同 时捕集方法,就像炭工程公司用的方法。[11:33] you have that clever approach of co-capture that Carbon Engineering does. And so if we had an alternative approach and used wind or 如果我们有替代的方法, 用风力或太阳能来取代, solar to do this, the land area would be about 15 times 土地面积会变成约 15 倍大, 近似现在的纽泽西。 [11:45] larger, looking at the state of New Jersey now. dependence: n.依赖;依靠;信任;信赖 in terms of: 依据,按照,在...方面;以...措词 take up: 拿起;开始从事;占据(时间,地方) Vancouver: n.温哥华(加拿大主要港市) fueled: v.加燃料(fuel的过去分词) downside: n.下降趋势;底侧/adj.底侧的 emits: 发出/放射/发行(emit的动词单数第三人称形式) One of the things that I think about in my work and my 我在工作和研究时, 会思考的其中一件事情, 是要 research is optimizing and figuring out where we should put 想出把这些捕集厂放在哪里最好,并考量可得的当 地资源——[11:56] these plants and think about the local resources available -不论是土地、水资源、 便宜且干净的电力—— 因 whether it's land, water, cheap and clean electricity --为,比如,可以用干净的电力 来做水分裂,产生氢, 氢 because, for instance, you can use clean electricity to split 是很好的天然气替代品,不会产生碳,用来产生需 water to produce hydrogen, which is an excellent, carbonfree replacement for natural gas, to supply the heat required. 要的热。[12:06] 但我希望大家能再次反思负排放。[12:22] But I want us to reflect a little bit again on negative Negative emissions should not be considered a silver bullet, 负排放不该被视为神奇的解决方案, 但如果我们在 but they may help us if we continue to stall at cutting down 减少全球二氧化碳时 一直遇到瓶颈, 负排放也许可 on CO2 pollution worldwide. 以幫助我们。[12:26] 但也因此,我们得要很小心。[12:36] But that's also why we have to be careful. This approach is so **alluring** that it can even be risky, as some 这种方法非常诱人, 甚至可能有风险, 因为有些人 可能会太依重它, 把它视为是气候危机的完全解决 may cling onto it as some kind of total solution to our 方案。[12:39] climate crisis. It may tempt people to continue to burn fossil fuels 24 hours 它可能会诱使大家继续燃烧 化石燃料,一年 365 天, 一天 24 小时不断地烧。[12:47] a day, 365 days a year. optimizing: n.[数]优化,最佳化/adj.最佳的/v.最佳化(optimize的现在分词) for instance: 例如 carbon-free: adj.不含碳的 stall: n.货摊;畜栏;托辞/vi.停止,停转;拖延/vt.拖延;使停转;使陷于泥中 alluring: adj.诱惑的,诱人的;迷人的,吸引人的 tempt: vt.诱惑;引起;冒...的风险;使感兴趣 I argue that we should not see negative emissions as a 我主张不要把负排放 视为是阻止污染的替代品, 而 是在既有的方案组合外, 再外加一个无所不包的方 replacement for stopping pollution, but rather, as an 案,内容从增加能源效能,到低能源碳,到改善农業, addition to an existing **portfolio** that includes everything, 会一起让我们有朝一日 能走上净碳排放为零的路 from increased energy efficiency to **low-energy** carbon to 途。[12:55] improved farming -- will all collectively get us on a path to net-zero emissions one day. A little bit of **self-reflection**: my husband is an emergency 一点点自我反思: 我丈夫是急诊室医生。[13:17] physician.
And I find myself **amazed** by the **lifesaving** work that he and 他和他的同事每天的工作就是 拯救人命,我觉得很 his colleagues do each and every day. 了不起。[13:23] Yet when I talk to them about my work on carbon capture, I 然而,当我和他们谈到 我的碳捕集工作时, 他们也 find that they're equally amazed, and that's because 同样觉得很了不起, 那是因为用捕集碳来对抗气候 变迁 并不只是要拯救北极熊 或是冰河。[13:31] **combatting** climate change by capturing carbon isn't just about saving a **polar** bear or a **glacier**. It's about saving human lives. 它也是在拯救人命。[13:45] A synthetic forest may not ever be as pretty as a real one, but 合成森林可能没有 真实森林那么漂亮, 但有了它, it could just enable us to preserve not only the Amazon, but 我们就不只能保育亚马逊, 还能保护所有 我们爱与 珍惜的人, 以及我们未来的世代 和现代文明。 all of the people that we love and **cherish**, **as well as** all of [13:49] our future generations and modern civilization. portfolio: n.公文包;文件夹;证券投资组合;部长职务 low-energy: 低能耗 collectively: adv.共同地,全体地 self-reflection: n.反省 amazed: adj.惊奇的,吃惊的/v.使...吃惊;把...弄糊涂(amaze的过去分词) lifesaving: adj.救命的;救生用的/n.救生 combatting:与.....格斗,与.....对抗(combat的现在分词形式)/斗争,反对(combat的现在分词形式) polar: adj.极地的;两极

的;正好相反的/n.极面;极线/ glacier: n.冰沟],冰川 preserve: vt.保存;保护;维持;腌;禁猎/n.保护区;禁猎地;加工成的食品
cherish: vt.珍爱/vt.怀有(感情等); 抱有(希望等	i) as well as: 也;和一样;不但而且
Thank you.	谢谢。[14:08]
(Applause)	(掌声) [14:09]