

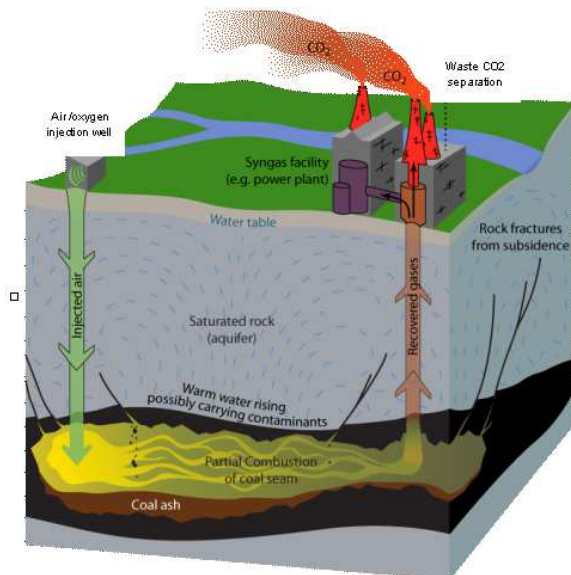
Underground coal gasification

This process depends on igniting the coal seams. Two wells are drilled into the coal seam. A water/air or water/oxygen mixture is injected into one well and a controlled combustion action (i.e. an underground fire) is started in the seam itself.

The produced gases are extracted through a second well and separated in a facility at the surface. The final product (known as Syngas) can produce a beneficial amount of different products such as methane, hydrogen and liquid fuels.

Even with modern technology and techniques this is still regarded as a risky and an environmental unfriendly process, producing a considerable amount of unusable CO₂ and other direct-to air pollutants.

A local company in Newcastle is investigating the recovery of Syngas from underneath the North Sea off Northumberland. The gas would be processed at onshore locations.



Underground Coal Gasification production site.

A mixture of water/ air/or oxygen is injected into one well, the coal is ignited and the resultant gases are extracted at the second well.