



# DOE Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO) 2023 Project Peer Review Thermochemical Platform Analysis

*WBS: 2.1.0.302*

April 6, 2023  
Catalytic Upgrading  
Abhijit Dutta (PI)  
NREL

**Key Contributors:** Abhijit Dutta, Michael Talmadge, Kylee Harris, Geetanjali Yadav

# Acronyms Used

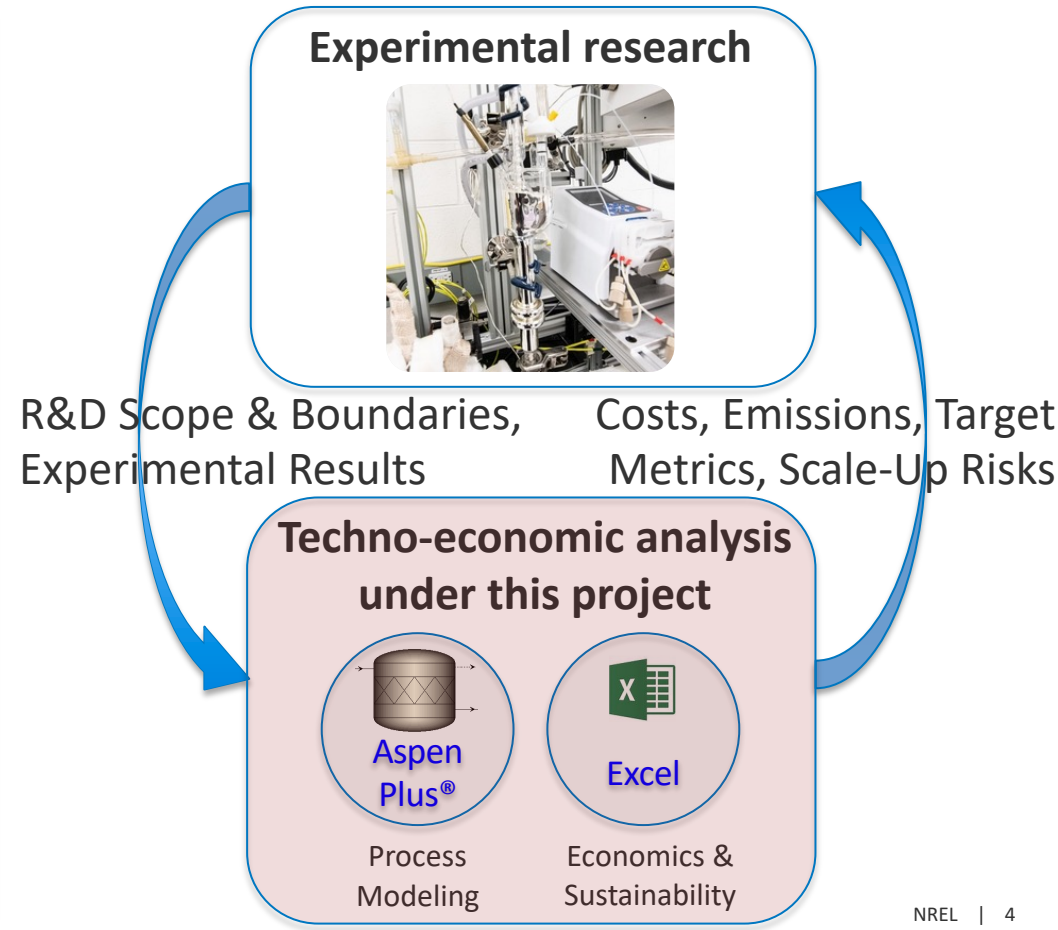
- BETO:** Bioenergy Technologies Office
- CCPC:** Consortium for Computational Physics and Chemistry
- CFP:** Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis
- DEI:** Diversity Equity Inclusion
- DME:** Di-Methyl Ether
- FCC:** Fluid Catalytic Cracking
- FCIC:** Feedstock-Conversion Interface Consortium
- FP:** Fast Pyrolysis
- FY:** Fiscal Year (e.g., FY23 is fiscal year 2023)
- GGE:** Gallon Gasoline Equivalent
- HOG:** High-Octane Gasoline
- HT:** Hydrotreating
- LCA:** Life-Cycle Analysis
- MFSP:** Minimum Fuel Selling Price
- MYP:** Multi-Year Plan (BETO)
- SAF:** Sustainable Aviation Fuel
- SCSA:** Supply Chain Sustainability Analysis
- SOT:** State of Technology
- STH:** Syngas to Hydrocarbons
- TEA:** Techno-Economic Analysis

# Project Overview

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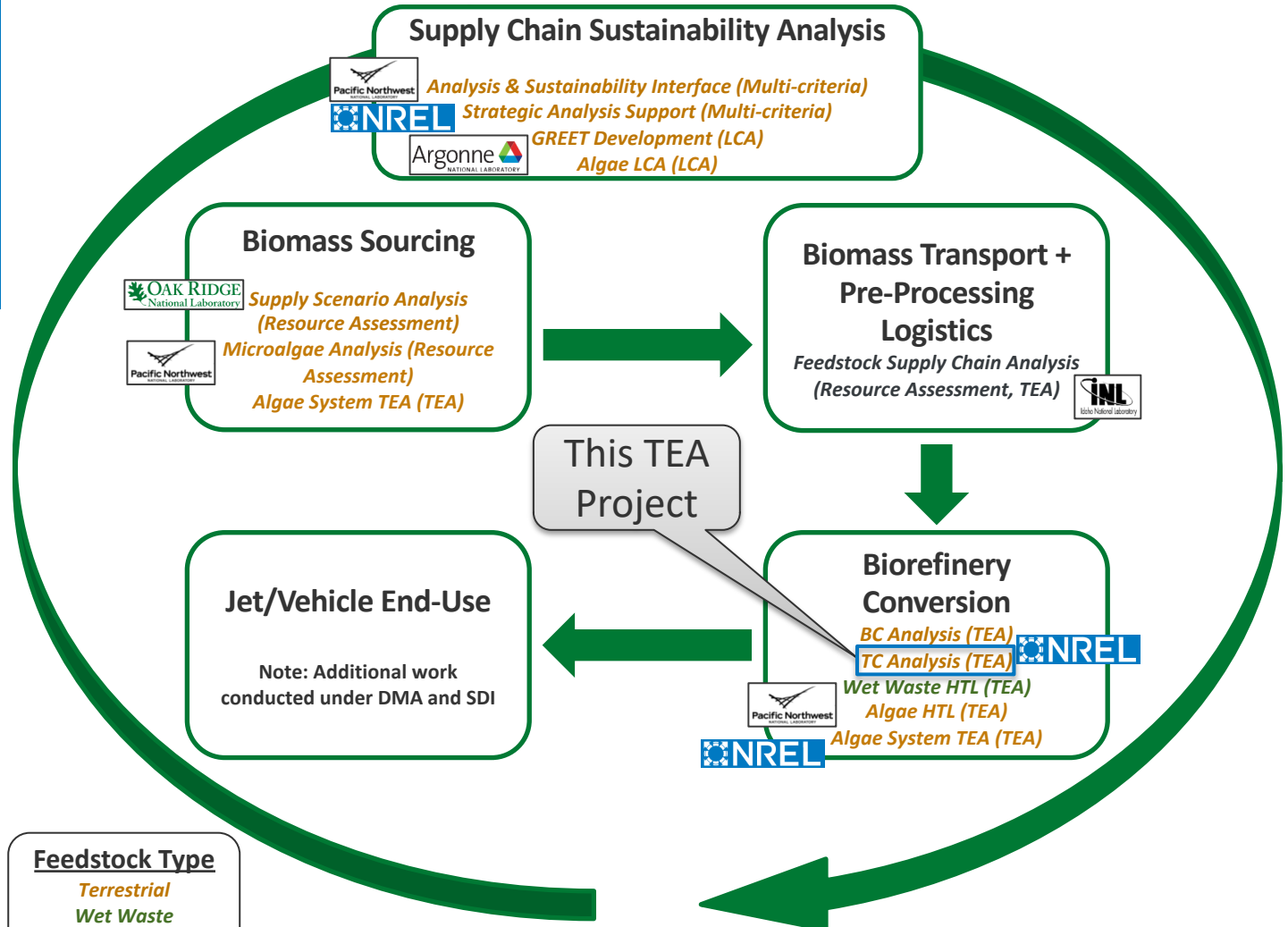
# Overview

- Primarily focused on **techno-economic analysis (TEA)** and **process sustainability**
- Helps **guide research** in productive directions
  - *No direct experimental research under this project*
- Provides **industrial context and risk information** for research activities



Overview

# BETO Analysis Projects Portfolio

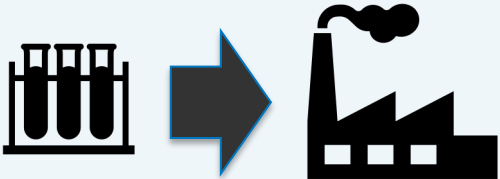


**Feedstock Type**  
 Terrestrial  
 Wet Waste  
 Algae

SCSA: Supply Chain Sustainability Analysis  
 TEA: Techno-Economic Analysis  
 DMA: Data Modeling and Analysis  
 SDI: Systems Development and Integration

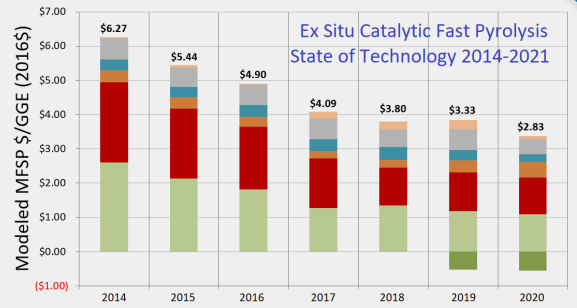
# Overview of Project Goals

## Improve Research Impacts by Providing Industrial Context



Lab R&D relevant for future scale-up?

**Previous Focus**  
Annual State of Technology (SOT) Assessments towards Modeled Cost Targets



## Maximize SAF and Heavy Fuels as Primary Products



SAF: Sustainable Aviation Fuel

## Facilitate the Reuse of Existing Petroleum Refining Operations



## Help Identify Risks & Fill Gaps



Mitigate scale-up risks feasible within lab/pilot research.  
Enable stakeholders

# Approach

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# Support Core Thermo-Catalytic Research Projects

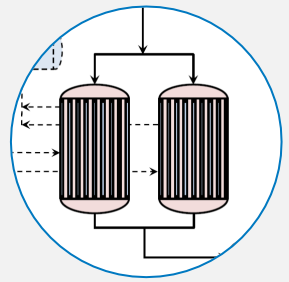
## Core Research Areas Thermo-Catalytic Conversion



### Pyrolytic Biocrudes

WBS 2.3.1.314

Catalytic Upgrading of Pyrolysis Products for Production of SAF



### Syngas Conversion

WBS 2.3.1.305

Upgrading of C1 Building Blocks



## Current Focus

### Refinery Processing & Fuel Compatibility

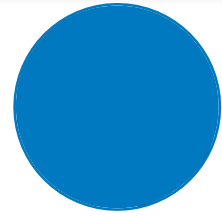
- Co-hydrotreating
- Standalone hydrotreating
- Assess other relevant refinery operations
- Vet assumptions

### Synthetic Liquid Fuels

- Direct C<sub>4+</sub> hydrocarbons from syngas
- Next step: C<sub>4+</sub> to jet
- Waste & CO<sub>2</sub> use

### Industrial Feedback and Risk Mitigation

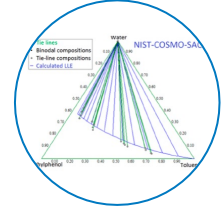
## Support & Collaboration



Catalyst R&D, Experimental Data  
Collaboration with



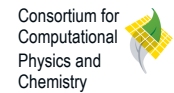
Feedstock  
Collaboration with



Fuel Property Predictions  
Collaboration with NIST

Some other collaborations:

Johnson Matthey





# Technical Approach for Analysis Work

## Level of Detail Based on Requirement & Research Stage

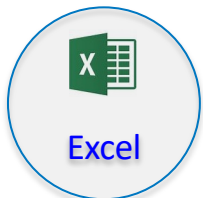


## Tools Used and Other Inputs



### Process Model

- **Research Data:** Experiments, researchers, and literature
- **Capital & Operating Costs:** Literature, vendor quotes, Aspen Capital Cost Estimator
- **Financial and Feedstock Assumptions:** Consistent with BETO guidelines & related feedstock research



### Economics



### Life-Cycle Analysis

## Outputs

- **MFSP (Minimum Fuel Selling Price)** based on n<sup>th</sup> plant economics & financial assumptions
  - SOT (State of Technology)
  - Projections
- **Technical metrics** to achieve MFSP
- **Sustainability metrics** of the conversion process
- Full LCA by ANL
- Review comments and **feedback from stakeholders are incorporated**

# Collaborators and Communication

## Results from Experiments



NREL, PNNL & Others

External Expert Reviews: Comments Addressed & Communicated Back

Outputs for Stakeholders: Reports, Publications, Models

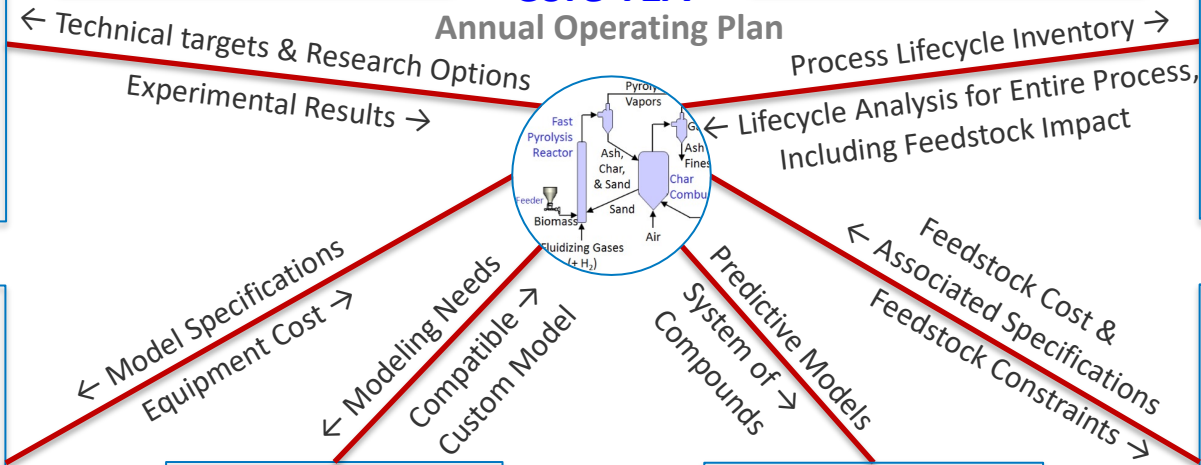
### Core TEA

### Annual Operating Plan

## Sustainability Analysis



Argonne National Lab

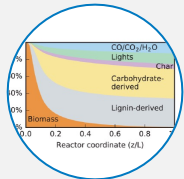


## Custom Cost Estimates



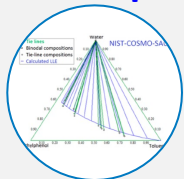
Subcontracts & Vendors

## Custom Models



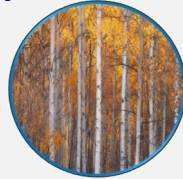
CCPC & Subcontracts

## Product Properties



NIST & Subcontracts

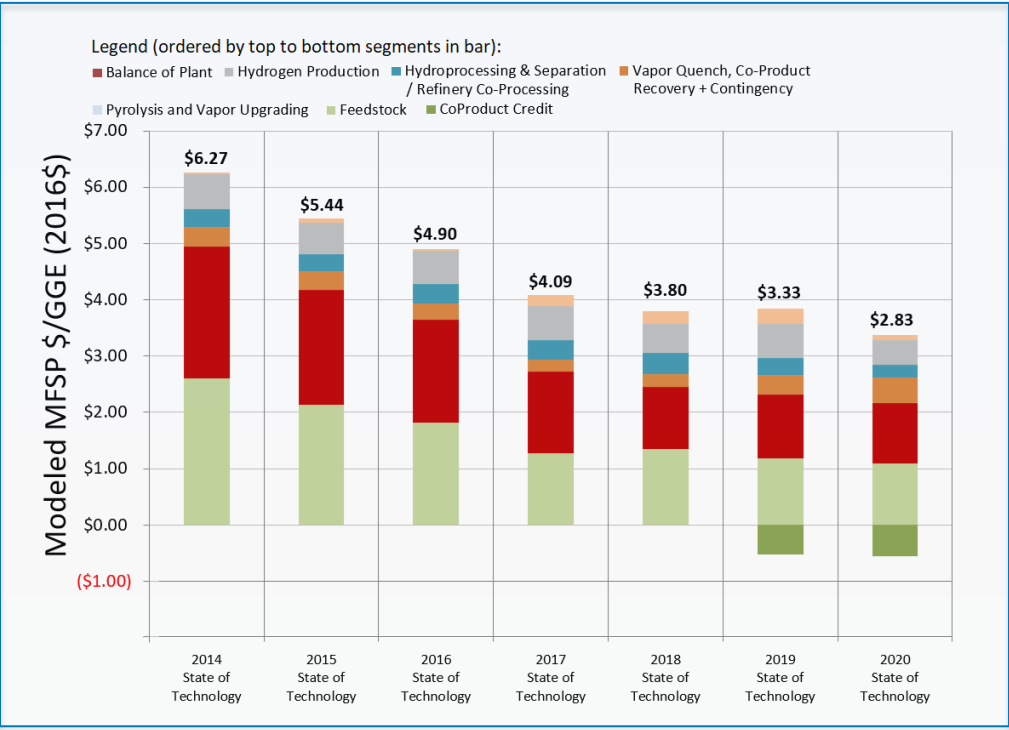
## Feedstock Specs & Cost



Idaho National Lab & FCIC

# Change in Focus: Emphasis on Industrial Impact & SAF

**Previous Approach:** Focus on annual SOT (State of Technology) reports with modeled cost reduction



## New Approach (focus):

- *Tighter integration of TEA & LCA*
  - Help decarbonization goals
  - Identify low emission options
- Prominence of *scale-up and risk assessments* for industrial implementations & relevance
  - Broaden sensitivity analysis
  - Advance refinery processing
- Enable research success and process scale-up for syngas to SAF
- Address constraints for SAF production & quality. *Leverage beneficial properties:*
  - Cycloalkanes from CFP
  - Iso-alkanes from syngas

CFP: Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis; SOT: State of Technology;  
 MFSP: Minimum Fuel Selling Price; SAF: Sustainable Aviation Fuel



# Expert Feedback for Relevance & Risk Identification

## Reports & Model Assumptions Reviewed

Technology experts for **relevance/risk identification**

- Engineering firm/consultants during design
- Advisors for expert reviews and feedback

## Example of relevant expert consultation/feedback

2015 Design Report



NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY



Pacific Northwest  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

*Proudly Operated by **Battelle** Since 1965*

Technical Report  
NREL/TP-5100-62455  
PNNL-23823  
March 2015

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### Process Design and Economics for the Conversion of Lignocellulosic Biomass to Hydrocarbon Fuels

Thermochemical Research Pathways with *In Situ* and *Ex Situ* Upgrading of Fast Pyrolysis Vapors

Harris Group Inc.  
DWH Process Consulting

Expert Reviewers

Transparency of comments & responses

Consultants

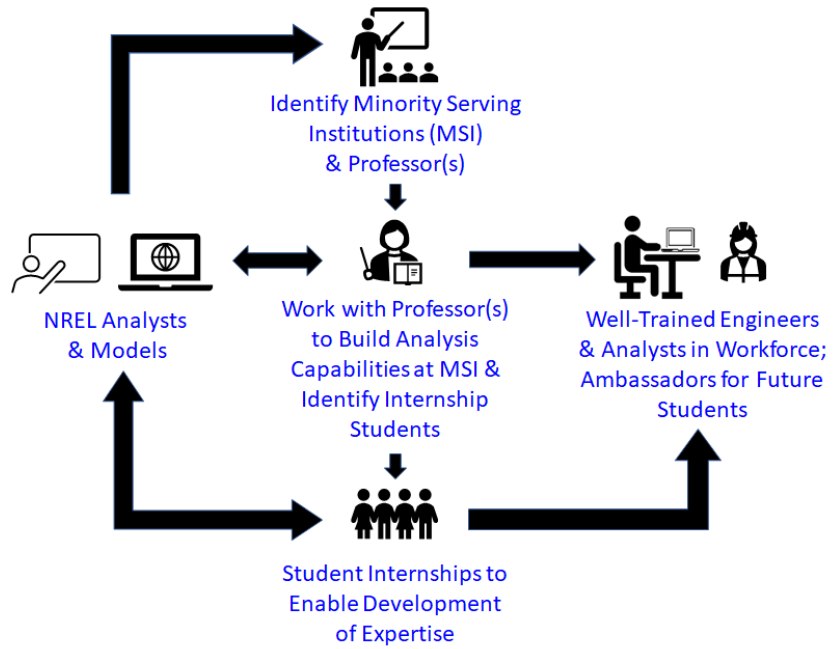
National Renewable Energy Laboratory	Bob Baldwin, Mary Biddy, Danny Carpenter, Mark Davis, Kristina Iisa, Calvin Mukarakate, Joshua Schaidle, Stefan Czernik (retired)
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	Doug Elliott, Sue Jones, Mariefel Olarte, Alan Zacher
Idaho National Laboratory	Jake Jacobson
Argonne National Laboratory	Felix Adom, Jennifer Dunn
BP	Peter Metelski
Colorado School of Mines	Robert Braun
Cool Planet Energy Systems	Daren Daugaard
ExxonMobil Chemical Company	Gerry McGlamery
Global Energy Management Institute (University of Houston) and AOTA Energy Consultants	Steve Arbogast, Dave Paynter, Jim Wykowski
Iowa State University	Mark Wright
Johnson Matthey	Raymond Hadden, Andrew Heavers, Mike Watson
Pall Corporation	Mark Hurwitz
RTI International	David Dayton
University of Maine	William DeSisto
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland	Yrjo Solantausta, Kristin Onarheim

**Appendix J. Reviewer Comments on Draft Design Report and Responses**

This appendix presents a summary of reviewer comments from draft versions of the report, issued for peer review in June 2014 and in August 2014. Comments from the peer review panel are summarized below and followed by a response from the authors. Some of the comments are paraphrased along with added context for clarity. Comments were combined when there were commonalities among observations from multiple reviewers. Minor/editorial comments were addressed, but left out of this appendix. The responses also describe any actions taken to address the comments in this final version.

# Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) Plan

Plan to work with identified Minority Serving Institution(s) to help build their bioconversion TEA capabilities during this project cycle (FY 2023 to 2025)



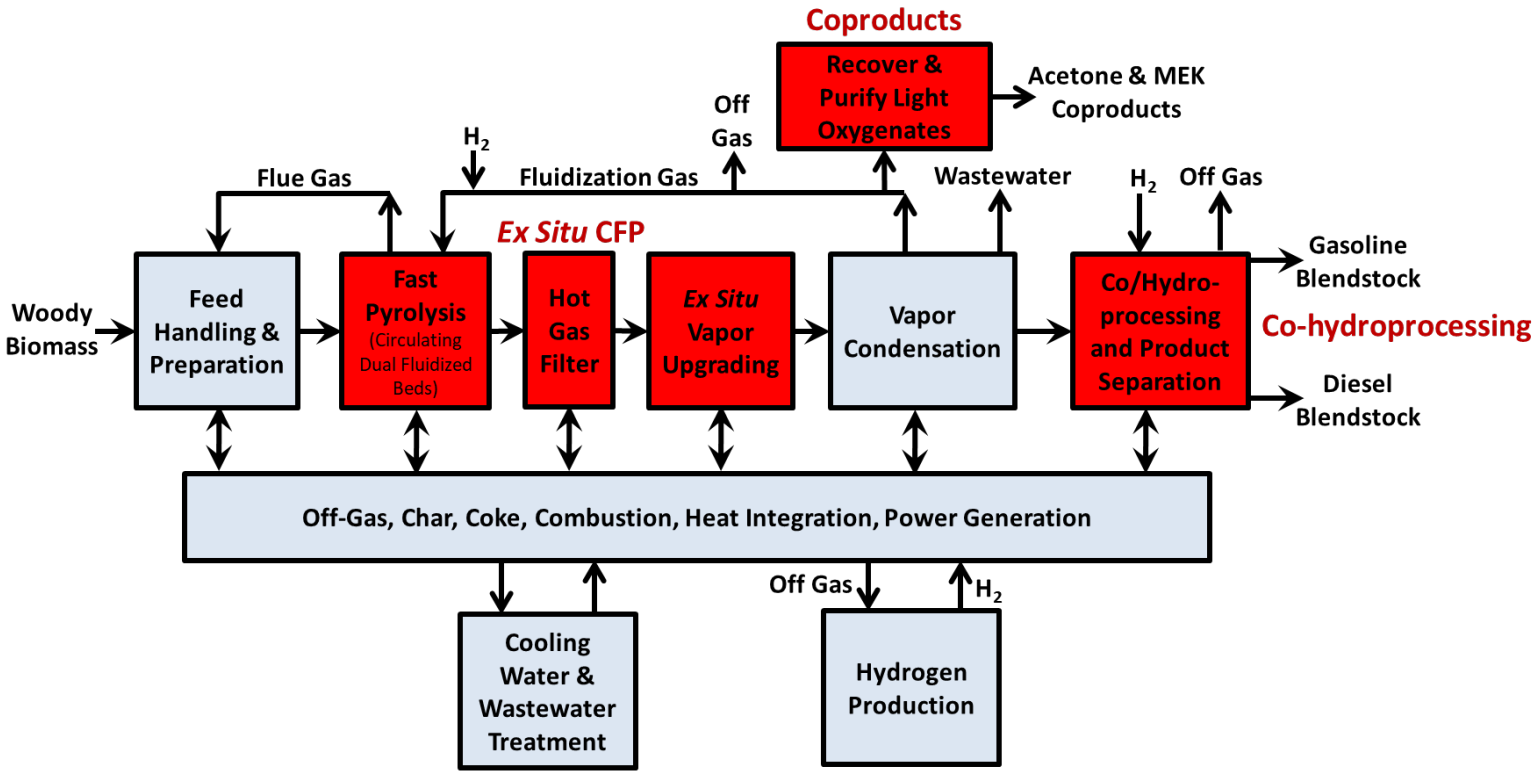
- DEI goals established by pooling resources with other TEA projects (includes Biochemical Analysis, Algae TEA, Strategic Support)
- **FY25 DEI Milestone:** Joint manuscript with 1 or more MSI university collaborator (professor + student group) on TEA/LCA analysis

## Progress and Outcomes

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# Simplified Block Flow Diagram: Fixed Bed *Ex Situ* CFP

## Background Information for Fixed Bed *Ex Situ* CFP

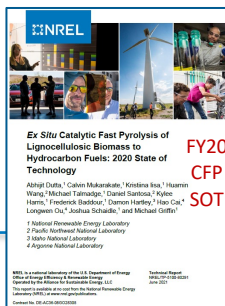




# FY21 Closeout of CFP using Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> Catalyst

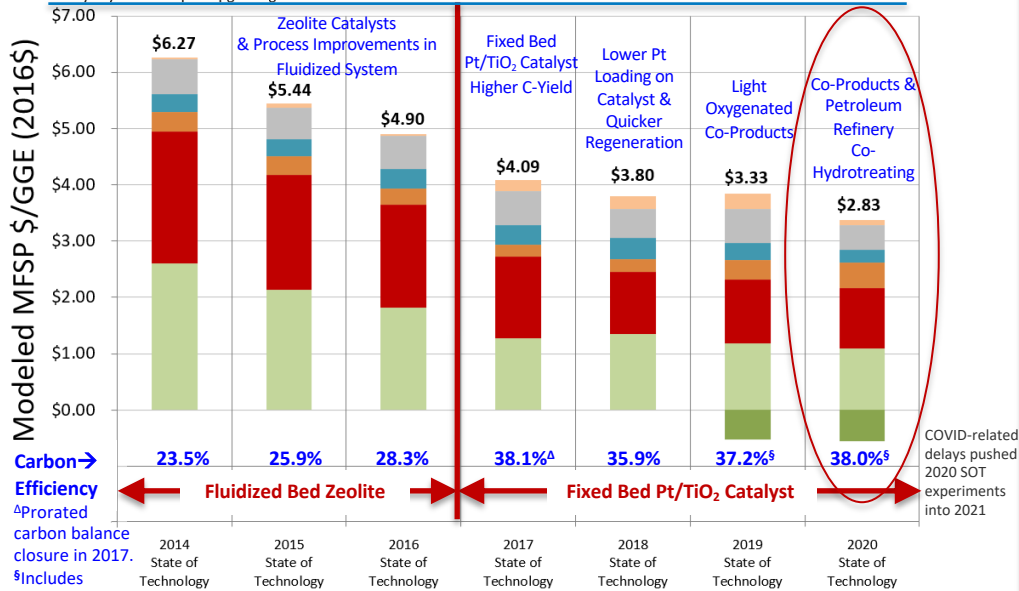
Final modeling of 2021 bench-scale results showed that a fuel cost of <\$3/GGE<sup>1</sup> and >75%<sup>2</sup> GHG reduction possible if scale-up is successful.

1: <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fv21osti/80291.pdf>; 2: [https://greet.es.anl.gov/files/2020\\_update\\_renewable\\_hc\\_fuel](https://greet.es.anl.gov/files/2020_update_renewable_hc_fuel)



Legend (ordered by top to bottom segments in bar):

- Balance of Plant
- Hydrogen Production
- Hydroprocessing & Separation / Refinery Co-Processing
- Vapor Quench, Co-Product Recovery + Contingency
- Pyrolysis and Vapor Upgrading
- Feedstock
- CoProduct Credit



## Key Closeout Conclusions:

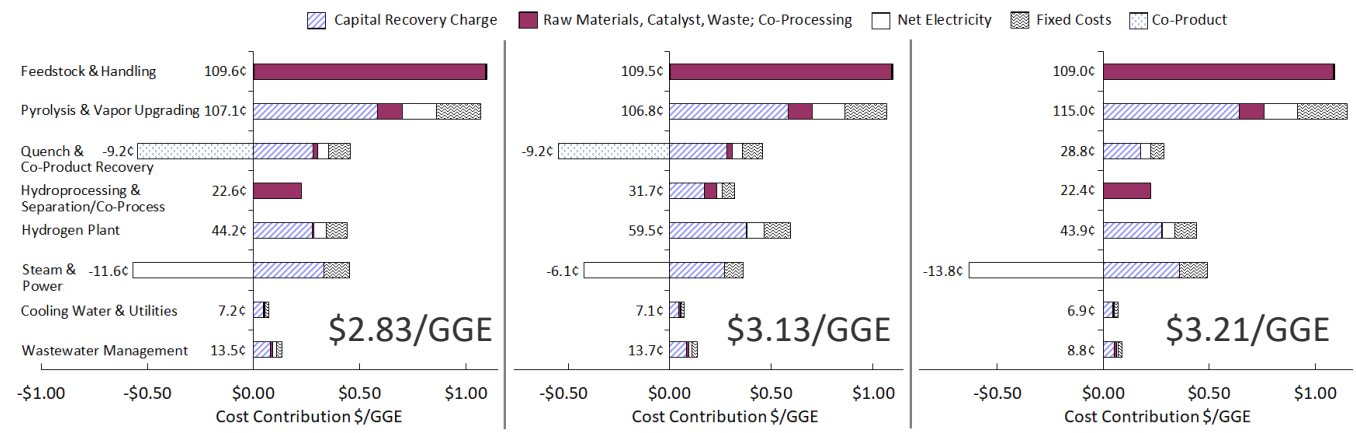
- Extensive *risk assessment* jointly with **experimental project (WBS 2.3.1.314)**
- Did not proceed with pilot scale-up in 2022 based on significant risks associated with the introduction of hydrogen within currently available pilot equipment
- Further R&D necessary for maturity / scale-up of coproducts recovery

## Future of this pathway:

- Technology remains promising; high fuel yield & selectivity to coproducts
- Continue to explore interested commercial entities to help address scale-up challenges

# Closeout TEA/LCA Article for Fixed Bed *Ex Situ* CFP

*Comparative analysis of configurations with different coproducts, hydrogen source options, and potential refinery co-hydroprocessing on costs and GHG emissions*



- Quantified effects of:**
- *Coproducts on cost and GHG emissions*
  - *Refinery coprocessing on costs (this initial assessment with no significant added equipment expenses at refinery)*
  - *Hydrogen source & significant impact on GHG emissions*

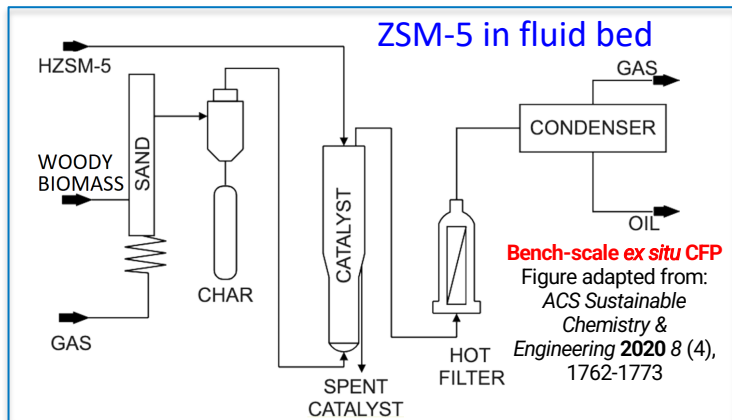
<b>Hydroprocessing</b>	Co-HT at refinery	Standalone HT	Co-HT at refinery
<b>Coproducts</b>	Acetone & MEK	Acetone & MEK	No chemicals
<b>Electricity</b>	From excess energy	From excess energy	From excess energy
<b>MFSP (\$/GGE)</b>	2.83	3.13	3.21
<b>GHG Reduction*</b>	77%	96%	62%

\*GHG reduction over petroleum gasoline (93 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/MJ); **MFSP**: Minimum Fuel Selling Price; **HT**: Hydrotreating

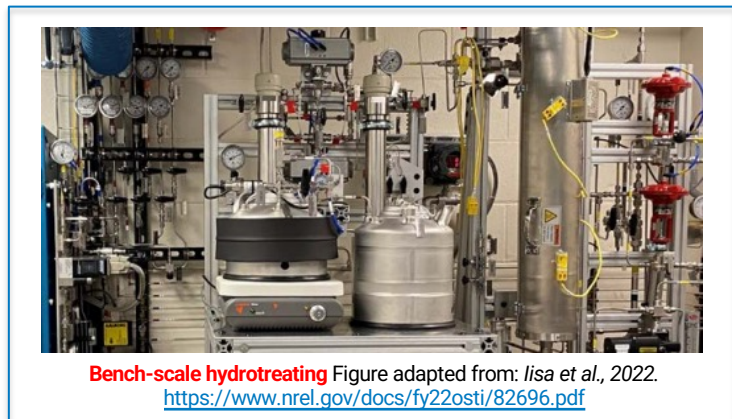
# Understanding CFP & Hydrotreating towards SAF

## Bench-scale experiments

Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis



Hydrotreating



## March 2023 Analysis (preliminary) of Experimental Results showing the Impact of Varying CFP Oil Oxygen Content, followed by Standalone Hydrotreating

See backup slide 49 for additional information

Oxygen in CFP Oil	17%	20%	22%
CFP C-Efficiency (%) <sup>1</sup>	26	30	31
HT C-Efficiency (%) <sup>2</sup>	91	92	89
MFSP (\$/GGE) <sup>3*</sup>	6.1-7.5	5.7-6.9	5.3-6.5
GHG Reduction (%) <sup>4</sup>	84	78	75

<sup>1</sup> Higher yields possible with optimization; C-efficiency values include condensable vapors in our *ex situ* CFP system; ZSM-5 catalyst used. Variations in yields with changes in CFP-oil oxygen content are consistent with expectations.

<sup>2</sup> NiMoS/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> catalyst. ~50% product is in the SAF range, meeting key jet fuel specs

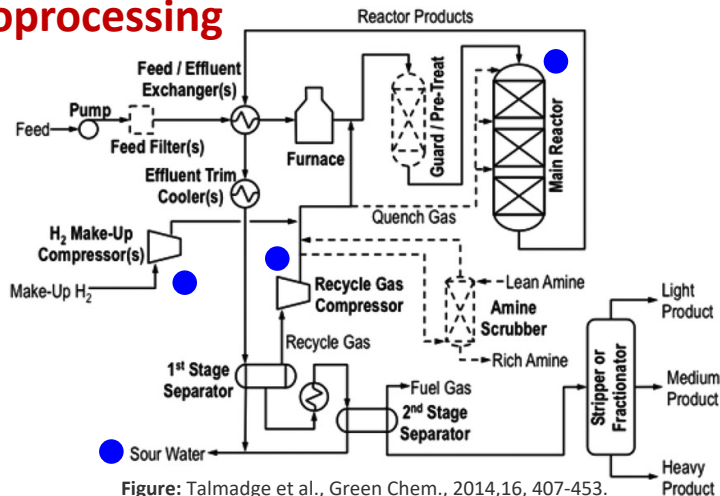
<sup>3</sup> Modeled Minimum Fuel Selling Price (MFSP) in 2016\$, with ±10% variation

<sup>4</sup> Approximate GHG reduction over petroleum gasoline (93 g CO<sub>2</sub>e/MJ) with coproduct electricity from usable excess energy not converted to liquid fuels.

**\*Credits and incentives not included**

# Ongoing New Work on Refinery Integration & SAF

## Hydroprocessing



Working with KBR to *assess risks and processing cost impacts* from the introduction of CFP biocrudes in refineries

- Initial NREL modeling with hydrotreating
- Will expand other relevant refinery units

**Assessments will be reported in FY24 design report and other publications**

KBR subcontract

Enable prediction of *SAF quality specifications* in our process models:  
Facilitate achieving SAF requirements

	Density	LHV	Flash Point
	g/cm <sup>3</sup>	MJ/kg	°C
Specification	775-840	>42.8	>38
Sample 1 (ZSM-5 CFP Oil)	834	43	50
Sample 2 (Pt/TiO <sub>2</sub> CFP Oil)	833	43	47
Avg. abs. % error for 3 best predictions	0.47	0.11	3.8

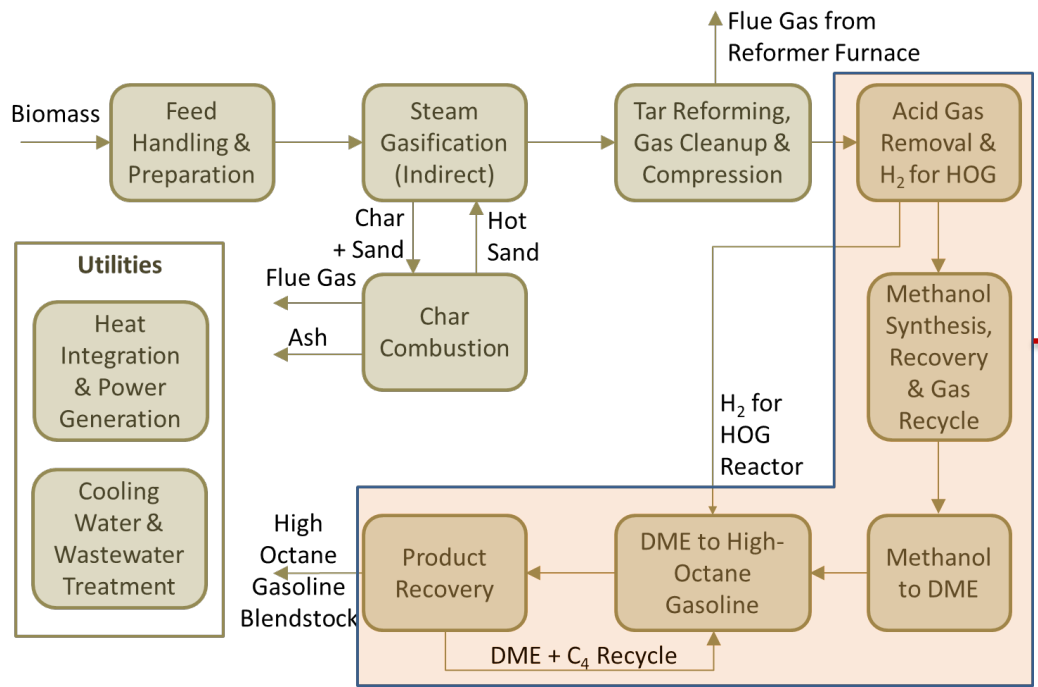
Samples 1 & 2 predictions from detailed speciation (>60 compounds each) of SAF range fuel from CFP oil hydrotreating.  
*Journal article submitted, under review.*

Experimental data: <https://www.gti.energy/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/08-tcbiomass2022-Presentation-Kristiina-lisa.pdf>

Subcontracts/Collaboration: Suphat Watanasiri, NIST

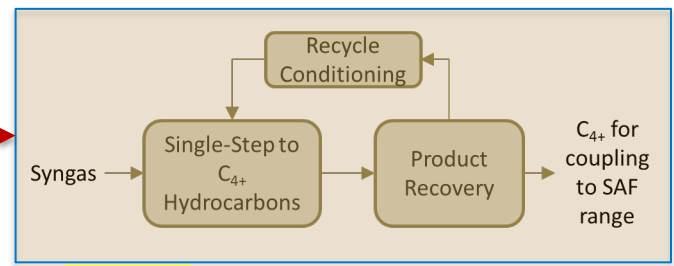
# Flow Diagrams: 3-Steps to HOG vs. 1-Step to C<sub>4+</sub>

**2014-2021; closeout after 2021 SOT assessment**



**3-Steps to High-Octane Gasoline**

**Beginning 2021, after Go/No-Go 06/2021 assessment to determine whether 1-step approach can be viable**



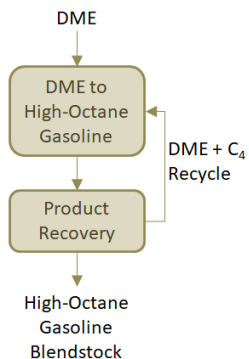
**1-Step to C<sub>4+</sub> Hydrocarbons\***

Commercial methanol synthesis and methanol dehydration catalysts (Cu/ZnO/Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + γ-Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, termed "CZA+A") positioned upstream of Cu/BEA

**C<sub>4+</sub> to SAF experiments in 2023\*;  
TEA/LCA will follow**

\*Details in presentation by Dan Ruddy (WBS 2.3.1.305)

# Closeout of 3-Step Syngas to High-Octane Gasoline



## Research progress

- **Ongoing work with industry towards commercial application**
- **2021 highlights (DME to HOG)**
  - Reduced aromatics formation
  - Tested in larger bench scale reactor
  - Lower temperature for Cu/BEA catalyst regeneration



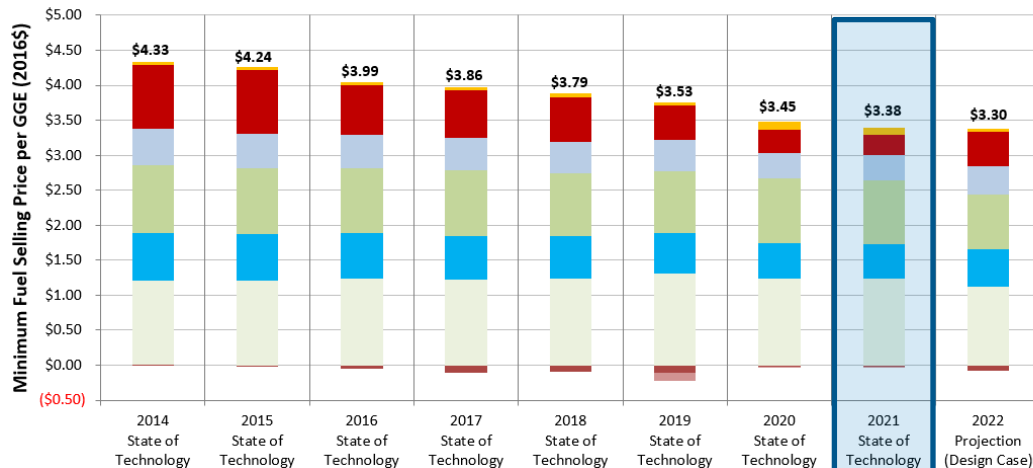
**A separations and purification process for improving yields and meeting fuel contaminant specifications for high-octane gasoline produced from dimethyl-ether over a Cu/BEA catalyst**

Abhijit Dutta<sup>1</sup>, Daniel A. Ruddy, Connor P. Nash, Kylee Harris, Earl D. Christensen, Daniel P. Dupuis, Eric C.D. Tan<sup>2</sup>, Catalytic Carbon Transformation & Scale-Up Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO, USA

Received April 15 2022; Revised July 8 2022; Accepted July 11 2022;  
View online August 10, 2022 at Wiley Online Library (wileyonlinelibrary.com);  
DOI: 10.1002/bbb.2416; Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref. 16:1469–1477 (2022)

<https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.2416>

Published journal article based on recent model updates & related understanding of separations and recycle in 3-step process.



- LPG Coproduct Credit
- Hydrocarbon Product Separation
- Hydrocarbon Synthesis
- Acid Gas Removal, Methanol Synthesis and Methanol Conditioning
- Synthesis Gas Clean-up (Reforming and Quench)
- Gasification
- Feedstock
- Balance of Plant

**>80% GHG reduction over petroleum-derived gasoline\***



**High-Octane Gasoline From Lignocellulosic Biomass via Syngas and Methanol/Dimethyl Ether Intermediates: 2021 State of Technology**

Kylee Harris,<sup>1</sup> Connor Nash,<sup>1</sup> Daniel Ruddy,<sup>1</sup> Abhijit Dutta,<sup>1</sup> Dan Dupuis,<sup>1</sup> Earl Christensen,<sup>1</sup> Alexander Rein,<sup>1</sup> Eric Tan,<sup>1</sup> Damon Hartley,<sup>2</sup> Hao Cai,<sup>3</sup> and Longwen Ou<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
<sup>2</sup> Idaho National Laboratory  
<sup>3</sup> Argonne National Laboratory

<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy22osti/81178.pdf>

NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC  
This report is available at no cost from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) at [www.nrel.gov/publications](http://www.nrel.gov/publications).  
Contract No. DE-AC36-08G028008

FY21  
HOG  
SOT

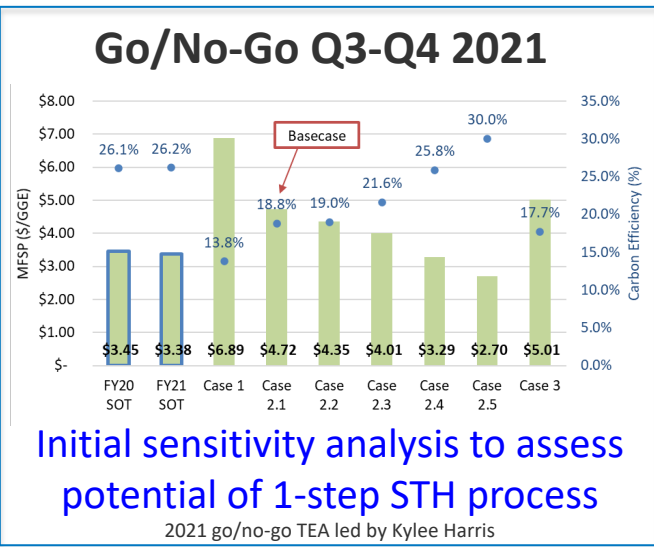
**Additional information under :** WBS 2.3.1.305 Upgrading of C1 Building Blocks  
HOG: High-Octane Gasoline; DME: Dimethyl Ether;  
SOT: State of Technology

References: Nature Catalysis, Vol 2, pages 632–640 (2019);

<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy22osti/81178.pdf>; \*<https://publications.anl.gov/anlpubs/2022/04/174598.pdf>

# Progress & Outcomes 1-Step Syngas-to-Hydrocarbons & Future Towards SAF

Progress & Outcomes

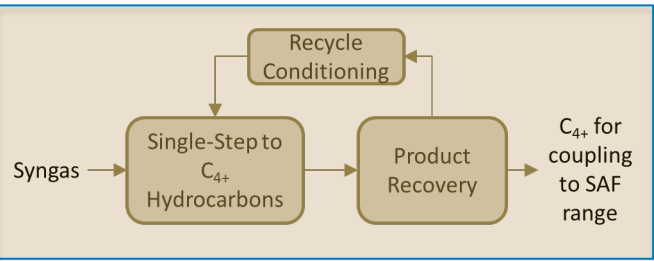


Process modeling to determine industrially relevant operating conditions

Further experiments at some of the identified operating conditions

Initial TEA to provide preliminary estimates of Minimum C4+ Hydrocarbon Selling Price (MHSP) and overall carbon efficiency

**FY23 Q1: Initial TEA using bench-scale powdered catalyst results**  
*Preliminary MHSP of <\$3/GGE* (\$2.61/GGE initial estimate, will likely change as we refine the TEA); **>31% overall carbon efficiency** possible. Based on these yields, our current rough estimates project **>80% GHG reduction** for C4+ hydrocarbons on a GGE basis because yields are better than the 3-step HOG process.

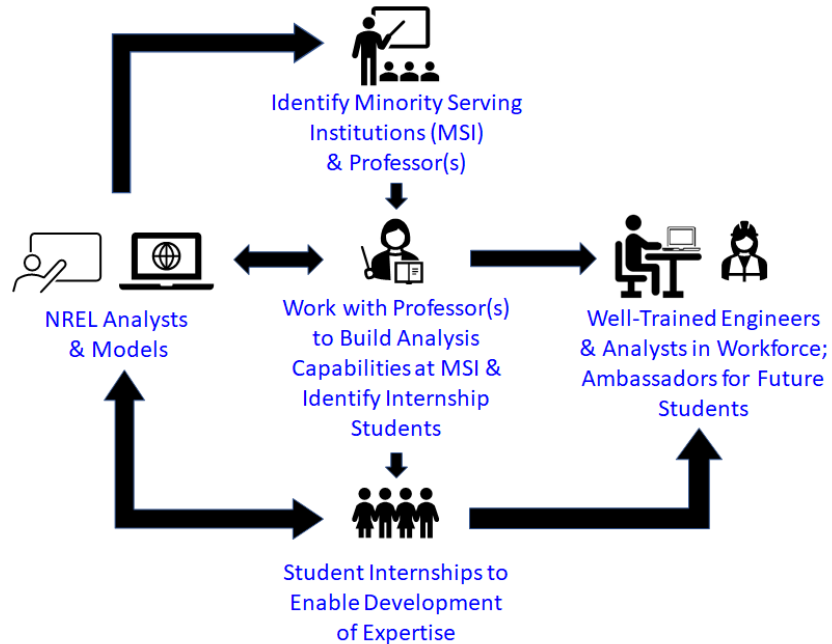


**Next Steps:** (a) FY23 Q3 milestone to refine TEA/LCA, (b) C4+ hydrocarbons to SAF, TEA/LCA after FY23 Q3 experiments

STH: Syngas to Hydrocarbons (C4+); MHSP: Min.(C4+) Hydrocarbon Selling Price; GGE: Gallon Gasoline Equivalent; HOG: High Octane Gasoline



# DEI Progress



- In conversation with MSI for interns to initiate collaborative work
- Working towards goal of joint work products (and publication) by 2025



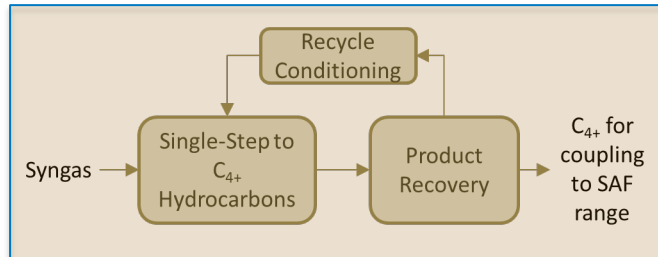
Impact

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# Impact on Core Experimental Research

## Important role during transition to 1-step hydrocarbon process

- Helped narrow broad parameter space by providing potentially industrially relevant operating conditions and compositions for experiments



## Guidance for relevant unit operations & conditions for processing pyrolytic biocrudes in refineries

- Feedback loop with researchers to allow exploration of processing options appropriate for different qualities of biocrudes
  - Quantification of process impacts
  - Advance model predictions through effective experiments
    - Help fill key gaps via modeling to inform stakeholders

Enable SAF & low-emission liquid fuels via pyrolytic and syngas conversion. Provide inputs for *future scale-up, risk assessments; metrics for cost, GHG, technical targets* to enable successful research outcomes.

# Inform and Enable Industry – Use Relevant Feedback

## Direct Collaboration with Industry Partners

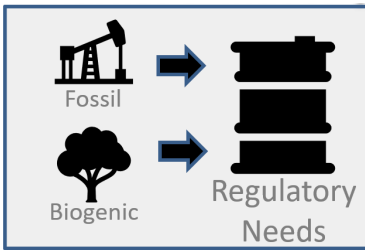


Leverage Knowledge & Modeling Capabilities from BETO Research

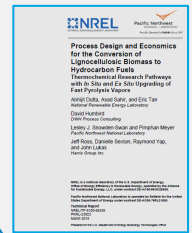
- ExxonMobil CRADA
- Alder Fuels

Other industrial entities (not listed) engaged via experimental projects

## Facilitate Biogenic Carbon in Fuels and Products via Detailed Analysis



## Publications to Disseminate Knowledge & Learnings



- Detailed design reports
- State of Technology updates
- Journal articles

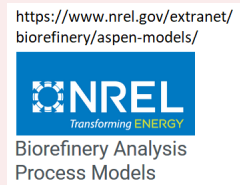
## Solicit and Use Critical Review & Comments for Relevance



### Other Products

- Software records for **detailed models** – available for licensing
- **Patents**/applications (led by experimental team)

## Sample Models Publicly Available



Download and use by stakeholders, including academia and industry

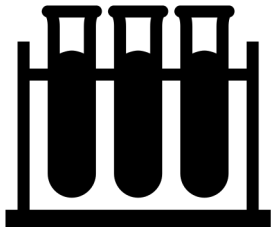
# Facilitate Broader Impact Analysis

Focus areas

- Diesel hydrotreaters (diesel mode) 70 BGal/yr
- Distillate and/or gas oil hydrocrackers (jet mode) 37 BGal/yr
- Fluid catalytic crackers (fuels and chemicals mode) 85 BGal/yr

200 BGal/yr with flexibility to optimize and incorporate new technology.

## Refinery Optimization Modeling

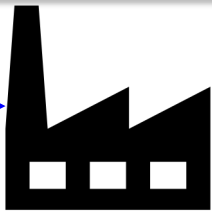


**Experimental Data** on Co-Processing and Standalone Upgrading

Hydroprocessing – Kristiina Iisa 2.3.1.314  
 Fluid Catalytic Cracking – Calvin Mukarakate, Reinhard Seisar 3.4.3.306-308

**TEA Modeling** for Processing in Diesel Hydrotreater (DHT), Hydrocracker (HCU) and other refinery units

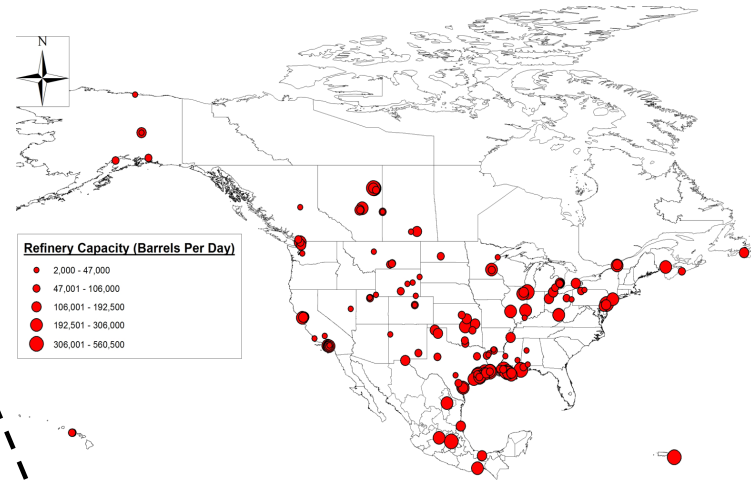
TC Analysis – Abhijit Dutta 2.1.0.302



**Aspen PIMS® Refinery Optimization Modeling** with Bio-Intermediates and Bio-Blendstocks

Catalytic Upgrading – Mike Griffin 2.3.1.314

## Bioeconomy Optimization Modeling




**Bioeconomy Resource Optimization** with US Refinery Network

Strategic Analysis – Ling Tao 4.1.1.30  
 BSM - Emily Newes 4.1.2.32

# Leverage Models for Other Research Projects

## Published Articles Leveraging Knowledge/Models from this Project

### Analysis for Marine Fuels



pubs.acs.org/est

**Techno-economic Analysis of Sustainable Biofuels for Marine Transportation**


Shuyun Li,<sup>1</sup> Eric C. D. Tan,<sup>\*,1</sup> Abhijit Dutta, Lesley J. Snowden-Swan, Michael R. Thorson, Karthukeyan K. Ramasamy,<sup>\*</sup> Andrew W. Bartling, Robert Brasington, Michael D. Kass, George G. Zaines, and Troy R. Hawkins

[Cite This Environ. Sci. Technol. 2022, 56, 17206–17214](#) [Read Online](#)







<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.2c03960>



### Analysis for FCIC

Modeling and Analysis 

**A simplified integrated framework for predicting the economic impacts of feedstock variations in a catalytic fast pyrolysis conversion process**

Matthew R. Wiatrowski , Abhijit Dutta , Catalytic Carbon Transformation and Scale-up Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO, USA  
M. Brennan Pecha , Meagan Crowley , Peter N. Ciesielski , Renewable Resources and Enabling Sciences Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO, USA  
Daniel Carpenter , Catalytic Carbon Transformation and Scale-up Center, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO, USA

Received July 23 2021; Revised October 30 2021; Accepted November 02 2021;  
View online November 26, 2021 at Wiley Online Library ([wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com));  
DOI: 10.1002/bbb.2319; Biofuels, Bioprod., Bioref., 16:403–412 (2022)

<https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.2319>



### Fuel Properties

Fuel 318 (2022) 123550

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Fuel

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/fuel](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/fuel)

ELSEVIER

Short communication

Model-based compositional predictions for a differential scanning calorimetry/thermogravimetric analysis-mass spectrometry system used for heat of vaporization measurements

Abhijit Dutta<sup>\*</sup>, Gina M. Fioroni, Ead D. Christensen, Cameron K. Hays, Lisa Fouts, Suphat Watanasiri, Robert L. McCormick

National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 2901 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO 80402, USA

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2022.123550>



# Summary

## Enabled productive research outcomes through TEA and sustainability modeling

- **Closeout of High-Octane Gasoline and Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> CFP pathways**
  - Journal articles published, in addition to SOT reports
- Significant feedback to experimental research team for **pivots to next focus areas**
  - Process modeling-informed experiments and TEA for 1-step syngas to hydrocarbons
  - Informing experiments and identifying bottlenecks for pyrolytic biocrudes hydroprocessing
    - Integrating SAF property predictions to facilitate SAF from the conversion processes

## Future Work

- Continue to model and inform **syngas to hydrocarbons pathway research towards SAF**, working in tandem with experimental research
- Continue **detailed modeling and assessment of refinery processing** of pyrolytic biocrudes
  - Work with industry experts' feedback to develop a design report to enable stakeholders
- Advance the outlined **DEI plan**

# Quad Chart Overview

## Timeline

- Project start date: October 1, 2022
- Project end date: September 30, 2025

	FY22 Costed	Total Award
DOE Funding	\$726k ( <i>actual costed</i> )	\$2,100k (\$700k each for FY23, FY24, and FY25)

This is an analysis project. TRL is N/A for Modality #5: strategic, market, and techno-economic analysis.

TRL start and end of the related core experimental research projects are presented under WBS# 2.3.1.305 (Dan Ruddy) and WBS# 2.3.1.314 (Mike Griffin).

## Project Goal

To inform and guide R&D priorities for thermal and catalytic conversion processes through process-design-based TEA and sustainability analysis. Specific conversion pathways of focus are upgrading of pyrolytic biocrude intermediates and syngas to Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) & other heavy-duty fuels.

## End of Project Milestone

Final draft of a broad-scope design report and/or major publication covering multiple conversion options and product/fuel targets for the thermocatalytic conversion of biomass and waste feedstocks. Criteria: maximization of SAF with increases of at least 10% (e.g., using hybrid pyrolysis and syngas conversion approaches) while maintaining a 70% GHG reduction over petroleum derived fuels.

## Funding Mechanism

National laboratory project funded by BETO.

# Acknowledgements

## DOE BETO for funding and support

### **NREL (includes subcontracts & recent-past contributors)**

- Zia Abdullah
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- Nick Carlson
- Daniel Carpenter
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- Mark Nimlos
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- Josh Schaidle
- Reinhard Seiser
- Avantika Singh
- Michael Talmadge
- Eric Tan
- Suphat Watanasiri
- Matt Wiatrowski
- Nolan Wilson
- Geetanjali Yadav
- Matt Yung
- Thermo-catalytic conversion team
- Biorefinery analysis team

### **PNNL**

- Corinne Drennan
- Yuan Jiang
- Aye Meyer
- Steve Phillips
- Lesley Snowden-Swan
- Huamin Wang

### **INL**

- Damon Hartley

- David Thompson

### **ANL**

- Hao Cai
- Longwen Ou

### **NIST-TRC**

- Chris Muzny
- Vladimir Diky

### **Feedstock Interface (FCIC)**

### **ChemCatBio**

### **Consortium for Computational Physics and Chemistry (CCPC)**

### **Separations Consortium**

### **Co-Optima**

### **ExxonMobil**

### **Alder Energy**

### **Johnson Matthey**

### **Petrobras**



# Thank you

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[www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)

NREL/PR-5100-85397

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**Additional Slides**

# Responses to Previous Reviewers' Comments

1-3 significant questions/criticisms from the previous reviewers' comments that can be addressed within the scope of this project.

**Comment 1:** Key question for the management is how to get more engagement with broader oil and gas suppliers as their models are quite valuable and feedback from industry will always provide improvements?

**Response:** We have and will continue to engage with relevant industrial entities to maintain relevance and usefulness of our work for stakeholders. This FY23 presentation lists some of industrial entities (as did the FY21 presentation). We plan broad industrial outreach for our next significant design report draft planned for March 2024; we will be transparent about the specifics of that outreach in our publication (as in our previous reports).

**Comment 2:** Some progress has been made in identifying and quantifying for all CFP pathways and products that can be integrated within a traditional refinery environment with the completion of the stand-alone case. No preliminary work was presented yet on the co-processing case.

**Response:** We have since published our co-processing analysis and related results (after the FY21 peer review). Details are available in our State of Technology report (<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/80291.pdf>), and a journal article that presented a comparative analysis to show the impacts of standalone vs co-processing approaches, as well as the inclusion of coproducts (Chemical Engineering Journal, Vol. 451, 2023, 138485).

**Comment 3:** The LP (linear programming) work using ASPEN PIMS should be used in tandem with this effort so that the impact is not too unit specific.

**Response:** We included a slide in this presentation to show how our modeling work will interface with other broader analysis funded by BETO, including work under the Aspen PIMS framework.

# Publications, Patents, Presentations, Awards, and Commercialization (1)

## Commercialization efforts listed by experimental projects supported by this project

### **Publications:**

- Dutta, A.; H. Cai; M.S. Talmadge; C. Mukarakate; K. Iisa; H. Wang; D.M. Santosa; L. Ou; D.S. Hartley; A.N. Wilson; J.A. Schaidle; M.B. Griffin. Model quantification of the effect of coproducts and refinery co-hydrotreating on the economics and greenhouse gas emissions of a conceptual biomass catalytic fast pyrolysis process. *Chemical Engineering Journal*. Volume 451, Part 1, 1 January 2023, 138485. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cej.2022.138485>.
- Li, S.; Tan, E.C.D.; Dutta, A.; Snowden-Swan, L.J.; Thorson, M.R.; Ramasamy, K.K.; Bartling, A.W.; Brasington, R.; Kass, M.D.; Zaines, G.G.; Hawkins, T.R. Techno-economic Analysis of Sustainable Biofuels for Marine Transportation. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2022, 56, 17206–17214. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.2c03960>.
- Dutta, A.; Ruddy, D.A.; Nash, C.P.; Harris, K.; Christensen, E.D.; Dupuis, D.P.; Tan, E.C.D. A separations and purification process for improving yields and meeting fuel contaminant specifications for high-octane gasoline produced from dimethyl-ether over a Cu/BEA catalyst. *BioFPR* (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.2416>.
- Harris, Kylee, Connor Nash, Daniel Ruddy, Abhijit Dutta, Dan Dupuis, Earl Christensen, Alexander Rein, Eric Tan, Damon Hartley, Hao Cai, and Longwen Ou. 2022. High-Octane Gasoline From Lignocellulosic Biomass via Syngas and Methanol/Dimethyl Ether Intermediates: 2021 State of Technology. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5100-81178. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy22osti/81178.pdf>.
- Dutta, Abhijit, Gina M. Fioroni, Earl D. Christensen, Cameron K. Hays, Lisa Fouts, Suphat Watanasiri, Robert L. McCormick. Model-based compositional predictions for a differential scanning calorimetry/thermogravimetric analysis-mass spectrometry system used for heat of vaporization measurements. *Fuel* 318 (2022) 123550. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fuel.2022.123550>.
- Wilson et al. Efficacy, economics, and sustainability of bio-based insecticides from thermochemical biorefineries. *Green Chemistry*, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1039/D1GC02956H>
- Wiatrowski, MR; Dutta, A; Pecha, MB; Crowley, M; Ciesielski, PN; Carpenter, D. A simplified integrated framework for predicting the economic impacts of feedstock variations in a catalytic fast pyrolysis conversion process. *Biofuels, Bioprod. Bioref.* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1002/bbb.2319>

## Publications, Patents, Presentations, Awards, and Commercialization (2)

- Cai et al. Supply Chain Sustainability Analysis of Renewable Hydrocarbon Fuels via Indirect Liquefaction, Hydrothermal Liquefaction, Combined Algal Processing, and Biochemical Conversion: Update of the 2021 State-of-Technology Cases. April 2021. ANL/ESD-22/5 Rev. 1 174598. <https://doi.org/10.2172/1862925>.
- Dutta, Abhijit, Calvin Mukarakate, Kristiina Iisa, Huamin Wang, Michael Talmadge, Daniel Santosa, Kylee Harris, Frederick Baddour, et al. 2021. Ex Situ Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis of Lignocellulosic Biomass to Hydrocarbon Fuels: 2020 State of Technology. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5100-80291. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/80291.pdf>.
- Harris, Kylee, Daniel Ruddy, Connor Nash, Abhijit Dutta, Daniel Dupuis, Eric Tan, Damon Hartley, and Hao Cai. 2021. High-Octane Gasoline from Lignocellulosic Biomass via Syngas and Methanol/Dimethyl Ether Intermediates: 2020 State of Technology. Golden, CO: National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL/TP-5100-79986. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/79986.pdf>.
- Eugene Paulechka; Vladimir Diky; Abhijit Dutta. 2021. Evaluation of Experimental and Predicted Vapor-Liquid Equilibrium Data for Systems Relevant to Biomass Fast Pyrolysis and Catalytic Upgrading . NIST Interagency/Internal Report (NISTIR) - 8357. NREL/TP-5100-78193. <https://dx.doi.org/10.6028/NIST.IR.8357>.
- Cai, H., L. Ou, M. Wang, R. Davis, A. Dutta, K. Harris, M. Wiatrowski, et al. 2021. Supply Chain Sustainability Analysis of Renewable Hydrocarbon Fuels via Indirect Liquefaction, Ex Situ Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis, Hydrothermal Liquefaction, Combined Algal Processing, and Biochemical Conversion: Update of the 2020 State-of-Technology Cases. Lemont, IL: Argonne National Laboratory. ANL/ESD-21/1. <https://doi.org/10.2172/1823113>.

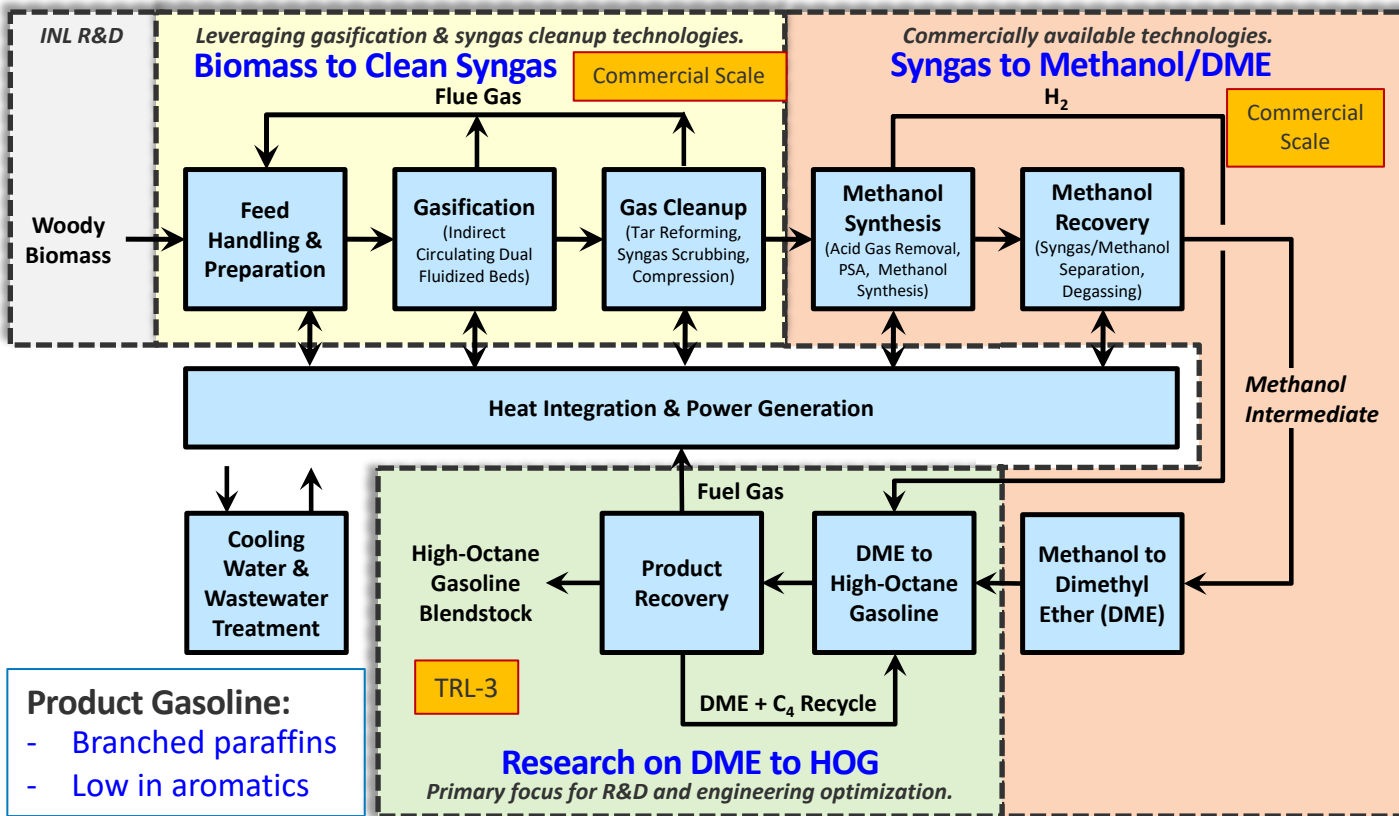
### **Presentations:**

- Techno-Economic Analysis of Fixed Bed Ex-Situ Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis Using a Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> Catalyst for the Production of Fuels and Oxygenated Co-Products. Poster presentation at TC Biomass 2022. Dutta, A.; Mukarakate, C.; Iisa, K.; Wang, H.; Talmadge, M.; Santosa, D.; Harris, K.; Baddour, F.; Cai, H.; Ou, L.; Hartley, D.; Schaidle, J.A.; Griffin, M.
- Co-Hydrotreating of Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis Oils with Straight-Run Diesel. Presentation by Kristiina Iisa at TC Biomass 2022. Kristiina Iisa; Kellene Orton; Calvin Mukarakate; Abhijit Dutta; Joshua Schaidle; Michael Griffin; Luke Tuxworth; Mike Watson.

## **Additional content for conversion pathways**

- High-Octane Gasoline (HOG)

# Syngas to High-Octane Gasoline Conceptual Process



**Related Presentation**  
**WBS 2.3.1.305**  
**Upgrading of C1 Building**  
**Blocks**

Commercialization-  
 related engagements  
 with industrial entities

Analysis includes use of waste material and CO<sub>2</sub>

References: Nature Catalysis, Vol 2, pages 632–640 (2019);

<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy22osti/81178.pdf>; <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy15osti/62402.pdf>

# Syngas to High-Octane Gasoline State of Technology (1)

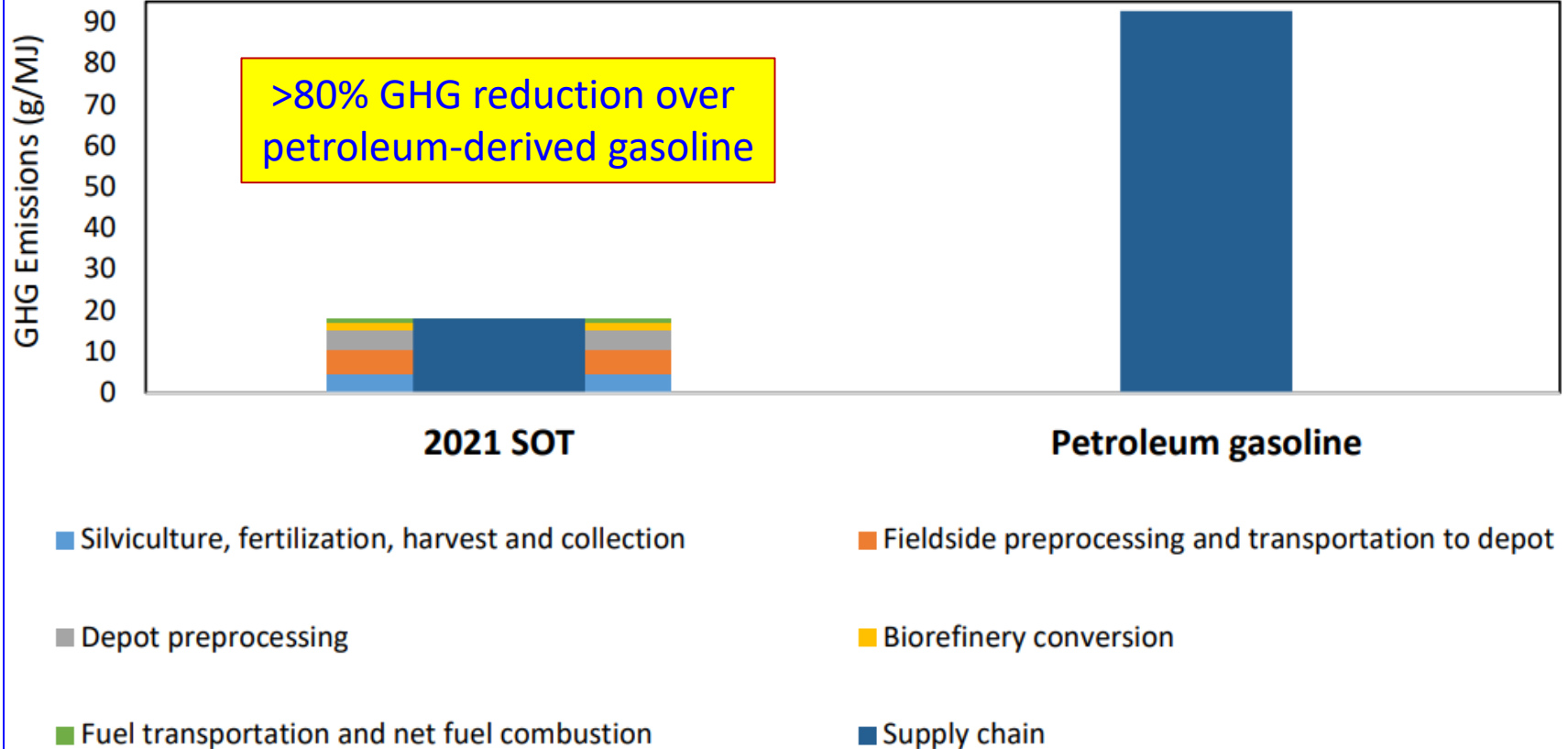
Processing Area Cost Contributions & Key Technical Parameters	Units	2014 SOT †	2015 SOT †	2016 SOT †	2017 SOT †	2018 SOT †	2019 SOT †	2020 SOT †	2021 SOT †	2022 Projection (Design Case)
<b>Process Concept: Gasification, Syngas Cleanup, Methanol / DME Synthesis &amp; Conversion to HCs</b>		Woody Feedstock	Woody Feedstock	Woody Feedstock	Woody Feedstock	Woody Feedstock	Woody Feedstock	Woody Feedstock	Woody Feedstock	Woody Feedstock
C <sub>2</sub> + Minimum Fuel Selling Price (per Actual Product Volume) ▲	\$ / Gallon	\$4.31	\$4.17	\$3.85	\$3.67	\$3.66	\$3.35	\$3.22	\$3.14	\$3.22
Mixed C <sub>4</sub> Minimum Fuel Selling Price (per Actual Product Volume) ▲	\$ / Gallon	\$3.98	\$3.91	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$1.02	N/A	N/A	N/A
Minimum Fuel Selling Price (per Gallon of Gasoline Equivalent) ▲	\$ / Gal GE	\$4.33	\$4.24	\$3.99	\$3.86	\$3.79	\$3.53	\$3.45	\$3.38	\$3.30
Conversion Contribution (per Gallon of Gasoline Equivalent) ▲	\$ / Gal GE	\$3.13	\$3.03	\$2.76	\$2.64	\$2.56	\$2.23	\$2.21	\$2.14	\$2.18
Year for USD (\$) Basis		2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Total Capital Investment per Annual Gallon	\$	\$15.80	\$15.94	\$11.01	\$11.54	\$11.07	\$11.07	\$10.94	\$10.85	\$9.79
Plant Capacity (Dry Feedstock Basis)	Tonnes / Day	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
High-Octane Gasoline Blendstock (C <sub>2</sub> +) Yield	Gallons / Dry Ton	36.2	36.4	51.4	50.0	51.4	51.6	55.1	55.6	56.0
Mixed C <sub>4</sub> Co-Product Yield	Gallons / Dry Ton	16.3	16.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Feedstock</b>										
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$1.20	\$1.21	\$1.24	\$1.22	\$1.23	\$1.31	\$1.24	\$1.23	\$1.12
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$1.20	\$1.21	\$1.24	\$1.22	\$1.23	\$1.30	\$1.24	\$1.23	\$1.12
Feedstock Cost	\$ / Dry US Ton	\$60.58	\$60.58	\$60.58	\$57.28	\$60.54	\$63.23	\$63.23	\$63.23	\$60.54
Ash Content	wt % Ash	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	1.75%	1.75%	1.75%	3.00%
Feedstock Moisture at Plant Gate	Wt % H <sub>2</sub> O	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%
In-Plant Handling and Drying / Preheating	\$ / Dry US Ton	\$0.72	\$0.70	\$0.70	\$0.69	\$0.69	\$0.69	\$0.57	\$0.57	\$0.69
Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01
Feed Moisture Content to Gasifier	wt % H <sub>2</sub> O	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Energy Content (LHV, Dry Basis)	BTU / lb	7,856	7,856	7,856	7,856	7,856	7,933	7,930	7,930	7,856
<b>Gasification</b>										
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.69	\$0.67	\$0.65	\$0.62	\$0.61	\$0.58	\$0.50	\$0.49	\$0.54
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.43	\$0.41	\$0.38	\$0.35	\$0.34	\$0.33	\$0.28	\$0.27	\$0.30
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.26	\$0.26	\$0.27	\$0.28	\$0.26	\$0.25	\$0.23	\$0.22	\$0.24
Raw Dry Syngas Yield	lb / lb Dry Feed	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.77	0.83	0.83	0.76
Raw Syngas Methane (Dry Basis)	Mole %	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	15.4%	8.6%	8.7%	15.4%
Gasifier Efficiency (LHV)	% LHV	71.9%	71.9%	71.9%	71.9%	71.9%	72.3%	78.0%	78.5%	71.9%
<b>Synthesis Gas Clean-up (Reforming and Quench)</b>										
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.96	\$0.93	\$0.94	\$0.94	\$0.89	\$0.88	\$0.93	\$0.92	\$0.78
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.51	\$0.49	\$0.46	\$0.43	\$0.41	\$0.39	\$0.40	\$0.40	\$0.36
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.48	\$0.51	\$0.48	\$0.49	\$0.53	\$0.52	\$0.42
Tar Reformer (TR) Exit CH <sub>4</sub> (Dry Basis)	Mole %	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.7%
TR CH <sub>4</sub> Conversion	%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%
TR Benzene Conversion	%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%
TR Tars Conversion	%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
Catalyst Replacement	% of Inventory / Day	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%



# Syngas to High-Octane Gasoline State of Technology (2)

<b>Acid Gas Removal, Methanol Synthesis and Methanol Conditioning</b>											
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.52	\$0.50	\$0.47	\$0.47	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.36	\$0.36	\$0.40	
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.35	\$0.33	\$0.30	\$0.28	\$0.28	\$0.27	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.24	
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.17	\$0.19	\$0.18	\$0.18	\$0.15	\$0.16	\$0.16	
Methanol Synthesis Reactor Pressure	psia	730	730	730	730	730	730	730	730	730	
Methanol Productivity	kg / kg-cat / hr	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	
Methanol Intermediate Yield	Gallons / Dry Ton	143	142	138	144	141	137	150	152	134	
<b>Hydrocarbon Synthesis</b>											
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.91	\$0.91	\$0.70	\$0.67	\$0.64	\$0.49	\$0.34	\$0.29	\$0.48	
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.56	\$0.56	\$0.46	\$0.44	\$0.42	\$0.34	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$0.32	
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.35	\$0.35	\$0.24	\$0.23	\$0.22	\$0.16	\$0.23	\$0.17	\$0.16	
Methanol to DME Reactor Pressure	psia	145	145	145	145	145	145	169	169	145	
Hydrocarbon Synthesis Reactor Pressure	psia	129	129	129	129	129	129	205	205	129	
Hydrocarbon Synthesis Catalyst		Commercial Beta-Zeolite			NREL modified Beta-Zeolite with copper (Cu) as active metals for activity and performance improvement						
Hydrogen Addition to Hydrocarbon Synthesis		No H <sub>2</sub> Addition		Supplemental H <sub>2</sub> added to hydrocarbon synthesis reactor inlet to improve selectivity to branched paraffins relative to aromatics							
Utilization of C <sub>4</sub> in Reactor Outlet via Recycle		0%	0%	100%	100%	100%	90%	97%	97%	100%	
Single-Pass DME Conversion	%	15.0%	15.0%	19.2%	27.6%	38.9%	44.7%	43.4%	43.4%	40.0%	
Overall DME Conversion	%	83%	85%	83%	88%	92%	88%	96%	96%	90%	
Hydrocarbon Synthesis Catalyst Productivity	kg / kg-cat / hr	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.10	
Carbon Selectivity to C <sub>5</sub> + Product	% C in Reactor Feed	46.2%	48.3%	81.8%	74.8%	72.3%	73.6%	72.1%	73.3%	86.7%	
Carbon Selectivity to Total Aromatics (Including Hexamethylbenzene)	% C in Reactor Feed	25.0%	20.0%	4.0%	4.0%	8.0%	5.8%	3.3%	1.6%	0.5%	
Carbon Selectivity to Coke and Pre-Cursors (Hexamethylbenzene Proxy)	% C in Reactor Feed	10.0%	9.3%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	2.9%	1.6%	1.6%	0.5%	
<b>Hydrocarbon Product Separation</b>											
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.04	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$0.05	
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.03	\$0.03	\$0.04	\$0.04	\$0.04	\$0.03	\$0.06	\$0.06	\$0.03	
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.01	
<b>LPG Coproduct Credit</b>											
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$0.11)	(\$0.00)	(\$0.00)	\$0.00	
<b>Balance of Plant</b>											
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.01	(\$0.02)	(\$0.05)	(\$0.11)	(\$0.09)	(\$0.11)	(\$0.03)	(\$0.02)	(\$0.07)	
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	\$0.42	\$0.40	\$0.36	\$0.34	\$0.33	\$0.29	\$0.31	\$0.30	\$0.28	
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / Gallon GE	(\$0.41)	(\$0.42)	(\$0.42)	(\$0.45)	(\$0.42)	(\$0.41)	(\$0.33)	(\$0.32)	(\$0.36)	
<b>Sustainability and Process Efficiency Metrics</b>											
Carbon Efficiency to C <sub>5</sub> + Product	% C in Feedstock	19.3%	19.4%	25.2%	24.3%	25.5%	24.8%	26.1%	26.2%	27.9%	
Carbon Efficiency to Mixed C <sub>4</sub> Co-Product	% C in Feedstock	7.0%	6.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	
Overall Carbon Efficiency to Hydrocarbon Products	% C in Feedstock	26.3%	26.3%	25.2%	24.3%	25.5%	27.1%	26.1%	26.2%	27.9%	
Overall Energy Efficiency to Hydrocarbon Products	% LHV of Feedstock	37.7%	37.7%	36.6%	35.1%	36.6%	39.6%	37.6%	37.9%	40.4%	
Electricity Production	kWh / Gallon C <sub>5</sub> +	11.7	11.8	7.9	8.4	8.1	7.6	12.2	11.9	7.0	
Electricity Consumption	kWh / Gallon C <sub>5</sub> +	11.7	11.8	7.9	8.5	8.1	7.6	12.2	11.9	7.0	
Water Consumption	Gal H <sub>2</sub> O / Gal C <sub>5</sub> +	12.9	10.1	3.1	3.3	3.2	2.9	3.3	3.3	2.8	

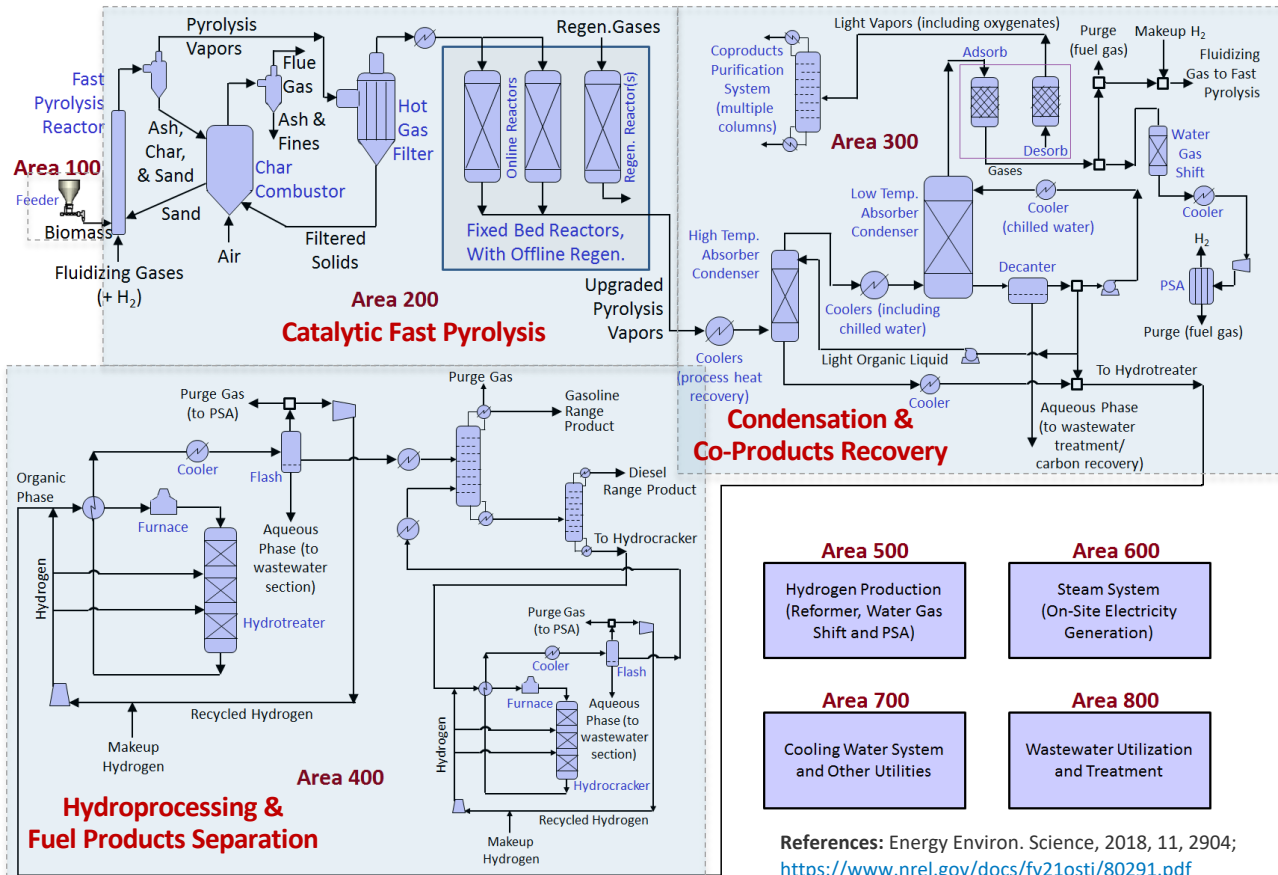
# HOG Pathway GHG Emissions



## Additional content for conversion pathways

- Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis (CFP) FY20-21 Closeout
  - **Pt/TiO<sub>2</sub> catalyst in fixed bed** *ex situ* configuration

# Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis (CFP) with Hydrotreating – Process Flow



- Area 100:** Feedstock
- Area 200:** Fast Pyrolysis and Ex-Situ Catalytic Upgrading
- Area 300:** Condensation & Light Oxygenates Recovery
- Area 400:** Hydroprocessing & Fuel Product Separation
- Area 500:** Hydrogen Production from Off-Gases
- Area 600:** Steam System & Power Generation
- Area 700:** Cooling Water & Utilities
- Area 800:** Wastewater Treatment

References: Energy Environ. Science, 2018, 11, 2904;  
<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/80291.pdf>

# Fixed Bed CFP with Hydrotreating State of Technology (1)

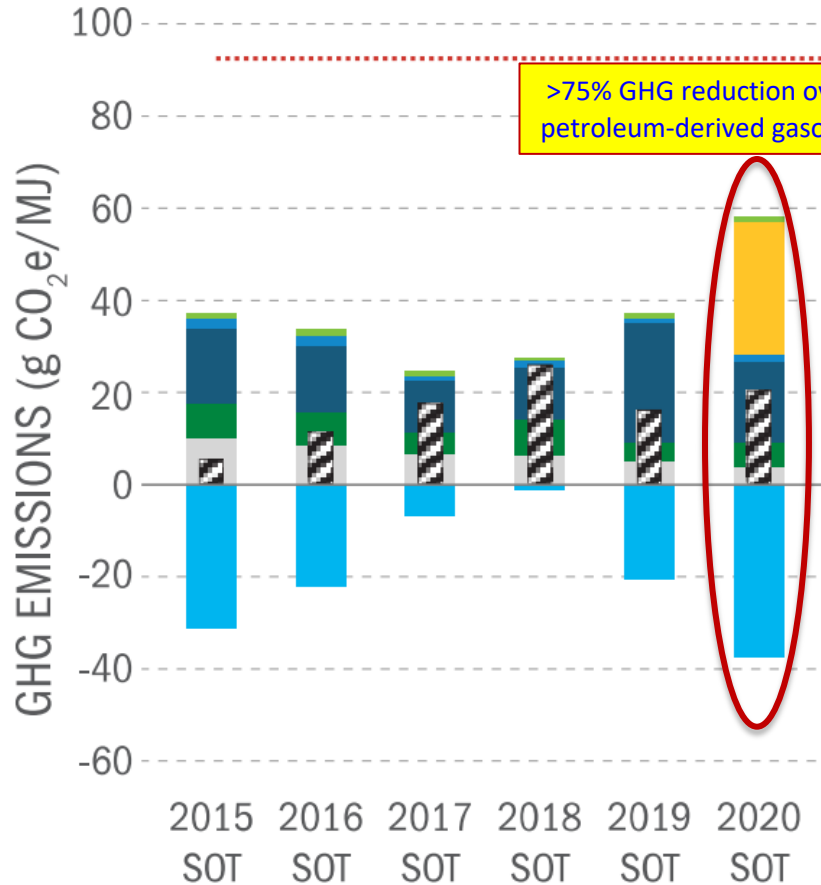
Processing Area Cost Contributions & Key Technical Parameters	Units	2014 SOT	2015 SOT	2016 SOT	2017 SOT <sup>ii</sup>	2018 SOT	2019 SOT	2020 SOT
<b>Process Concept: Hydrocarbon Fuel Production via Ex Situ Upgrading of Fast Pyrolysis Vapors</b>		Clean Pine	Clean Pine	Clean Pine	Clean Pine	Clean Pine	50%Residue s/50%Pine <sup>ii</sup>	50%Residue s/50%Pine <sup>ii</sup>
Year \$ Basis		2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016
Projected Minimum Fuel Selling Price <sup>a</sup>	\$/GGE*	\$6.27	\$5.44	\$4.90	\$4.09	\$3.80	\$3.33	\$2.83
Conversion Contribution	\$/GGE*	\$3.66	\$3.30	\$3.08	\$2.82	\$2.44	\$2.14	\$1.74
Total Project Investment per Annual GGE	\$/GGE-yr	\$18.50	\$16.46	\$14.94	\$12.17	\$12.47	\$13.53	\$11.64
Plant Capacity (Dry Feedstock Basis)	metric tons/day	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Gasoline Equivalent Yield	GGE/dry US ton	42	46	51	69	65	59	61
Diesel-Range Product Proportion (GGE* basis)	% of fuel product	15%	15%	15%	52%	52%	48%	50%
<b>Feedstock</b>								
Total Cost Contribution <sup>iii</sup>	\$/ GGE	\$2.60	\$2.14	\$1.82	\$1.27	\$1.36	\$1.18	\$1.10
Capital Cost Contribution <sup>iii</sup>	\$/ GGE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Operating Cost Contribution <sup>iii</sup>	\$/ GGE	\$2.60	\$2.14	\$1.81	\$1.27	\$1.35	\$1.18	\$1.09
Feedstock Cost <sup>iv</sup>	\$/ Dry US Ton	\$109.01	\$98.31	\$92.70	\$87.82	\$87.82	\$70.15	\$67.03
Feedstock Moisture at Plant Gate	Wt % H <sub>2</sub> O	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Feed Moisture Content to Pyrolyzer	wt % H <sub>2</sub> O	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Energy Content (LHV, Dry Basis)	BTU / lb	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000	7,900	7,900
<b>Pyrolysis and Vapor Upgrading</b>								
Total Cost Contribution	\$/ GGE	\$2.34	\$2.03	\$1.84	\$1.46	\$1.10	\$1.14	\$1.07
Capital Cost Contribution	\$/ GGE	\$0.95	\$0.82	\$0.74	\$0.65	\$0.60	\$0.63	\$0.58
Operating Cost Contribution	\$/ GGE	\$1.39	\$1.21	\$1.09	\$0.80	\$0.50	\$0.51	\$0.49
Ex Situ Reactor Configuration	reactor type	Fluidized Bed	Fluidized Bed	Fluidized Bed	Fixed Bed	Fixed Bed	Fixed Bed	Fixed Bed
Ratio of Online:Regenerating Fixed Bed Reactors	ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A	2:5	2:3	2:2	2:2
Gas Phase	wt % of dry biomass	35%	36%	34%	31%	35%	38%	42%
Aqueous Phase	wt % of dry biomass	25%	25%	24%	27%	22%	24%	20%
Carbon Loss	% of C in biomass	2.9%	2.9%	3.4%	2.9%	5.0%	4.4%	1.8%
Organic Phase	wt % of dry biomass	17.5%	18.6%	21.8%	28.3%	27.9%	23.2%	24.0%
H/C Molar Ratio	ratio	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3
Oxygen	wt % of organic phase	15.0%	13.3%	16.8%	16.5%	18.6%	15.1%	16.6%
Carbon Efficiency	% of C in biomass	27%	29%	33%	42%	40%	35%	36%
Solid Losses (Char + Coke)	wt % of dry biomass	23%	21%	20%	14%	15%	14%	13%
Char	wt % of dry biomass	12.0%	11.0%	12.0%	10.4%	11.7%	11.6%	11.1%
Coke	wt % of dry biomass	11.0%	9.5%	8.3%	3.3%	3.7%	2.3%	1.7%
<b>Vapor Quench, Co-Product Recovery</b>								
Total Cost Contribution	\$/ GGE	\$0.35	\$0.33	\$0.28	\$0.20	\$0.22	\$0.34	\$0.45
Capital Cost Contribution	\$/ GGE	\$0.20	\$0.19	\$0.16	\$0.12	\$0.13	\$0.22	\$0.28
Operating Cost Contribution	\$/ GGE	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.12	\$0.08	\$0.09	\$0.12	\$0.18

# Fixed Bed CFP with Hydrotreating State of Technology (2)

<i>Hydroprocessing &amp; Separation / Refinery Co-Processing</i>		2014 SOT	2015 SOT	2016 SOT	2017 SOT <sup>1</sup>	2018 SOT	2019 SOT	2020 SOT
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	\$0.33	\$0.31	\$0.34	\$0.35	\$0.38	\$0.30	\$0.23
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	\$0.17	\$0.16	\$0.18	\$0.19	\$0.20	\$0.16	\$0.00
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	\$0.15	\$0.14	\$0.16	\$0.16	\$0.18	\$0.14	\$0.23
Carbon Efficiency of Organic Liquid Feed to Fuels	%	88.4%	89.5%	87.2%	91.0%	89.0%	93.5%	94.5%
Hydrotreating Pressure	psia	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
Oxygen Content in Cumulative Fuel Product	wt %	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
<i>Hydrogen Production</i>								
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	\$0.61	\$0.56	\$0.60	\$0.62	\$0.51	\$0.61	\$0.44
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	\$0.39	\$0.36	\$0.38	\$0.41	\$0.33	\$0.39	\$0.28
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	\$0.22	\$0.20	\$0.22	\$0.21	\$0.18	\$0.22	\$0.16
Additional Natural Gas (NG) at the Biorefinery**	% of biomass LHV	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
<i>CoProducts</i>								
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE						(\$0.52)	(\$0.55)
Capital Cost Contribution *	\$ / GGE							
Operating Cost Contribution *	\$ / GGE							
CoProduct Credit	\$/GGE*						(\$0.52)	(\$0.55)
<i>Balance of Plant</i>								
Total Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	\$0.04	\$0.07	\$0.03	\$0.20	\$0.23	\$0.27	\$0.09
Capital Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	\$0.80	\$0.71	\$0.56	\$0.43	\$0.46	\$0.45	\$0.46
Operating Cost Contribution	\$ / GGE	(\$0.76)	(\$0.64)	(\$0.54)	(\$0.23)	(\$0.23)	(\$0.18)	(\$0.37)
Electricity Production from Steam Turbine (credit included in op. cost above)	\$/GGE*	(\$1.12)	(\$0.96)	(\$0.78)	(\$0.42)	(\$0.45)	(\$0.40)	(\$0.57)
<i>Sustainability and Process Efficiency Metrics</i>								
Fuel and Coproducts Yield by Weight of Biomass	% w/w of dry biomass	13.7%	15.0%	16.5%	22.2%	20.9%	22.5%	23.0%
Carbon Efficiency of Biomass to Fuels and Coproducts	% C in Feedstock	23.5%	25.9%	28.3%	38.1%	35.9%	37.2%	38.0%
Overall Carbon Efficiency to Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels	% C in Feedstock	23.5%	25.9%	28.3%	38.1%	35.9%	33.0%	33.7%
Overall Energy Efficiency to Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels	% LHV of Feedstock	30.5%	33.4%	37.1%	50.3%	47.2%	43.6%	45.1%
Electricity Production	kWh/GGE	21.0	18.0	14.7	8.0	8.7	7.8	10.6
Electricity Consumption (Entire Process)	kWh/GGE	12.7	11.0	9.6	6.4	7.5	7.4	5.9
Water Consumption in Conversion Process	gal H <sub>2</sub> O/GGE	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.1



# CFP Pathway GHG Emissions



- Fuel Transportation and Net Fuel Combustion
- Petroleum Refinery Cohydrotreating
- Biorefinery Conversion
- Depot Preprocessing
- Fieldside Preprocessing and Transportation to Depot
- Silviculture, Fertilization, Harvest, and Collection
- Supply Chain
- Coproduct Displacement Credits
- ⋯ Petroleum gasoline

	2015 SOT	2016 SOT	2017 SOT	2018 SOT	2019 SOT	2020 SOT
g CO <sub>2</sub> e/MJ	6.0 (-94%)	11.4 (-88%)	17.7 (-81%)	26.4 (-72%)	16.2 (-83%)	21 (-78%)
g CO <sub>2</sub> e/GGE	738	1,402	2,171	3,234	1,985	2,538

Reference: [https://bioenergykdf.net/sites/default/files/2022-05/BETO-2020-SOT\\_FINAL\\_5-11-22.pdf](https://bioenergykdf.net/sites/default/files/2022-05/BETO-2020-SOT_FINAL_5-11-22.pdf);

CFP: Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis

## Additional content for conversion pathways

- Catalytic Fast Pyrolysis (CFP) FY23 TEA/LCA

- **ZSM-5 CFP catalyst in fluid bed** *ex situ* configuration
- Additional information supporting **Slide 19**



# CFP-HT TEA (Slide 19) – Additional Preliminary Information

## Financial assumptions consistent with FY20-21 State of Technology report\*

Description of Assumption	Assumed Value
Cost year	2016
Internal rate of return on equity	10%
Plant financing by equity/debt	40%/60% of total capital investment
Plant life	30 years
Income tax rate	21%
Interest rate for debt financing	8.0% annually
Term for debt financing	10 years
Working capital cost	5.0% of fixed capital investment (FCI) (excluding land purchase cost)
Depreciation schedule	7-year MACRS <sup>a</sup> schedule [9]
Steam plant depreciation	20-year MACRS schedule [9]
Construction period (spending schedule)	3 years (8% Y1, 60% Y2, 32% Y3)
Plant salvage value	No value
Startup time	6 months
Revenue and costs during startup	Revenue = 50% of normal Variable costs = 75% of normal Fixed costs = 100% of normal
Onstream percentage after startup	90% (7,884 operating hours per year)

<sup>a</sup> Modified accelerated cost recovery system

\*Reference: <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/80291.pdf>; GGE: gallon gasoline equivalent

CFP Oil Oxygen Contents →	17%	20%	22%
Feedstock cost* (\$/dry US ton)	67	67	67
Capital investment total (million \$) <sup>1</sup>	707	728	740
Chemical coproducts	No	No	No
Electricity credit (cents/GGE)	78	57	45
MFSP <sup>2,3</sup> (\$/GGE)	6.1-7.5	5.7-6.9	5.3-6.5
GHG Reduction over gasoline (%)	84	78	75

<sup>1</sup> Capital and operating costs based on the *ex situ* case in the 2015 design report (<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy15osti/62455.pdf>). Current model at lower pressure than 2015 report, leading to larger equipment sizes and higher capital costs for CFP equipment. Plant size is 2000 dry metric tonnes per day of woody feedstock.

<sup>2</sup> Model yields considered hydrotreated products heavier than diesel and other losses during product distillation as fuel products because the heavy ends from distillation are hydrogenated and stabilized, and can likely be used as marine fuel

<sup>3</sup> CFP catalyst replenishment is based on values in the 2015 design report (based on typical FCC values). The reactor heat balance is used to determine the flow rate. With a less active catalyst (reflected by different biomass to catalyst ratios in our experiments), cheaper catalyst diluents can allow CFP catalyst cost reduction.