Algenol Biofuels: Overview and Summary of Carbon Footprint and Water Use Compared to Other Fuel Technologies

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Ron Chance et al Algenol Biofuels Bonita Springs, Florida Valerie Thomas Matthew Realff Georgia Tech Atlanta, Georgia

## **Biofuels: Drivers and Issues**

## **Major Drivers for Biofuels**

- Incremental Energy Supply Needs
  - Adds another significant, less cost-volatile, component to energy portfolio

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- Contributes to energy diversity and energy independence
- Climate Change
  - Potential for a low carbon footprint (uses CO<sub>2</sub>)
  - Potentially a low risk carbon mitigation strategy
- Environment
  - Potential for lower fresh water use than fossil fuels
  - Potential to be cleaner than fossil fuels
- Value Proposition
  - Potentially large, sustainable financial gain
  - Must compete favorably with fossil fuels

## **Major Issues for Biofuels**

- Competition with Food Supply
- Land Use Direct and Indirect
- Fresh Water Use
- Economics Relative to Fossil Fuels
- Carbon Footprint Relative to Fossil Fuels



#### Adapted from USEPA Renewable Fuel Standards - 2009

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## **The Biofuels Family**

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#### 1st Generation

- Sugarcane or corn to ethanol
- Competes with food supply
- Major land use and water use issues
- Low to moderate impact on greenhouse gas emissions
- Generally not cost-competitive with fossil fuels

#### 2nd Generation

- Cellulosic fuels and crop-based biodiesel
- May be less competitive with food supply
- Significant land use and water use issues
- Generally positive impact on greenhouse gas emissions
- Economics still to be proven





#### • 3rd Generation (Advanced)

- Algae to biodiesel and/or ethanol
- No competition with food
- Little or no land use or water use issues (closed system)

- Positive impact on greenhouse gas emissions
- Economics still to be proven



## **Algenol Overview**

- Algenol is an advanced industrial biotechnology company
  - Headquartered in Bonita Springs, Florida
  - Research labs in Fort Myers, Florida and Berlin, Germany
  - 150 employees including 60 Ph.D.s
- Algenol is commercializing its patented algae technology platform for ethanol production and green chemistry
  - \$25MM DOE grant for Integrated Biorefinery
  - Partners: NREL, GaTech, MTR, Univ. Colorado
  - Phase 2 began with ground breaking 3Q11
- New Fort Myers, Florida R&D facility consolidates Algenol's existing U.S. lab and outdoor testing facilities
  - Enabled by \$10MM grant from Lee County
  - Lab operations began in early August 2010
  - 50,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of biology and engineering lab space
  - 4 acre outdoor Process Development Unit
  - 36 acre outdoor demonstration facility, including 17 acres for Integrated Biorefinery



Fort Myers Research Labs



**Process Development Unit** 

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## **Metabolic Pathway for Ethanol Production**

Metabolically enhanced cyanobacteria, photobioreactors, and ethanol separation systems are key, proprietary components of the Algenol technology



#### Enhanced ethanol production via over-expression of fermentation pathway enzymes

 Pyruvate decarboxylase (PDC) and alcohol dehydrogenase (ADH) are found widely in nature

- PDC catalyzes the non-oxidative decarboxylation of pyruvate to produce acetaldehyde
- ADH converts acetaldehyde to ethanol
- Ethanol diffuses from the cell into the culture medium and is collected for downstream processing

## From the Laboratory to the Field

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Algenol has the unique capability to move biology and engineering from lab scale to the field at <u>one site</u>



Biorefinery

4500-L foil-mixed integrated systems



Aquaculture

150-L foil-mixed

integrated systems

Shake Flasks

Strain Development

Petri Dishes

1-L PBR systems

## Algenol Research Facilities in Fort Myers, Florida **ALGENOL**



## **Environmental Studies**

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#### **Environmental Issues of Concern for Florida**

- Algenol is the only algae company who has run extensive environmental studies.
- Plant Pest, can algae harm crops and other plants?
- Toxic, does Algenol algae contain toxins?
- Non-Invasive, can Algenol algae become invasive and harm other plants and animals?

#### **Plant Pest Concerns**

• Algae is not a plant pest and cannot harm crops

#### **Toxin Concerns**

- Algenol algae are screened for toxins
- Toxicology tests verify lack of toxins
- Commercial strains of algae have whole genome analysis to verify no toxin production

## **Environmental Studies**

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#### **Non-Invasiveness Studies**

- 8 studies designed for our enhanced algae with input from Florida Division of Aquaculture have been conducted
  - Water samples taken Gulf of Mexico, Estero Bay, rivers, canals and ditches. Our algae is added and measured against control samples
  - No evidence of invasiveness Our algae do not overtake native waters
  - Soil samples also analyzed with similar results
- Algenol is continuing additional environmental studies





## **DIRECT TO ETHANOL®** Commercial Vision

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Metabolically enhanced cyanobacteria, CO<sub>2</sub> and solar energy to produce ethanol; Production targets: 6,000 gal/acre-yr (57,000 L/hectare-yr), \$1 per gallon



## **Commercial Facility Water for a Florida Site**

- Site regulation
  - Federal Regulatory Agencies
    - Environmental Regulatory Agency
    - Department of Agriculture
  - State Regulatory Agencies
    - Florida Department of Agriculture Division of Aquaculture (Aquaculture permit)

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- Best Management Practices Zero discharge facility
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
  - Saltwater well permit
    - Supply and injection well
- South Florida Water Management District
  - Site water management
- County permitting
  - Construction permitting

## **Commercial Facility Water for a Florida Site**

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- Salt water
  - Primary water demand is salt water from a deep well with same salinity as ocean water
    - Salt water supply well is primary source of all water for commercial plant
    - Algae culture requires salt water that has been filtered and treated
      - Micro filtration of incoming water to 0.2 micron
      - Ultrafiltration of incoming water to 0.01 micron
      - Water sterilization using ozone
    - Post production
      - Water and algae are separated
      - Water is filtered to 0.2 micron and organics are removed
      - Water is injected into deep well for storage
    - Fresh water supply
      - Reverse osmosis production from salt water supply well
    - Brown/black water from offices/labs
      - County waste treatment facility
      - On-site treatment if county facilities are not accessible



## Life Cycle Analysis for Direct to Ethanol<sup>®</sup> Process ALGENOL

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- Scenario-based study of energy demand and CO<sub>2</sub> footprint carried out at Georgia Tech
  - Bottom line is a 78% reduction in carbon footprint compared to gasoline on an energy equivalent basis.

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- Main contributor to CO<sub>2</sub> emission is ethanol-water separation.
- Sequestration of waste biomass results in carbon footprint of about 12  $gCO_2/MJ$  (87% reduction).
- Peer-reviewed publication: D. Luo,
  Z. Hu, D. Choi, V. Thomas, M. Realff,
  and R. Chance, "Life Cycle Energy
  and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for
  an Ethanol Production Process
  Based on Blue-Green Algae", *Env. Sci. & Tech.*, 2010, **44** pp 8670–
  8677.



gCO<sub>2</sub>Eq / MJ

## **Energy Cost and Carbon Footprint Comparison**

Transportation Fuel	Fuel energy (MJ/gal)	Production cost (\$/gal)	Fuel to vehicle efficiency (MJ/MJ)	Energy to vehicle (MJ/gal)	Cents/MJ (vehicle)	GHGs Emissions (g-CO2/MJ (vehicle))
Gasoline	122.5	3.05 ª	26% <sup>d</sup>	31.9	9.6	351 <sup>h</sup>
Diesel	134.8	2.94 ª	35% <sup>d</sup>	47.2	6.2	266 <sup>h</sup>
Corn Ethanol	80.5	3.01 <sup>b</sup>	26% <sup>d</sup>	20.9	14.4	275 <sup>h</sup>
Algenol Ethanol	80.5	1.52 <sup>c</sup>	26% <sup>d</sup>	20.9	7.3	71 <sup>i</sup>
		\$/grid-MJ	Grid to vehicle efficiency (MJ/MJ)	Energy to vehicle (MJ/grid-MJ)	Cents/MJ (vehicle)	GHGs Emissions (g-CO2/MJ (vehicle))
Grid Electricity (Residential Sector)	US Average	0.019 °	65% <sup>f,g</sup>	0.65	3	308 <sup>h</sup>

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<sup>a</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, "Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Update". <u>http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/gdu/gasdiesel.asp</u> (accessed Aug. 2012)

**b** Tao, L., Aden, A., National Renewable Energy Laboratory, "The economics of current and future biofuels", In Vitro Cell. Dev. Biol. – Plant (2009) 45: 199-217 (Ethanol production prices adjusted for Corn and Natural Gas Market Prices as of Aug. 2012)

*c* Algenol's Economic Model – Average production cost estimate with 6000 gal/acre-yr target (includes capital cost discounted over 15 years, and operating cost)

*d* Crabtree, G., Argonne National Laboratory, "Where is Transportation Going?" <u>http://ceet.mccormick.northwestern.edu/events/domain\_dinner07/crabtree\_domain\_12-3-07.pdf</u> (accessed Aug 2012)

<sup>e</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, "Table 5.6.B. Average Retail Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by End-Use Sector". <u>http://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\_table\_grapher.cfm?t=epmt\_5\_6\_b</u> (accessed Aug. 2012)

*f* Elgowainy et. al., Argonne National Laboratory, "Well-to-Wheels Analysis of Energy Use and GHG Emissions of Plug-In-Hybrid Electric Vehicles". <u>www.transportation.anl.gov/pdfs/TA/559.pdf</u> (accessed Aug. 2012)

**g** U.S. Department of Energy," Fuel Economy". <u>www.fueleconomy.gov</u> (accessed Aug. 2012)

*h* Argonne National Laboratory, "Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Transportation (GREET) Model". <u>http://greet.es.anl.gov/</u> (accessed Aug. 2012) [U.S. Mix Fuel assumed: Residual Oil (1.04%), Natural Gas (19.11%), Coal (47.24%), Nuclear Power (20.92%), Biomass (0.44%), Others (11.25%)]

*i* Modified from D. Luo, Z. Hu, D. Choi, V. Thomas, M. Realff, and R. Chance, "Life Cycle Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for an Ethanol Production Process Based on Blue-Green Algae", Env. Sci. & Tech., 2010, **44** pp 8670–8677

## **Fresh Water Requirements**



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gal. fresh water consumed/ gal. fuel produced

- Substantially less fresh water usage than fossil fuels or competing technologies.
- Fresh water that is consumed in Algenol process comes from sea water via ultra-filtration, and also potentially from reverse osmosis which can produce excess fresh water.

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• Source (excepting Algenol): National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

## **Algenol Employees**

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Florida Staff Members

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