

# Sustainable Farm Scale Income producing Carbon Negative Fuels, Fertilizer, Food and Co-Products.

May 7, 2007

## United Nations Commission on Sustainability

Danny Day  
President  
EPRIDA, Inc.



Bob Evans, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO

James Lee, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN

Don Reicosky, USDA Soil Conservation, Morris, MN

K.C. Das, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga

Matthew Realf and Ling Zhang

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA

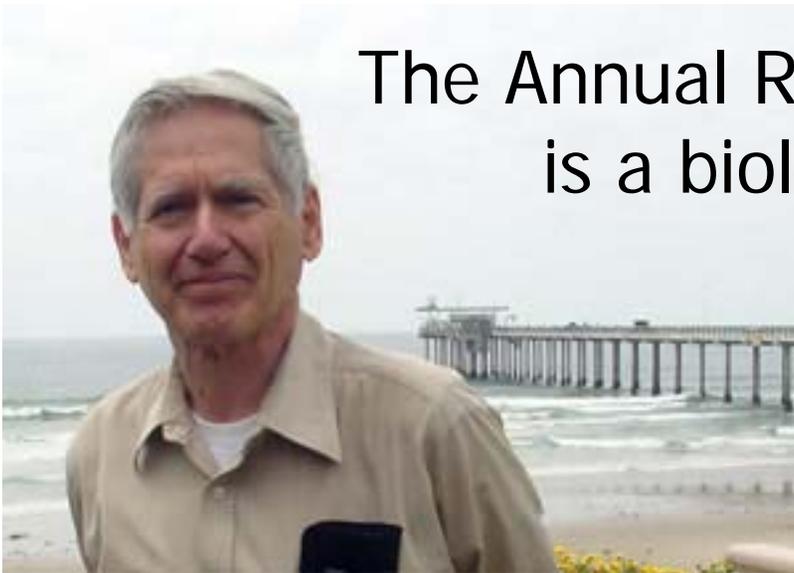
**Clean Renewable Fuels**

# Who is Eprida?

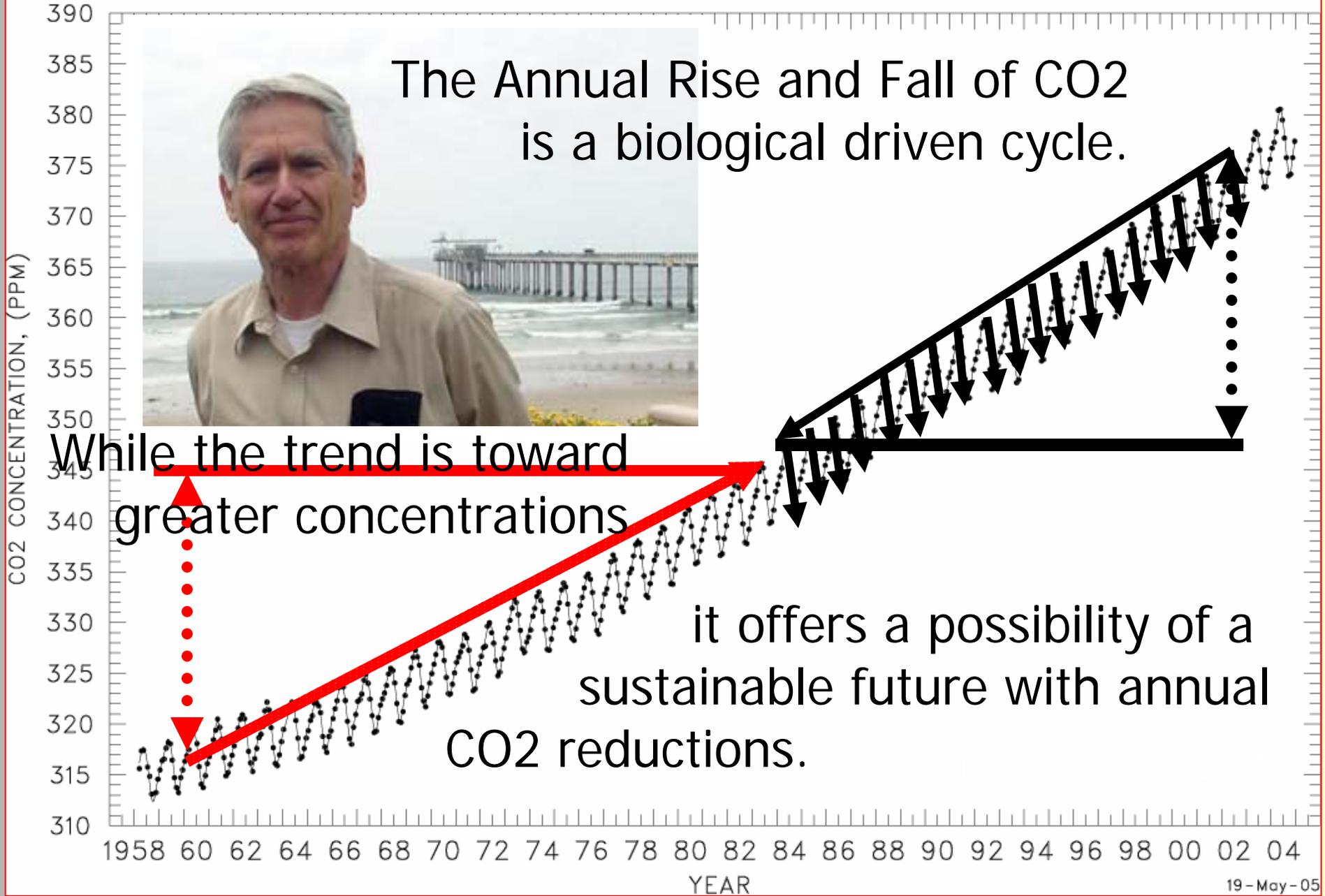
- It is a for-profit social purpose enterprise with non-profit ownership and philanthropic support focusing on developing solutions which are global in scope.
- It is a private research partner providing in-kind and commercial support for universities and research institutes for developing greenhouse gas (GHG) reducing technologies.
- It provides nominal non-exclusive licensing of its GHG reducing technologies to insure fair access.
- It is an innovation partner in business as well as technology, supporting the growth and creation of long term social purpose business strategies.

# Small farms can reverse global warming by

- Producing the fuels needed to grow their food crops.
- Improving soil productivity on existing crop land.
- Improving biodiversity to increase farm co-product income.
- Taking part in producing terra preta soils.



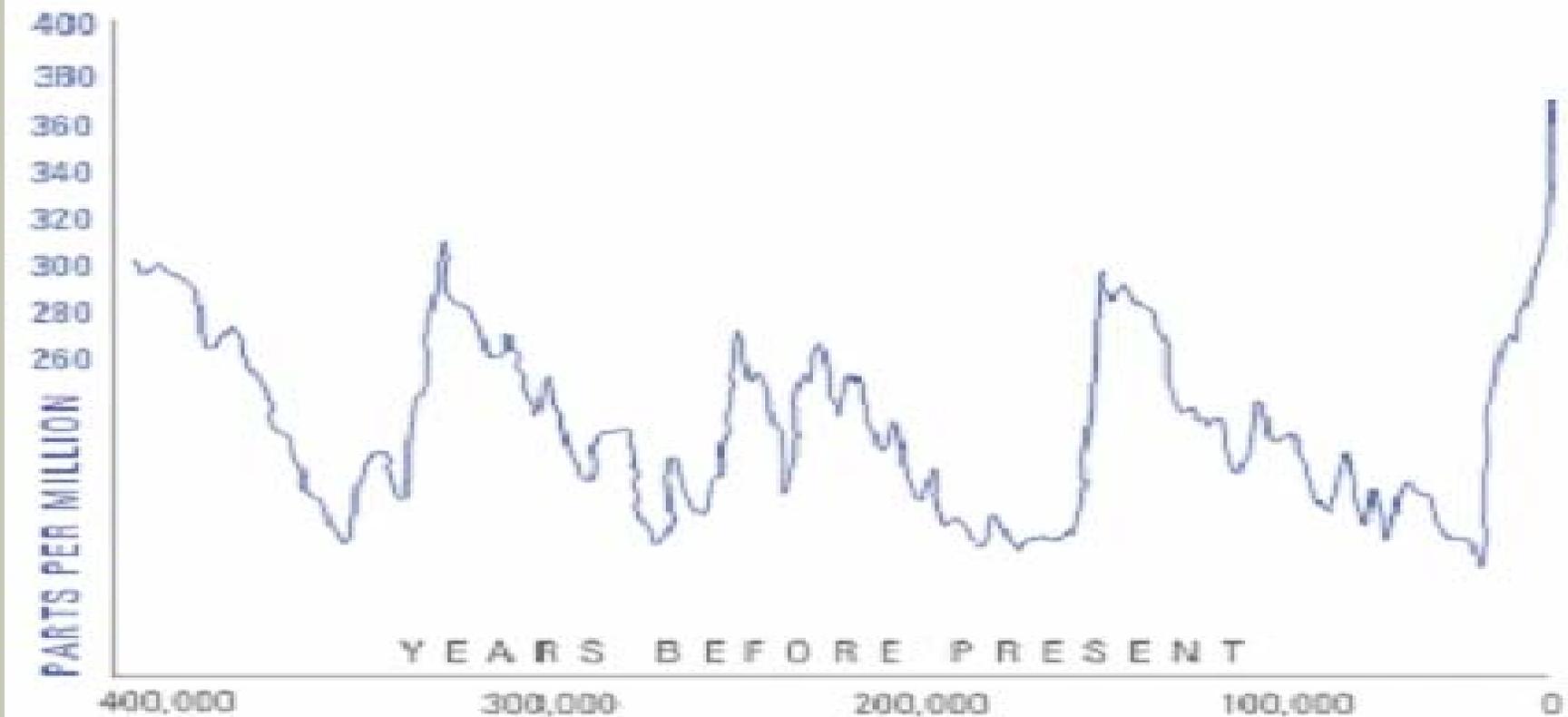
The Annual Rise and Fall of CO2  
is a biological driven cycle.



While the trend is toward  
greater concentrations

it offers a possibility of a  
sustainable future with annual  
CO2 reductions.

Is the problem really  
anthropogenic greenhouse gas  
buildup?



or the stumbling steps of a brand new species evolved to stabilize this recurring imbalance?

To change to climate of the world, how do we transform the daily habits and thoughts of billions people.

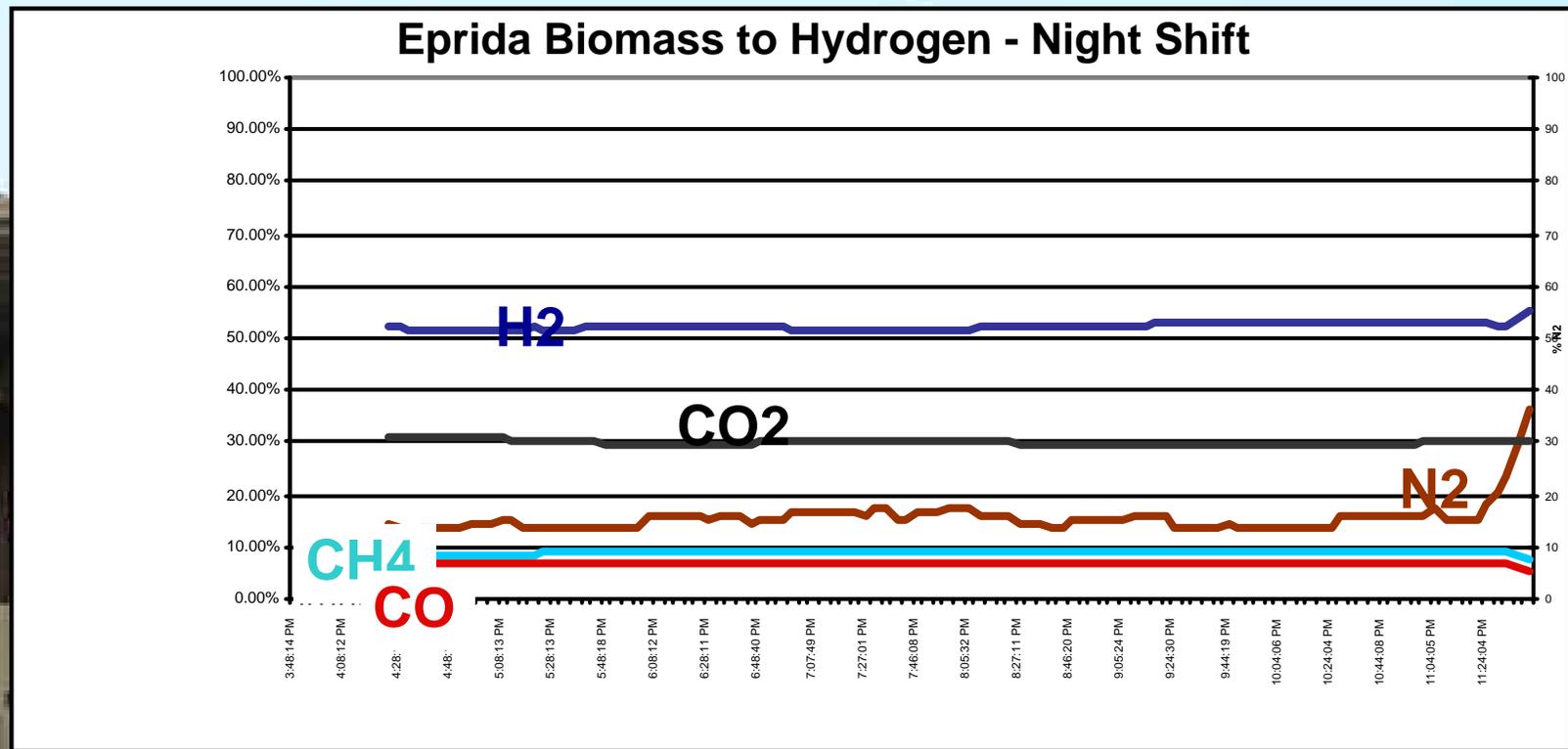
- Choosing those systems which create local income and stability at the lowest possible economic rung.
- By adopting those technologies which retain profits/gain inside local communities
- By supporting those which can be scaled in numbers rather than size.
- By supporting those which are multi-purpose, cost-effective, people-centered using local initiatives and skills.

This system is part of a regional farm/coop capability. This allows testing of biomass feed stocks to produce fuel, a soil fertility enhancing fertilizer and high-value extractable organic molecules.

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# 2007 Bio-refinery Conversion Project at University of Georgia

1000-Hour Demonstration of Hydrogen by Biomass Catalytic Steam Reforming and co-products (2007)



DOE estimates that hydrogen production from biomass is one of the most cost competitive <sub>9</sub>

# Pyrolysis Conversion and Hints

- 50kg per hour feed
- Used a inert gas generator to maintain bed temperature profiles
- Start-up procedure included filling unit with cool charcoal as inert media to distribute heat.

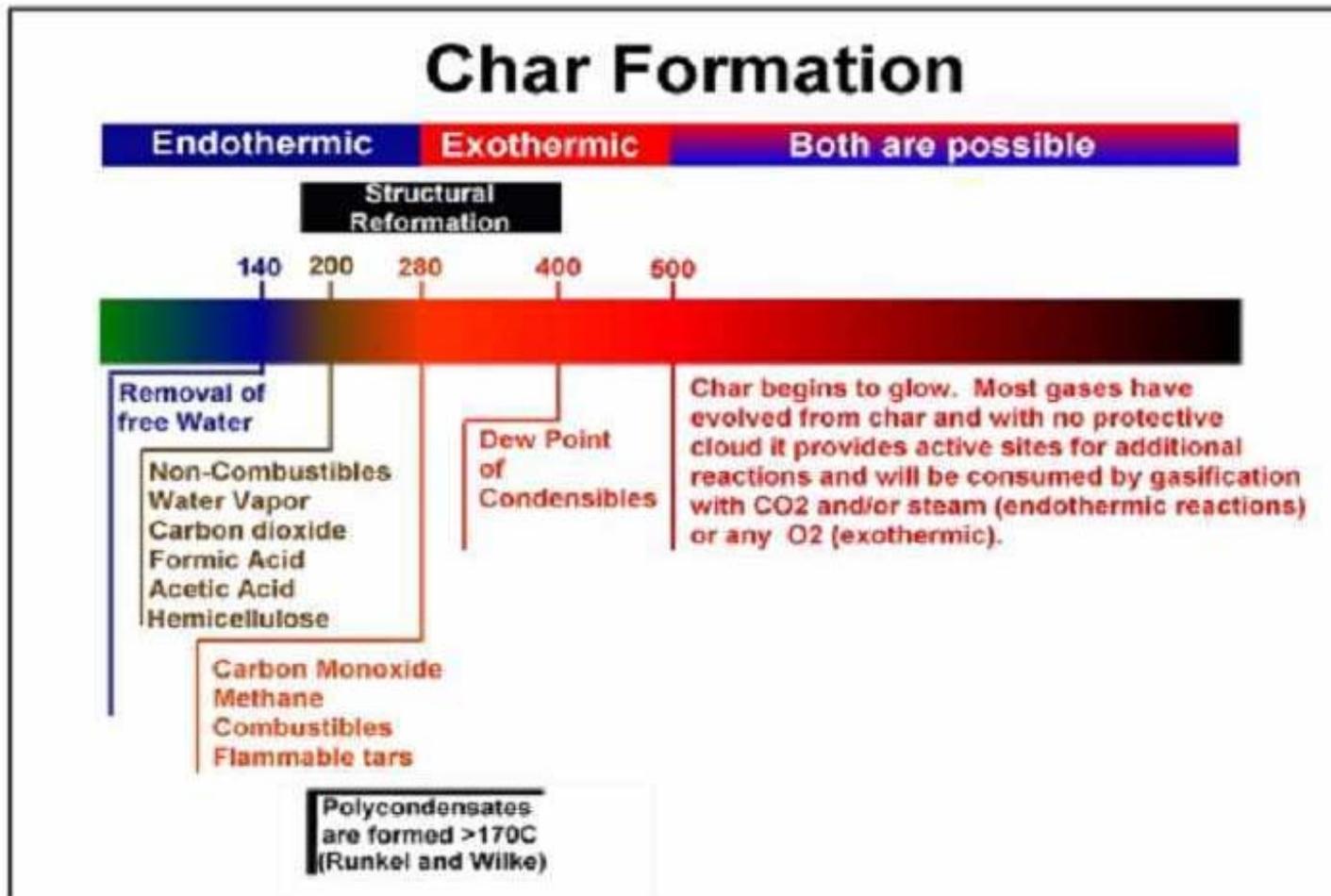


# Nature has always used fire



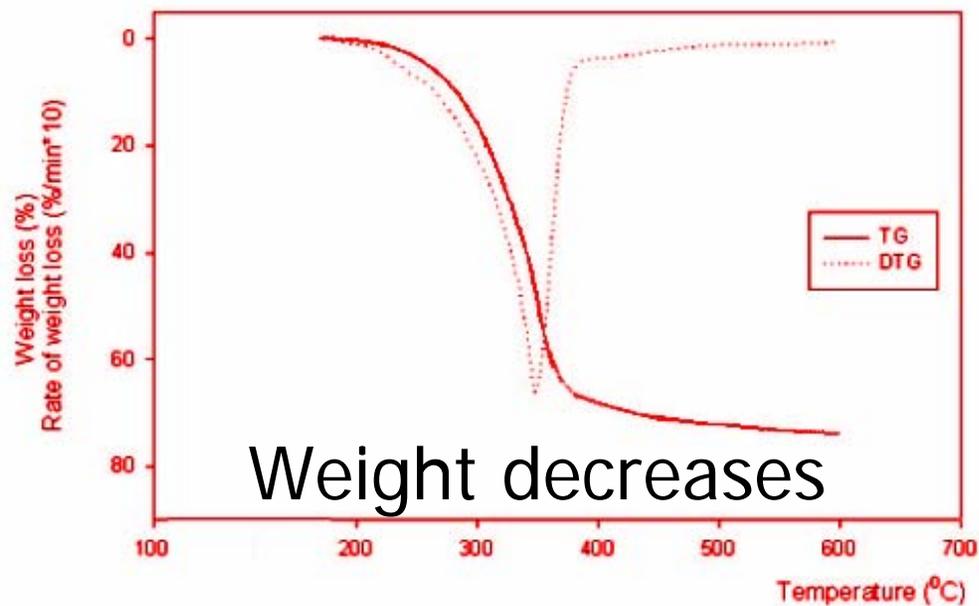
Charcoal is made during one part of this natural process. It is called pyrolysis or heating in the absence of air.

# Progression of Pyrolysis



# Typical TGA of Pyrolysis

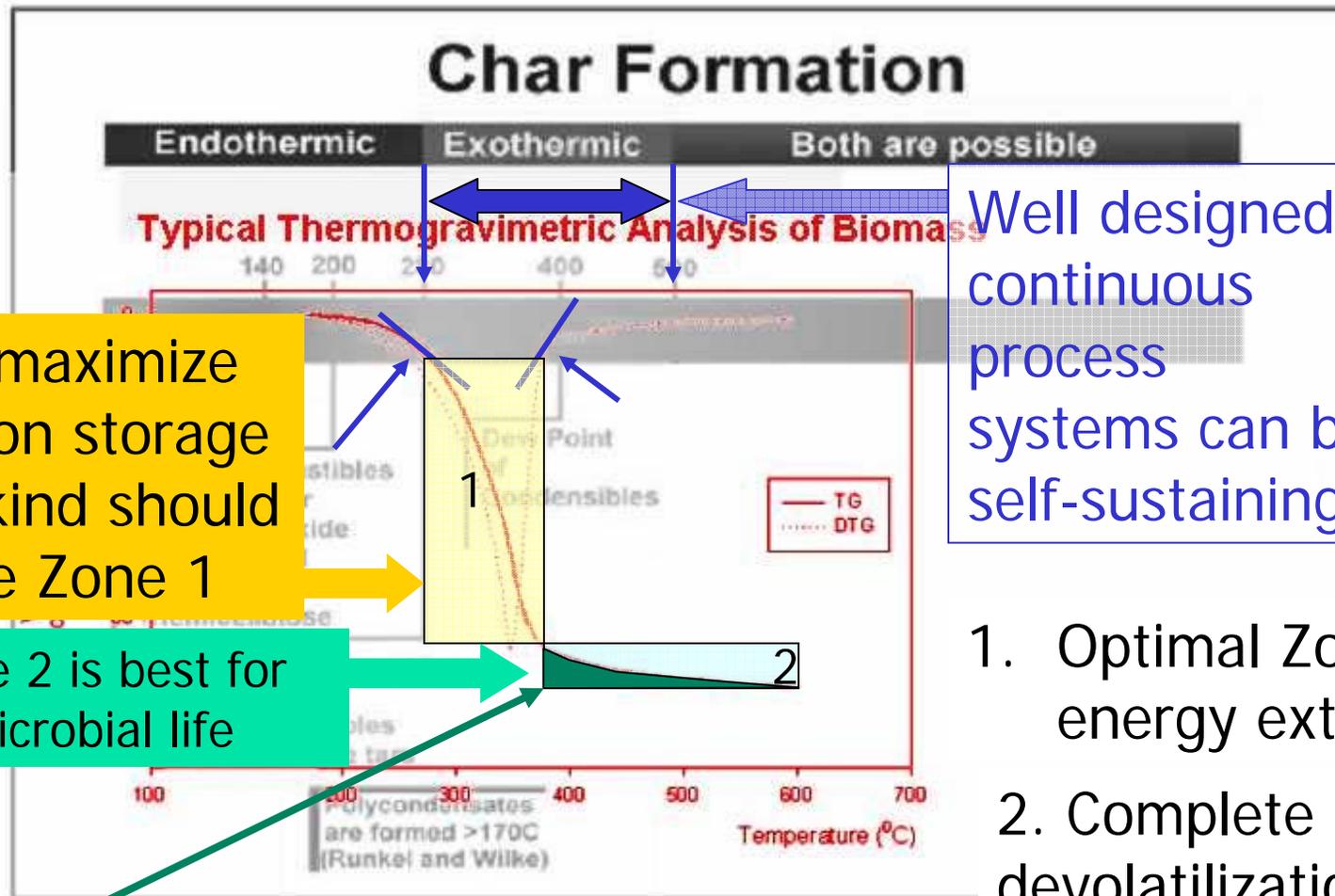
Typical Thermogravimetric Analysis of Biomass



Weight decreases

As temperature increases

# Progression of Pyrolysis



Well designed continuous process systems can be self-sustaining

To maximize carbon storage mankind should use Zone 1

Zone 2 is best for microbial life

Our investment for a sustainable planet

1. Optimal Zone for energy extraction
2. Complete devolatilization

Requires addition of energy (and/or oxygen)

# Science Magazine August 2002

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.



## Charcoal has Benefits for Existing Forests

Recovering of Pine Tree from Wilting by Charcoal Treatment after a year



Before 1998 Sep.

写真11 施工前の樹形  
(平成9年9月17日撮影)



Ogawa 1999, Kansai Environmental

## Charcoal has Benefits for Existing Forests

### Results of Charcoal Treatment after a year



Before 1998 Sep.

写真11 施工前の樹形  
(平成9年9月17日撮影)



After 1999 Oct.

写真12 現在の樹形  
(平成10年9月1日撮影)

Ogawa 1999, Kansai Environmental

The growth of pine root and mycorrhiza formation started at 5 to 6 months after treatment

Adding Charcoal to the ground seems easy enough but the impact is far from simple.

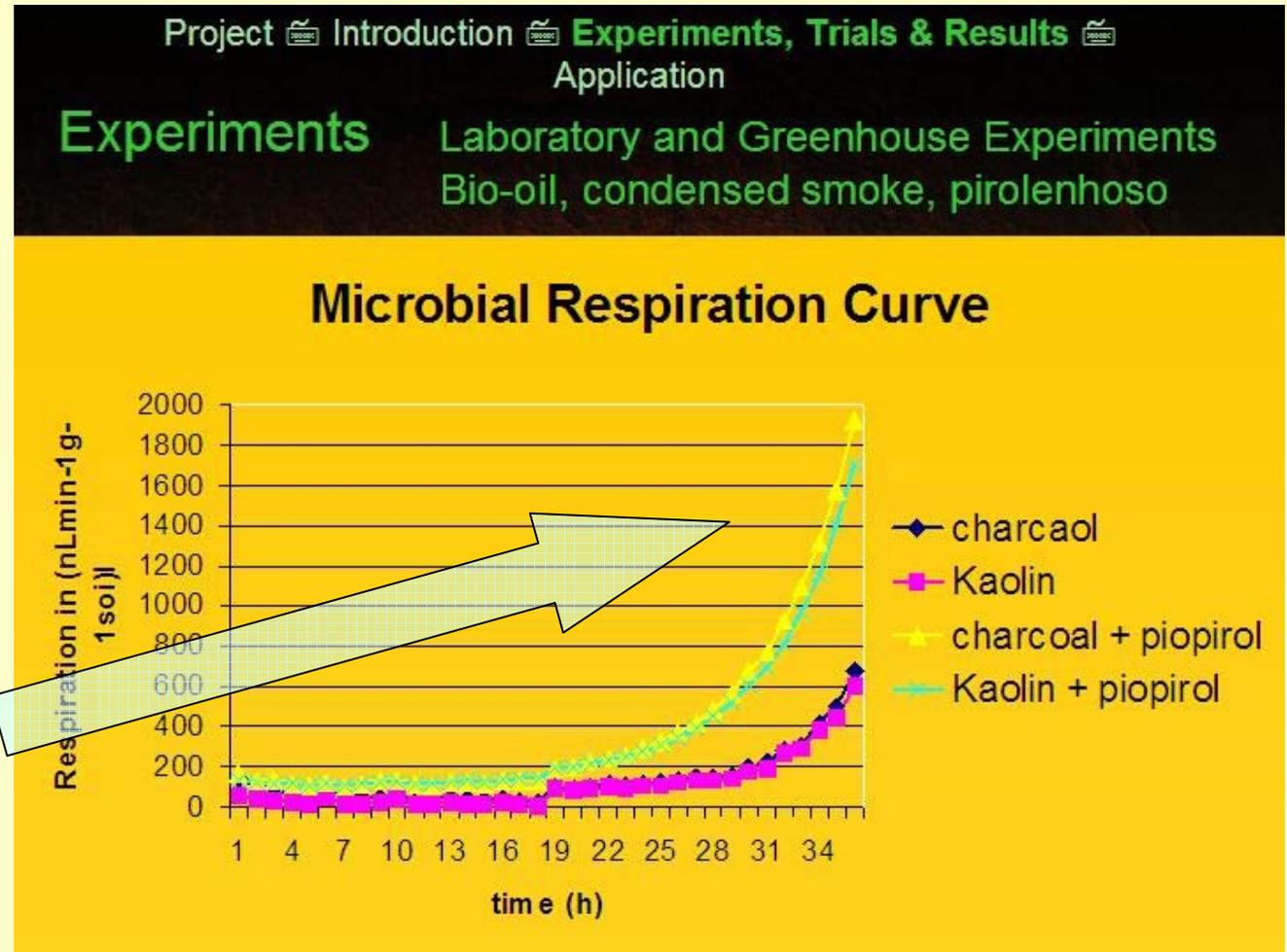
Nature has spent billions of years evolving ecosystems to utilize charcoal and its byproducts.

We are just now uncovering the science behind this fascinating story and the possibilities may yet provide solutions to many of our most intractable problems.

# The answer is in the smoke

In this experiment, condensed smoke was added to charcoal and kaolin.

The impact was the same as adding glucose to these materials.



C. Steiner, M. Garcia, B. Förster and W. Zech

# Nature's Thermal Reactors

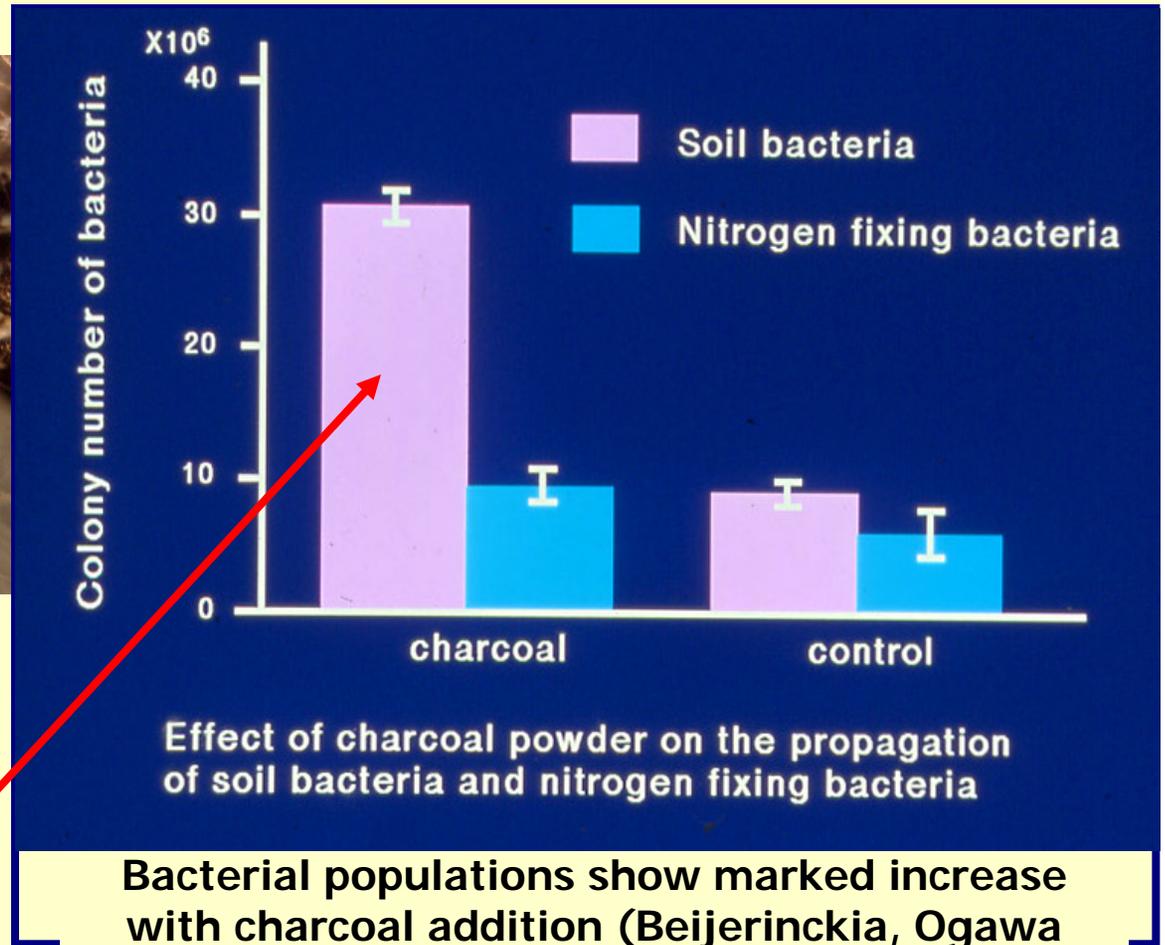
QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

Pressures up to 300psi  
Results in highly diverse organic compounds  
And the unknown multitude of evolutionary bacterial life  
forms which benefit from those compounds.

# Charcoal provides a preferred habitat for soil micro organisms



The germination rate of *G. margarita* was higher than that on soil (Ogawa 1991)

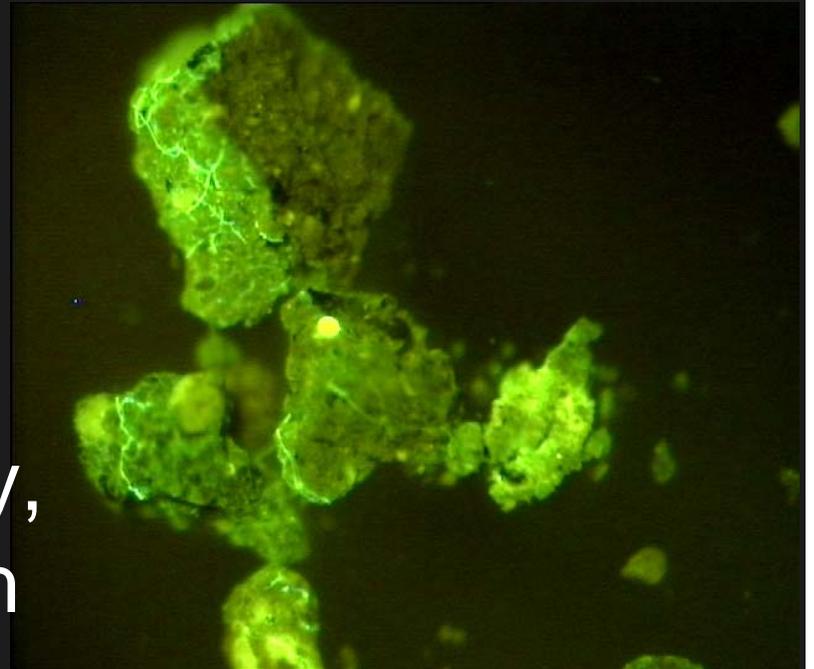


Bacterial populations show marked increase with charcoal addition (*Beijerinckia*, Ogawa 1992)

Note the 3 fold increase

# Fertile Soil is “aggregated”

- AM Fungi produce a glue Glomalin, which aggregates small soil particles
- This increases water and air holding capacity, resulting in soil tilth with increased biomass yields.

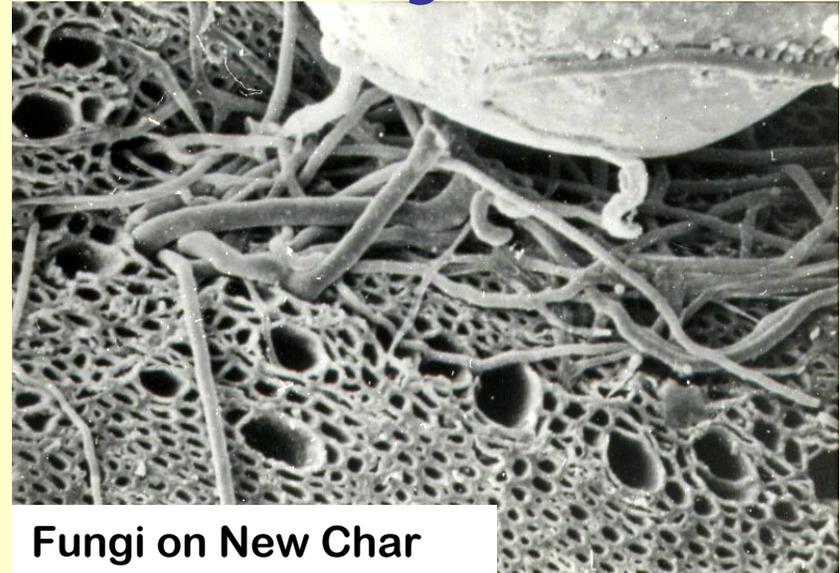


# Charcoal is sought out by AMF

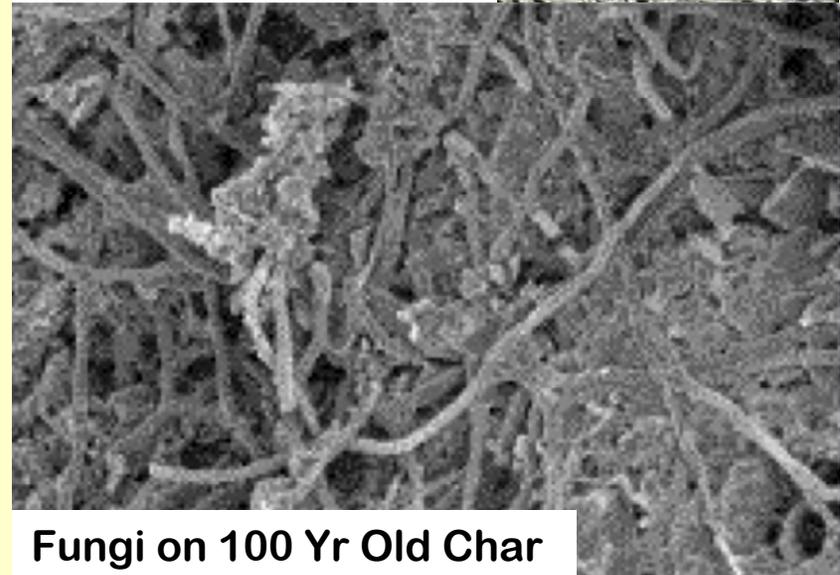
Charcoal addition to the soil provides nutrient and water storage center for mycorrhizal fungi

Their hyphae invade charcoal pores and support spore reproduction

Ogawa  
Kansai Environmental



Fungi on New Char

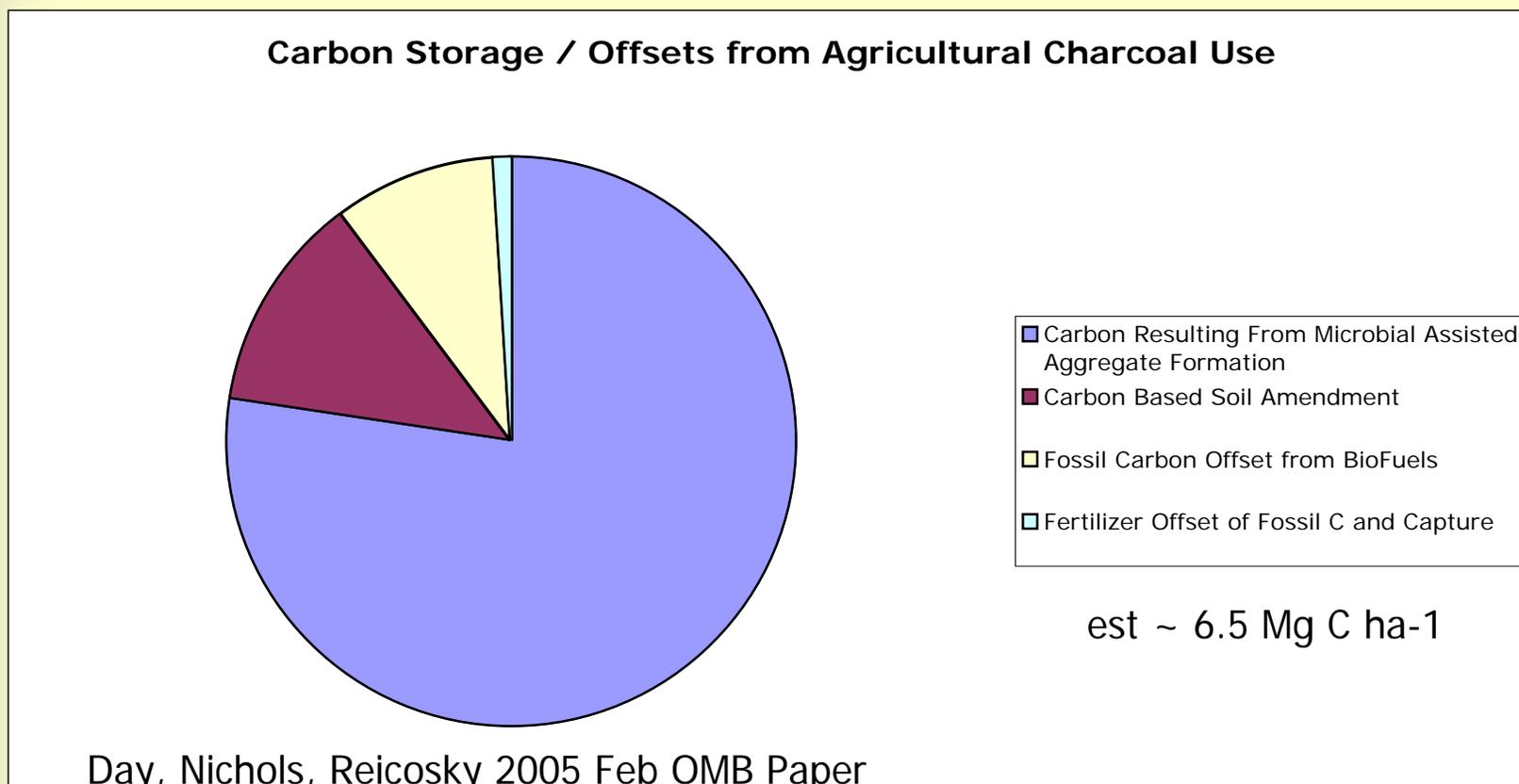


Fungi on 100 Yr Old Char

Char seeds aggregates formation which absorbs dissolved organic matter through wetting and drying cycles to build humus as a long term beneficial carbon storage

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# Utilizing 1/3 of Crop Productivity for Bioenergy and Carbon based fertilizers and no-till



Land required to offset 1.9 Gt C/yr =  $2.2E+8$  ha (3xTexas)

What is the difference in  
ECOSS charcoals?



EPRIDA Process  
Charcoal  
爱普利瑞达过程使用木炭

No C  
未使

EPRIDA Process  
Charcoal

爱普利瑞达过程使用  
木炭

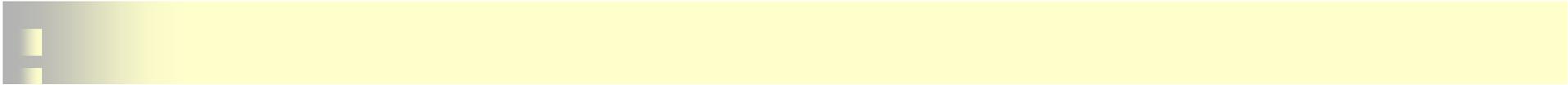
No Charcoal

未使用木炭

Standard  
Charcoal

标准使用木炭



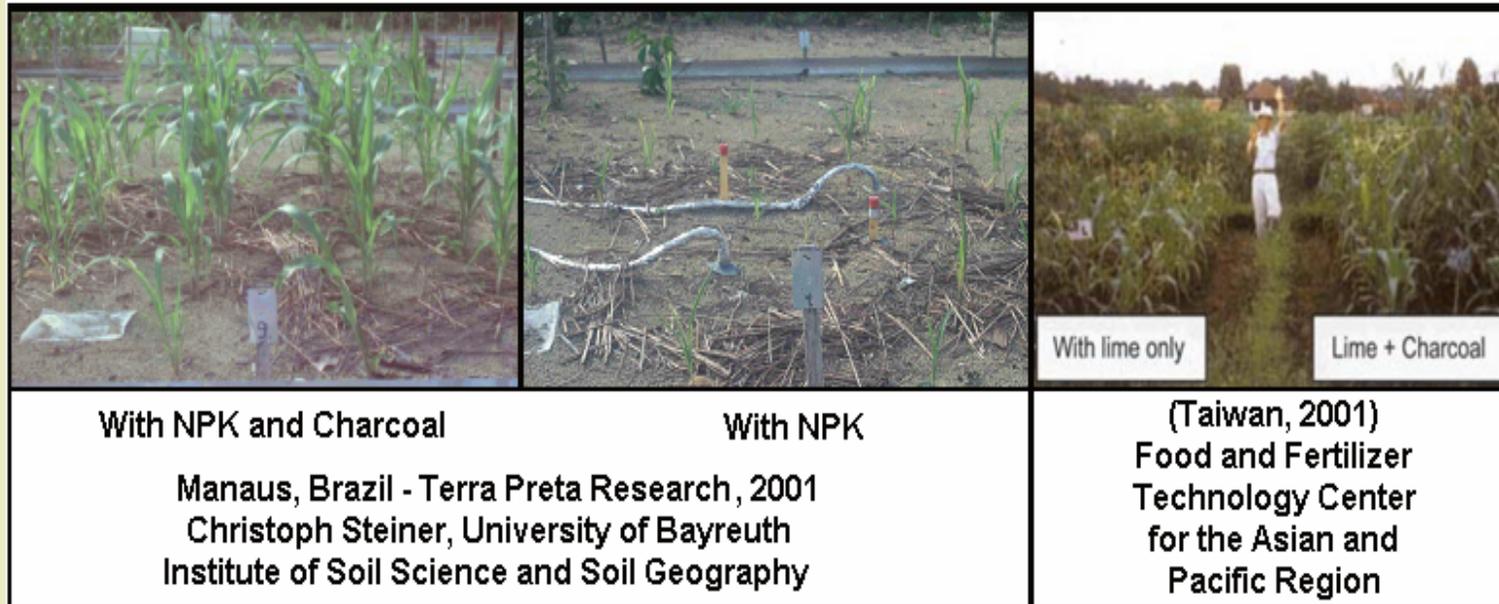


QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.





# Global Charcoal Research



## Other charcoal benefits

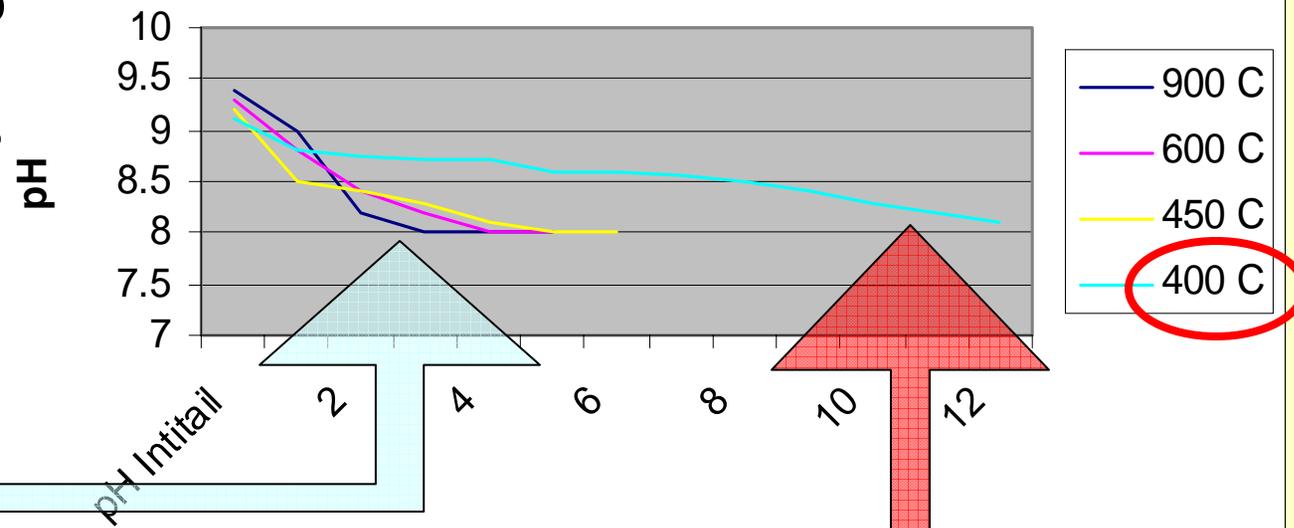
- Surface oxidation of the char increased the cation exchange capacity (Glaser)
- Char increased available water holding capacity by more than 18% of surrounding soils (Glaser)
- Char experiments have shown up to 266% more biomass growth (2<sup>nd</sup> Yr Steiner) and 324% (Kishimoto and Sugiura)
- Plant nitrogen uptake doubled in charcoal amended soils (Steiner)
- Charcoal has proven to help reduce farm chemical runoff (Yelverton)

# We conducted leaching experiments on a variety of chars



- Chars were produced at 900, 600, 500, 450, and 400C.
- Crushed and sieved to #30 mesh, wt 20g.
- Soaked 5 min. in 48%  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  solution.
- Each rinse = 100 ml water 8.0 pH

Leaching Examination of Different Chars

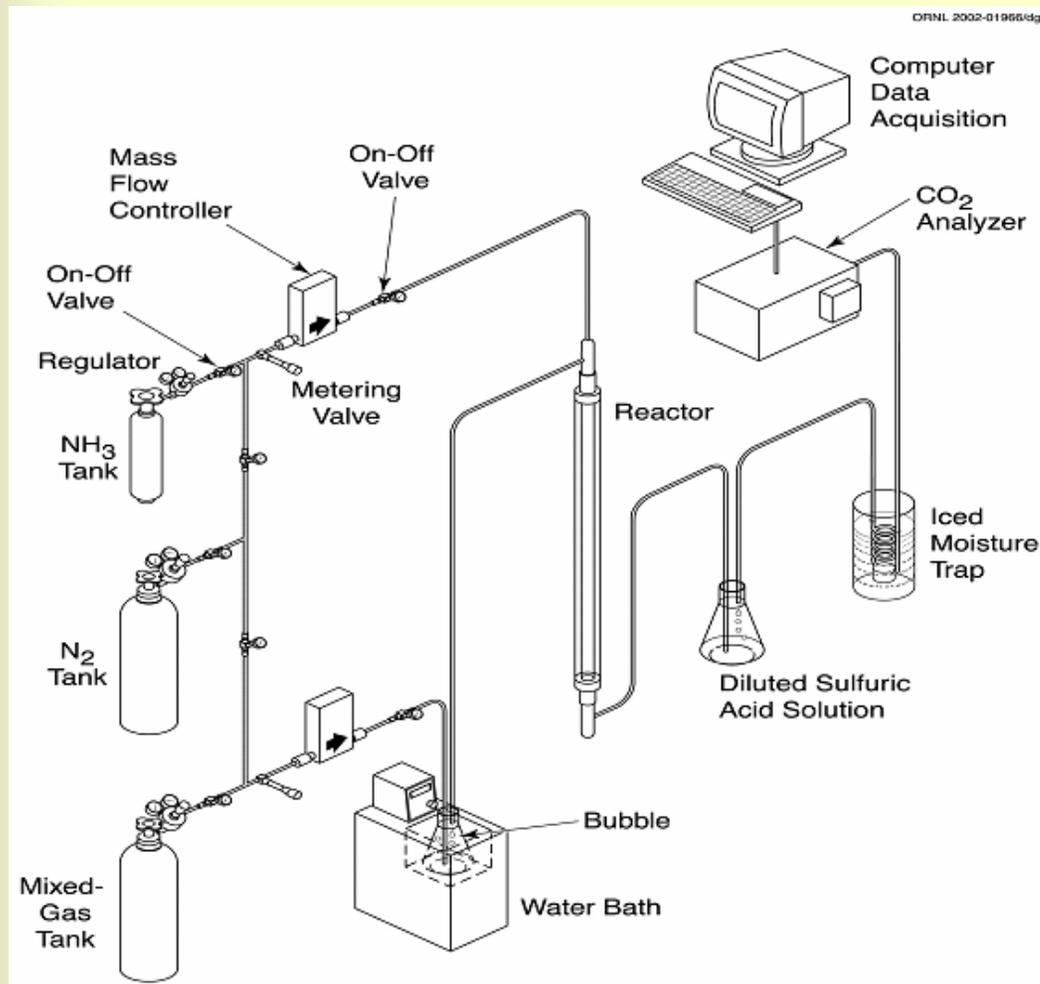


Most stabilized after a few rinses

100ml Rinse - Char Sample 20.0g

But at chars produced 400 C very gradually released its ammonia

# Bench Scale $\text{NH}_3\text{-CO}_2\text{-Char}$ Experiment



$\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \cdot \text{NH}_3$   
Solidifies  
into  
Am-Bi-Carb

# Chemical Pathways for Simultaneous Removal of Major CO<sub>2</sub> and ppm Levels of NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> Emissions by Innovative Application of the Fertilizer Production Reactions

## Typical Composition of the Resulting Nitrogen Compounds

97.5% Ammonium Bicarbonate  
2% Ammonium Sulfate  
0.5% Ammonium Nitrate

CH<sub>4</sub> or  
CO

NO<sub>x</sub> + S

CO<sub>2</sub> ↓

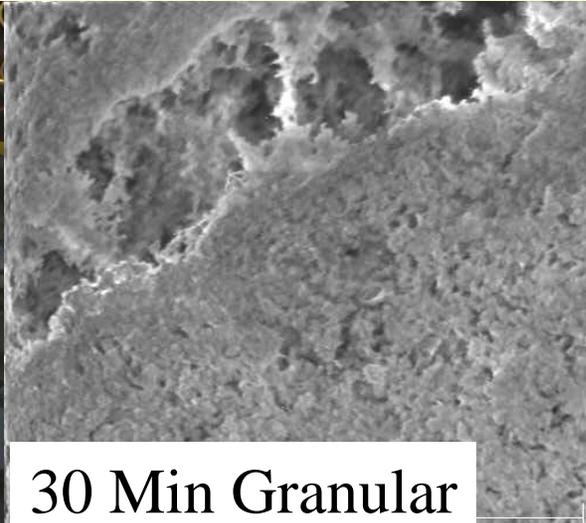
H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> ↓

tory

US Patent 6,447,457

- Operated at ambient pressure and temperature
- CO<sub>2</sub> separation is not required

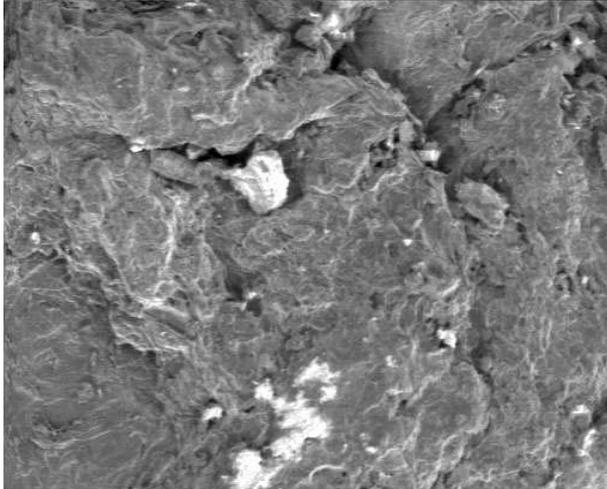
# Pilot Test



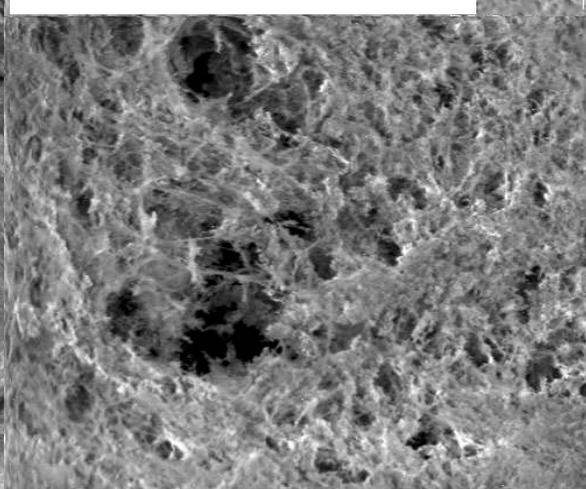
30 Min Granular



Large Granule ECOSS



Original Char



15 Min sand like



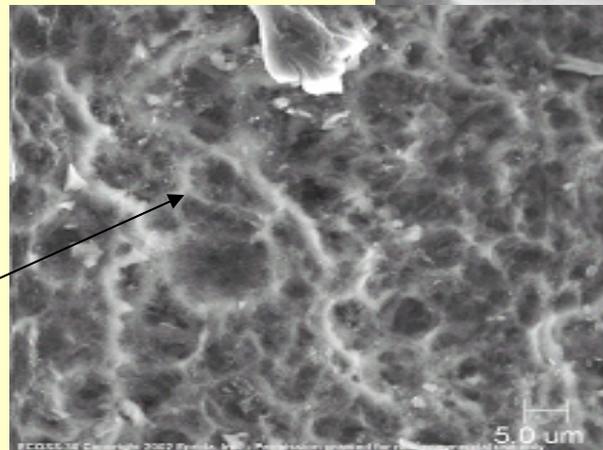
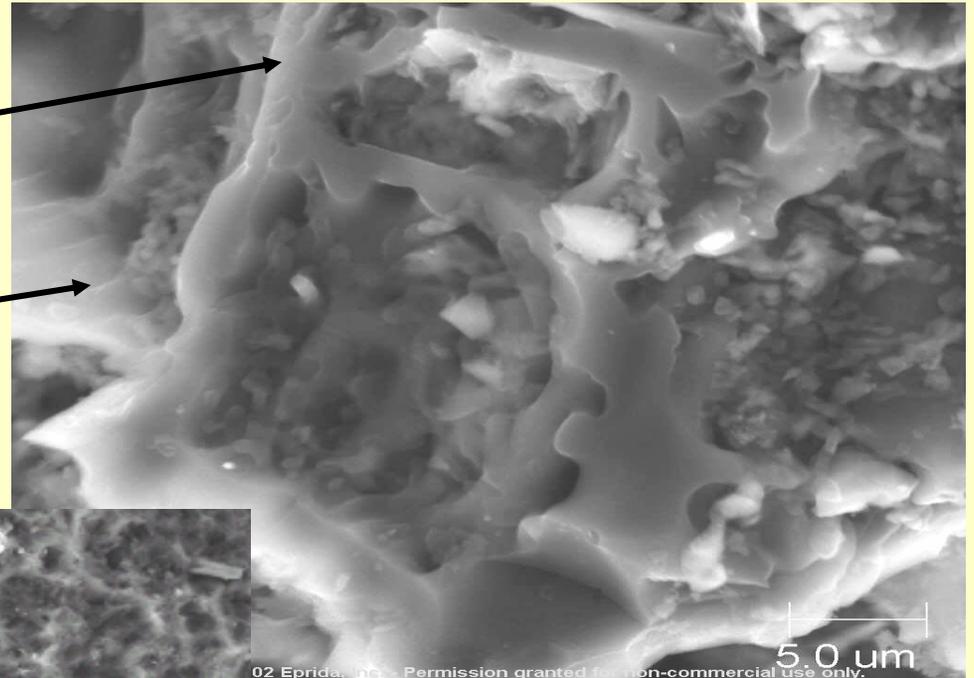
Char ECOSS - Sand like

# Crushed Interior 2000x SEM

The residual cell structure of the original biomass is clearly visible

The ABC fibrous buildup has started inside the carbon structure

After complete processing, interior is full

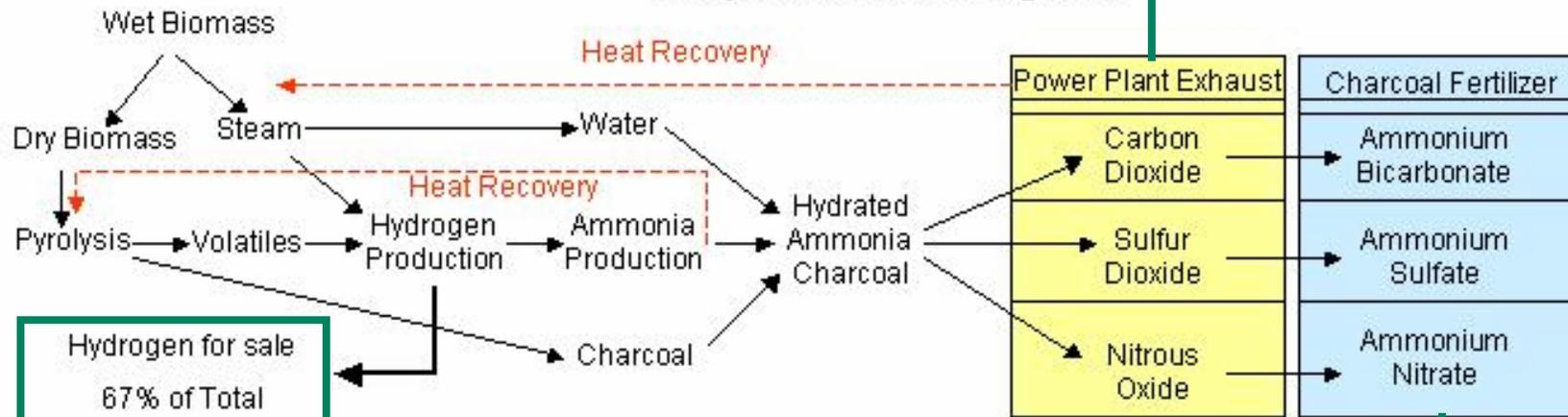


Trace minerals are returned to the soil along with essential nitrogen.

# A Simple System

Exhaust Scrubbing

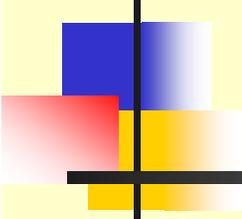
Simplified Flow Diagram



Hydrogen for sale  
67% of Total  
2.7x H<sub>2</sub>  
per CO

This can be used to produce  
a carbon negative  
Fischer-Tropsch Diesel

Profit Centers



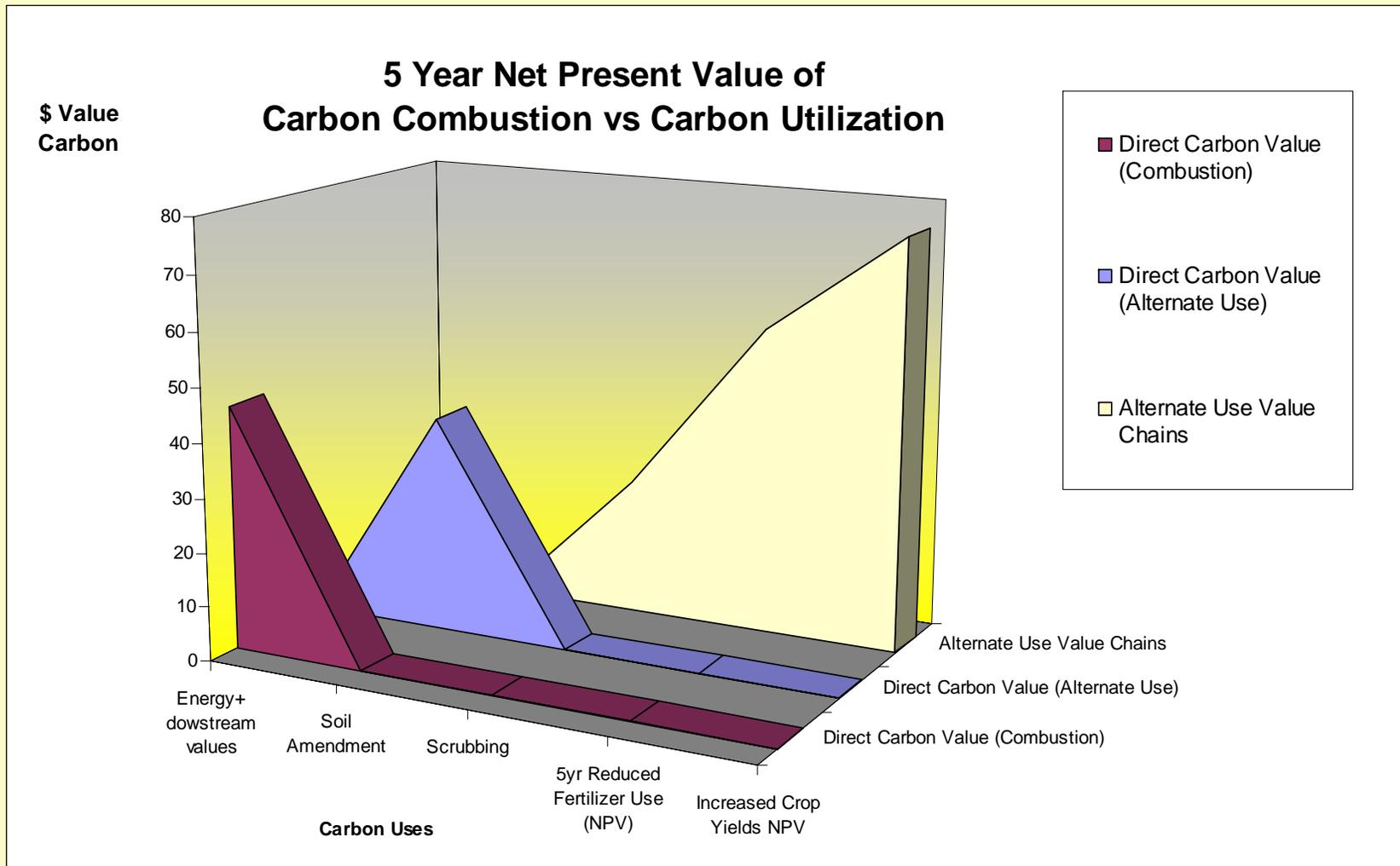
But what is the tradeoff?

---

What are we giving up?

# Carbon Combustion vs Carbon Use

## Longer Term Valuation Analysis – 5 Year



Ok, it may be better to invest carbon in our soils.....

But what is the value of the volatile gas and bio-oil released?

What is the profit potential and competitive landscape?

# Products you buy from petroleum/nat. gas companies

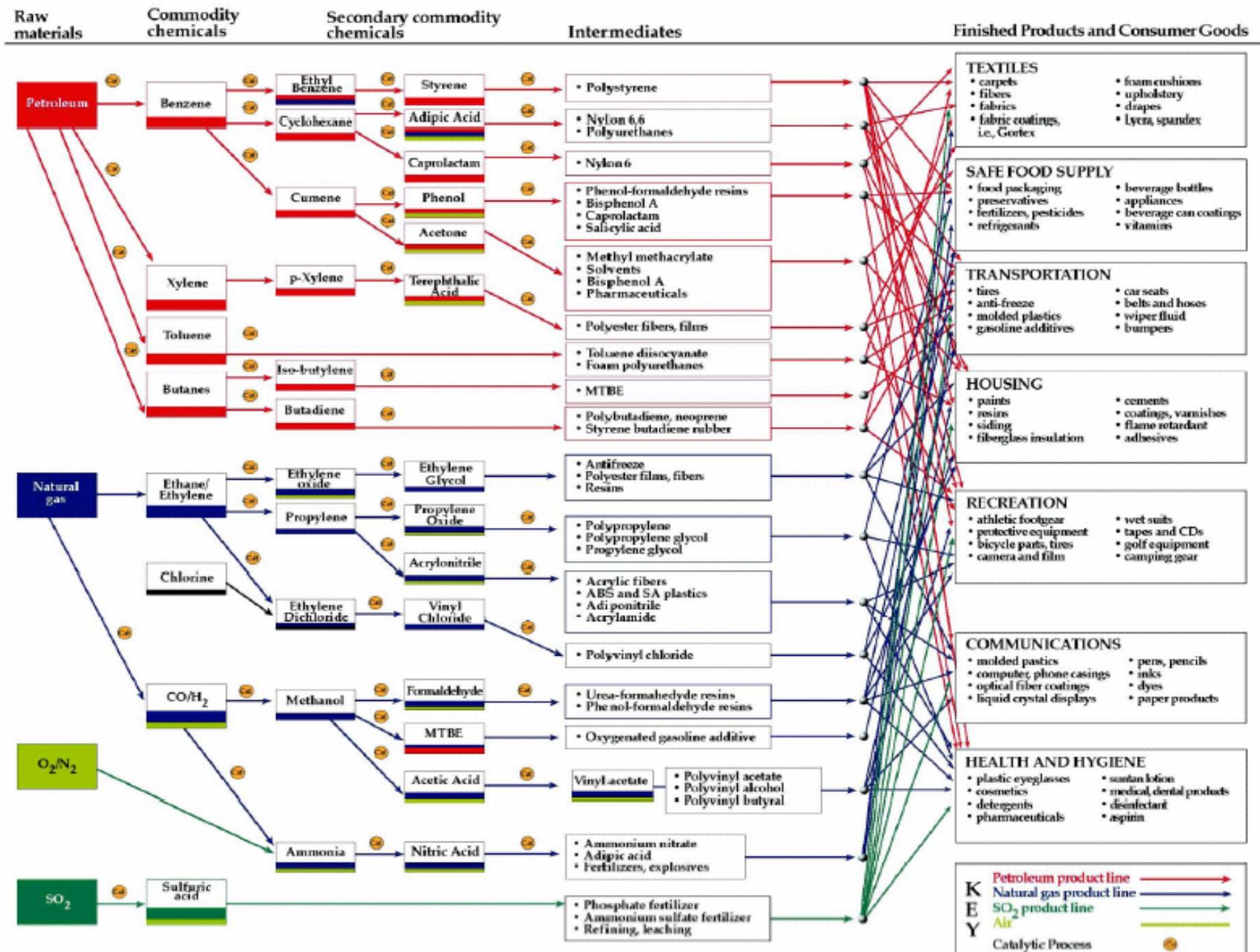


Figure 2 – An Example of a Flow-Chart for Products from Petroleum-based Feedstocks

# Natures sustainable products you grow

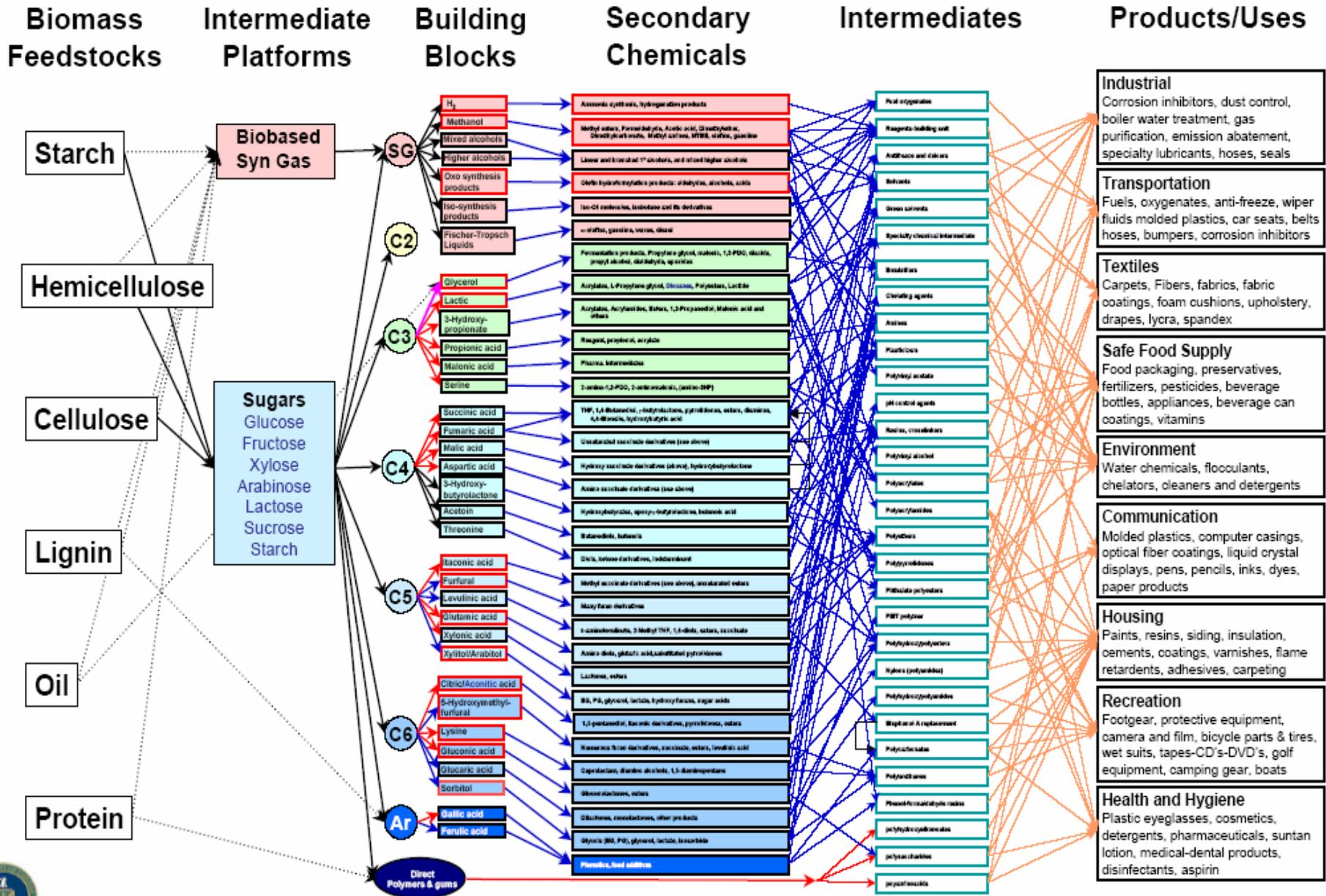
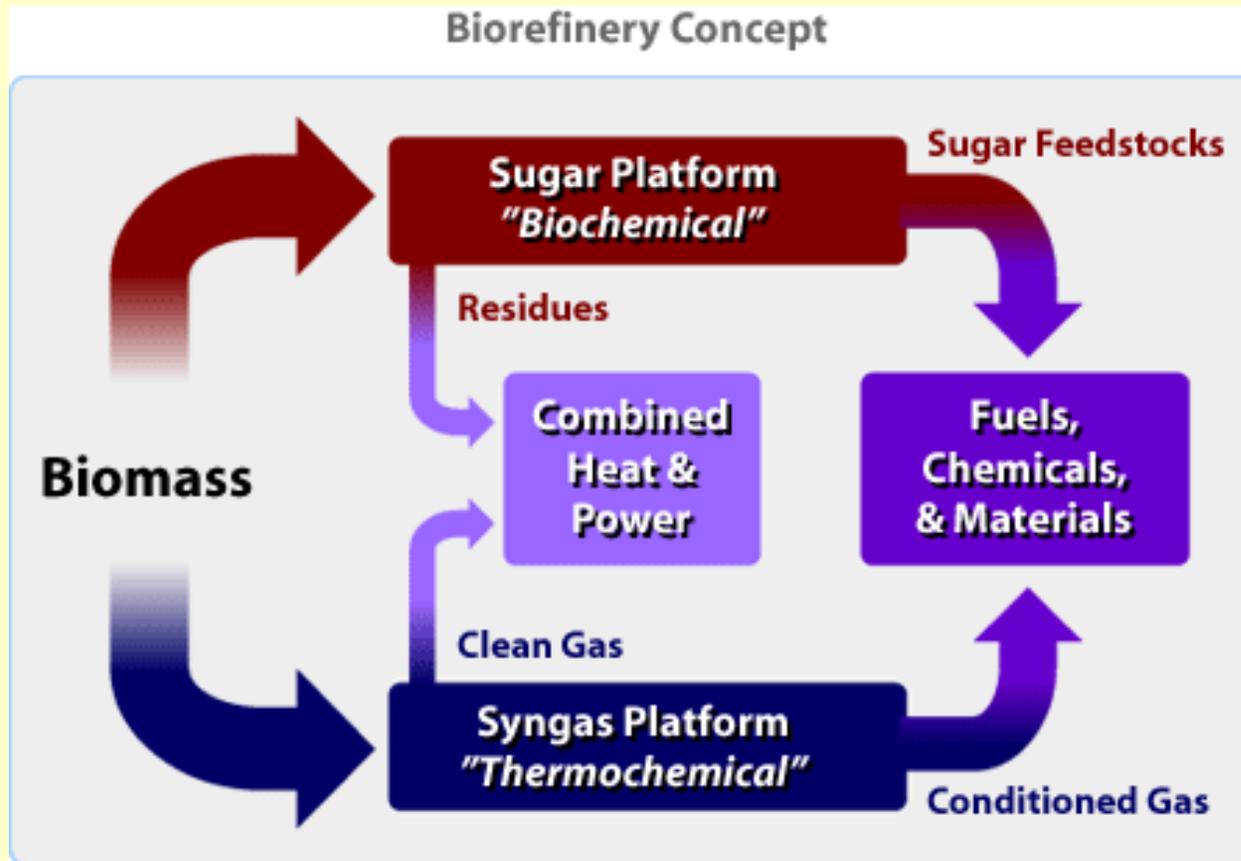


Figure 3 – Analogous Model of a Biobased Product Flow-chart for Biomass Feedstocks

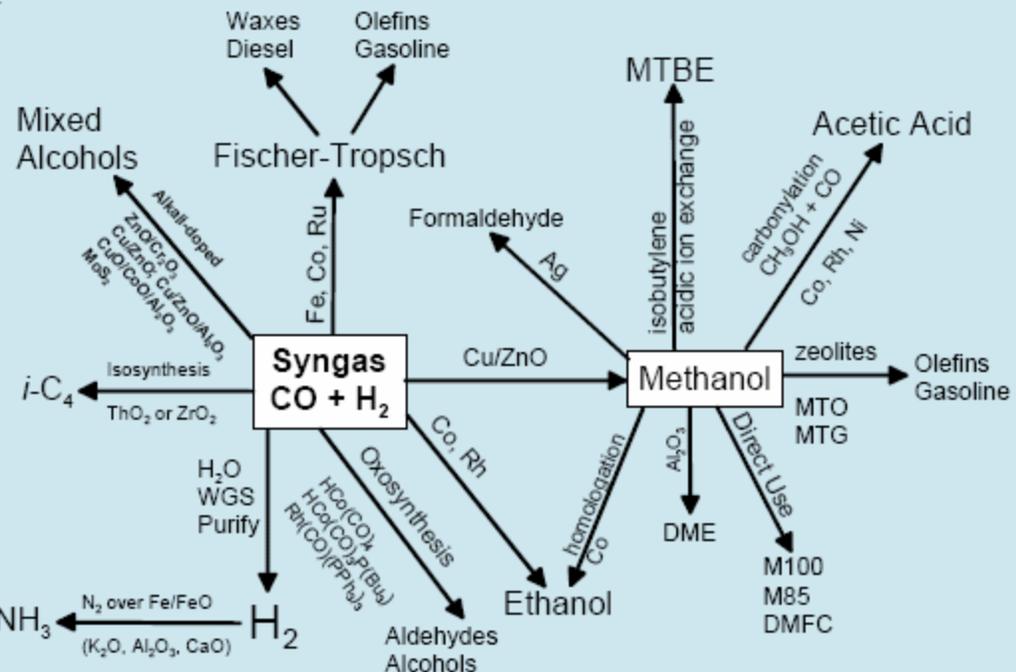
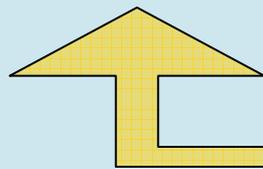


# Biomass / Biorefinery Options



# Potential Syngas Products

- Hydrogen
- Methanol and MeOH derivatives (NH<sub>3</sub>, DME, MTBE formaldehyde, acetic acid, MTG, MOGD, TIGAS)
- Fischer Tropsch Liquids
- Ethanol
- Mixed alcohols
- Olefins
- Oxosynthesis
- Isosynthesis
- Ammonia

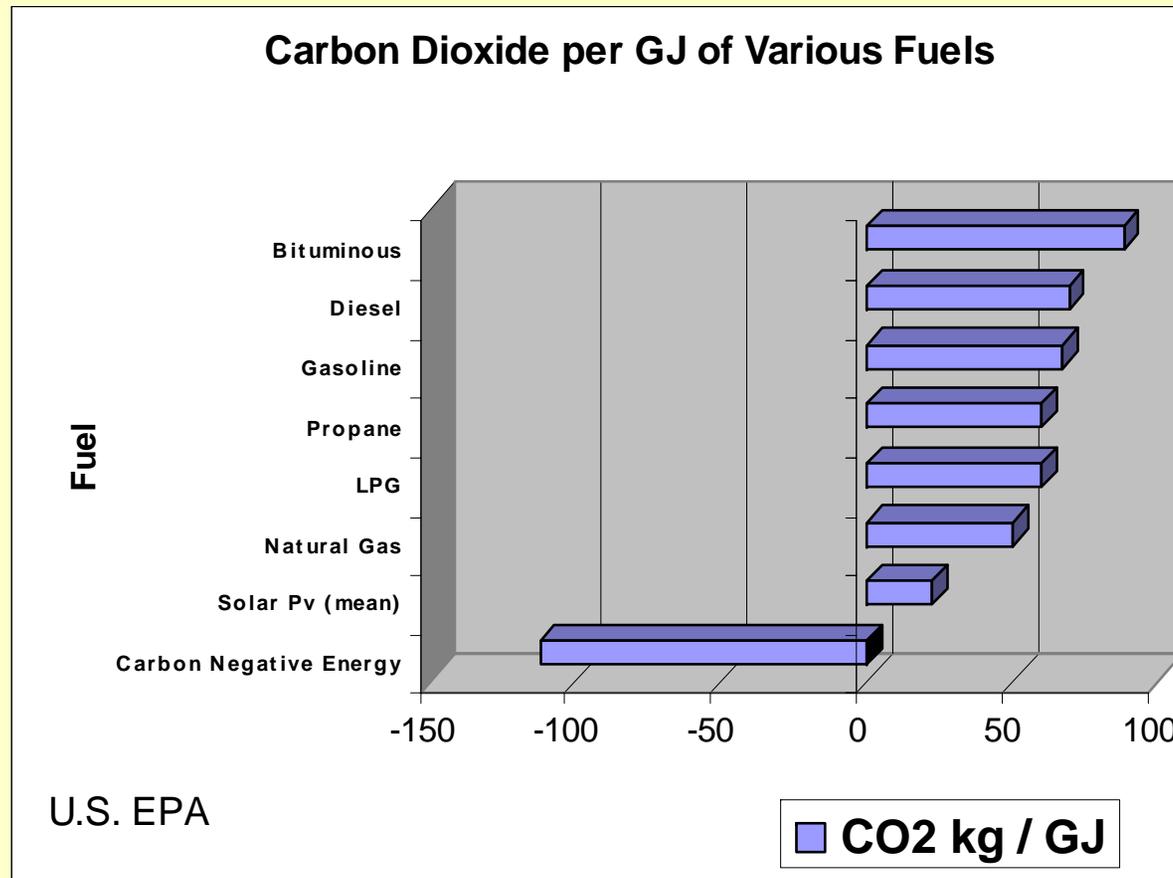


# Can your biomass streams be as competitive fossil fuels?

Yes, with all things being equal.

- Biomass becomes more competitive as fuel prices rise
- Profits are made on co-products not just gasoline.
- Equal percent of your tax dollars in every gallon and pound of co-products.
- Proportionate funding of research and commercial support
- Homogenous standards and testing

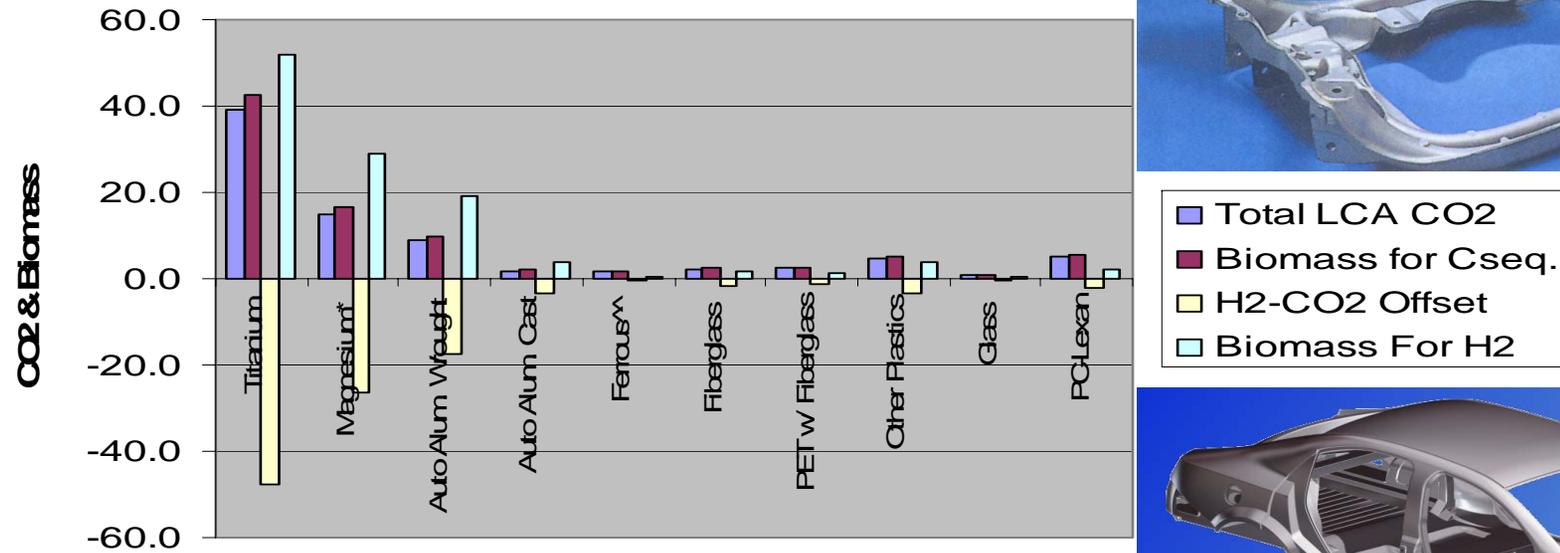
# Agricultural use offers Carbon Negative Energy



Special thanks to Stefan Czernick and Mathew Realff

# The Opportunity

**CO2 LCA Budgets**



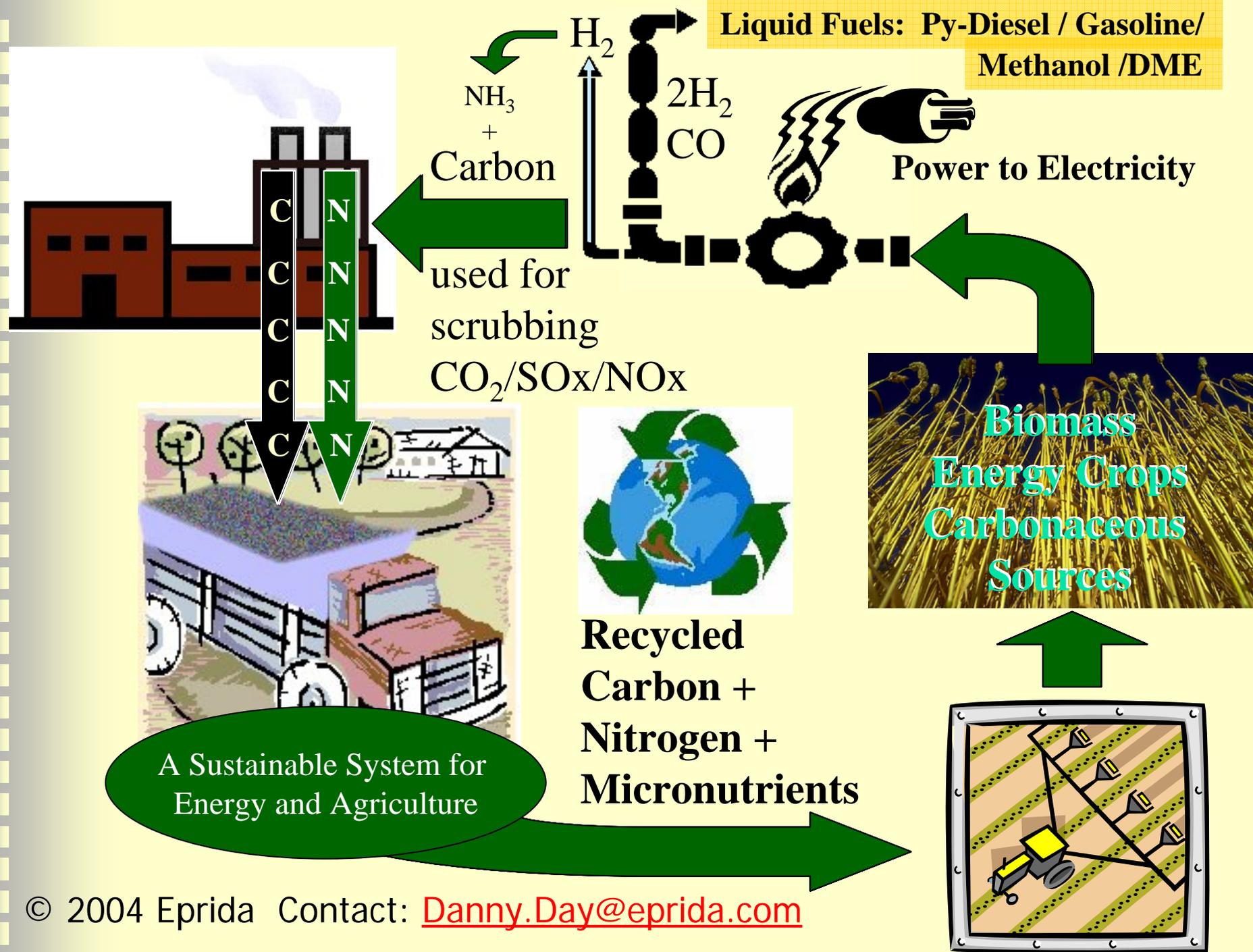
- Total LCA CO2
- Biomass for Cseq.
- H2-CO2 Offset
- Biomass For H2



**Materials that represent sequestered atmospheric carbon**

# Imagine.....

- If farmer can increase yields by up to 50%,
  - And grow the raw materials for our fuel and fertilizers,
  - And help power plants reduce their emissions,
  - And help reduce the impacts of global warming,
  - And help restore our top soils for future generations,
  - And create new markets from people with disposable income,
- 
- AND will change our appreciation for the essential function of producing food, fuel and petroleum replacement co-products.
- 
- The irony is that those in rural poverty and most at risk from global warming are the ones we need to become the new sustainable affluent .....



# Thank You

## Eprida

*Earth*

*People*

*Research*

*Innovation*

*Development*

*Acknowledgment*

Danny Day

President

[danny.day@eprida.com](mailto:danny.day@eprida.com)

706-316-1765

University of Georgia Bioconversion Center

1151 E. Whitehall Rd, Athens, GA 30605