

# Bioenergy Technologies Office: Decarbonization of Transportation and Industry

Valerie Reed, Ph.D.

**Director, Bioenergy Technologies Office** 

4/20/2022



# **Agenda**

Bioenergy Decarbonization Potential

Biomass Feedstocks: Broad Potential For the U.S.

R&D Programs

Demonstrations and State of the Industry

# **Biden Administration Guiding Principles**

Accelerate the research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) of innovative technologies that will transition Americans to a 100% clean energy economy no later than 2050 and ensure the clean energy economy benefits all Americans.

#### **EERE Mission**

#### **Keys to Ensure the Greatest Impact**

OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY



**Environmental Justice and Equity** 



Diversity in STEM



Workforce Development



State and Local Partnerships

100% decarbonized electric grid by 2035

Decarbonize transportation across all modes

Decarbonize energy intensive industries

Reduce the carbon footprint of buildings

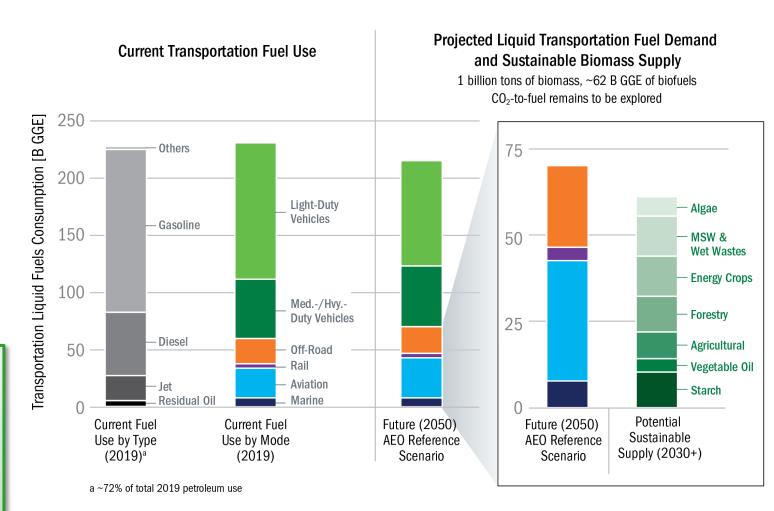
Enable a net-zero agricultural sector

# The Role of Biomass in Sustainable Transportation

- Transportation accounts for 34% of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Biofuels are part of a sustainable transportation fuel strategy to decarbonize all modes.
- U.S. biomass can meet the needs of "hard to electrify" modes, such as aviation, marine and rail.

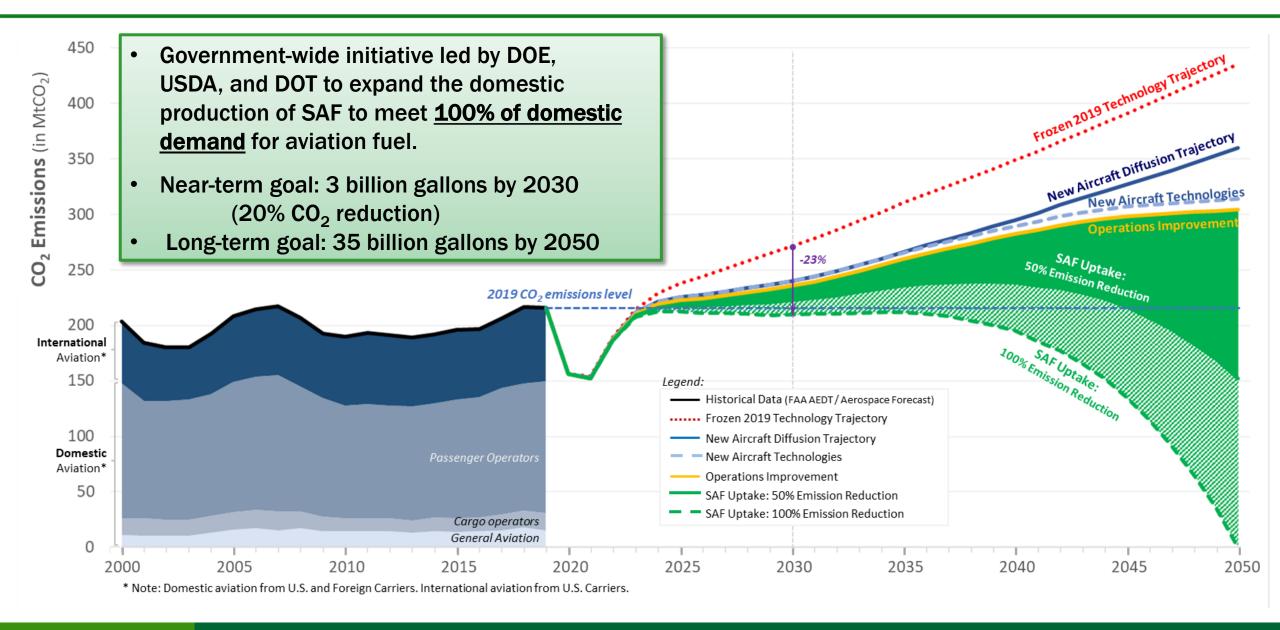
#### Focus areas for biofuels:

- Ethanol for passenger cars
- "Drop-in" fuels that can use existing infrastructure such as renewable diesel/sustainable aviation fuels



AEO = annual energy outlook | GGE = gasoline gallon equivalent | MSW = municipal solid waste

# **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Grand Challenge**



#### **Marine Biofuels Show Promise**

#### Many feedstocks

- Lignocellulosic (wood, grasses, ag residues)
- Wet waste and bio-solids
- MSW

#### Many fuels

- Hydrocarbon distillates drop ins
  - (renewable diesel, etc)
- Biogas
- Methanol
- **Bio-crudes**
- **Bio-oils**

## Vary in cost, quality, volumes, and uses

- Direct diesel replacements
- Residual alternative for ocean going vessels

OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Potential for methanol pilot fuel



Hydrothermal Liquefaction Skid at PNNL



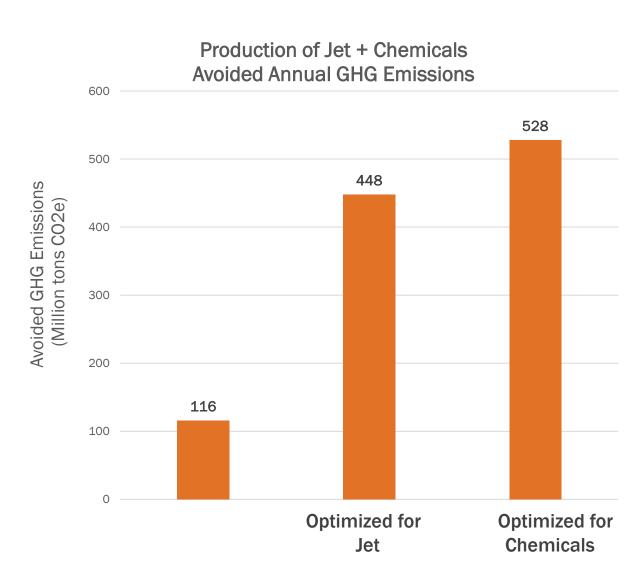
Thermochemical Process Development Unit at NREL

# The Role of Biomass in Industry

- Chemical production accounts for 5.5% of U.S. GHG emissions.
- Biomass is the only renewable resource that can replace petroleum to make carbonbased chemicals.
- Biomass-derived chemicals could significantly reduce GHG emissions.

#### Focus areas

- Drop-in replacements for petro-chemicals
- Performance enhanced biochemicals
- Recyclable on demand

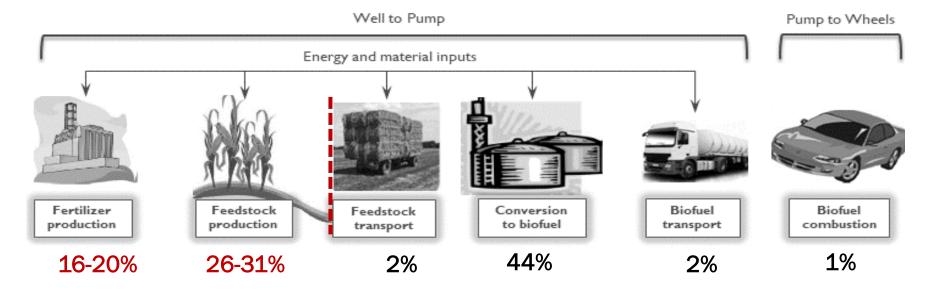


# Climate-Smart Agriculture is a Key Enabler

- Agriculture activities serve as sources and sinks for GHGs.
- Decarbonizing transportation/chemicals and decarbonizing agriculture are intrinsically linked.
- By developing tools and strategies to quantify and improve soil carbon sequestration and ecosystem services, we can produce biofuels with a lower carbon intensity.

#### Focus areas in agriculture:

- Maximize soil CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration by developing healthy, productive soils and regenerating distressed soil.
- Develop climate-smart ag practices.
- Produce clean energy on-site from animal waste.
- Develop wastewater treatment strategies that produce bioenergy feedstocks.



**Emissions Contribution** 

Argonne Final Report to ARPA-E (2019): Developing a Framework for Lifecycle Analysis of Biofuels on the Farm Level

## **Biomass Feedstocks: Broad Potential For the U.S**

## What Does Making 35 Billion Gallons of SAF Mean?

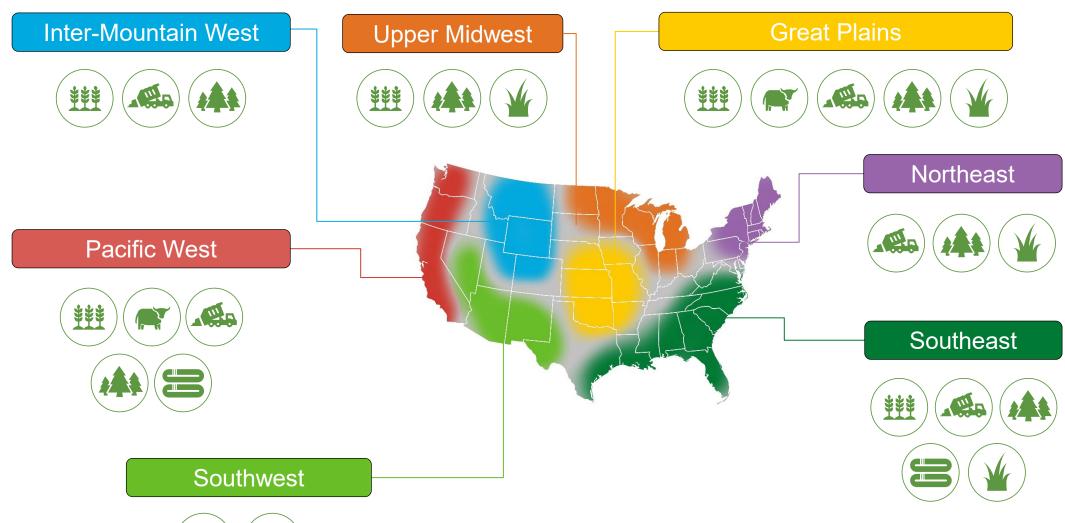
#### **Major benefits across the United States**

- Create jobs in green industries The corn ethanol industry created about 68,000 jobs. SAF will maintain the corn ethanol industry and will be over <u>11 times larger</u>.
- Invest in communities and help manage waste disposal Farmers will be able to sustainability produce and collect new crops and residues while ALL communities will have less waste going to landfill.
- Achieve lasting carbon reductions across our economy A variety of SAF conversion technologies will be used to convert biomass and waste to SAF. These feedstock/technologies will reduce  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  emissions from 55% to over 165% depending on the combination.
  - CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from the air during biomass growth



Photo courtesy of FDC Enterprise

## Feedstock supply will come from regions across the United States



\$60/ton, product density > 50 tons/square mile

\*Saline, current productivities, minimally lined saline ponds, co-location with  $\rm CO_2$  from coal, natural gas, and ethanol plants at prices from \$755-\$2,889 per dry ton (\$2014) \*\*Energy crops derived from 2040 dataset, all other biomass from 2017 dataset

KEY

Agricultural Waste



**CAFO Manure** 



Municipal Solid Waste



Timberland



Algae\*



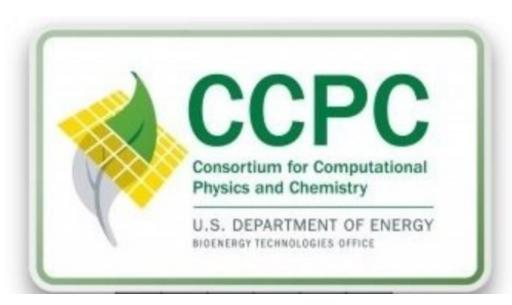
Energy Crops\*\*



# **R&D Programs**

## **Select Research Consortia**



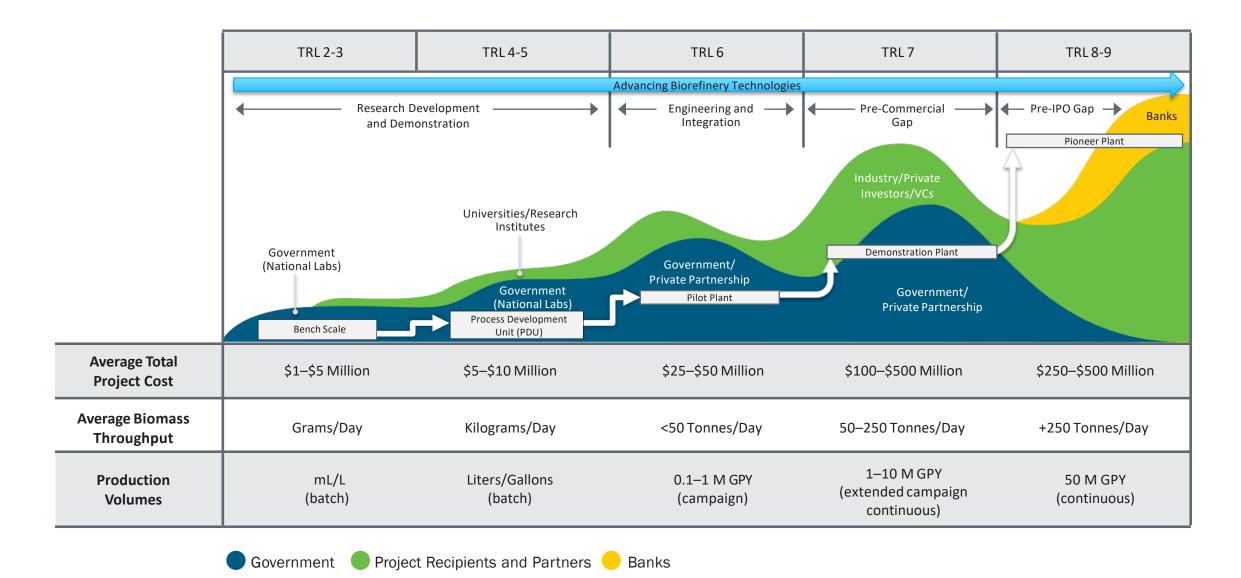




13

# **Demonstrations and Building Out the Industry**

# **BETO Invests from Applied R&D to Large-Scale Demonstration**



# **Doubling the Number of Biorefineries**





- To meet the aggressive goals of the SAF gfrand challenge the US will need
  - By 2030 40-45 refineries
  - By 2050 400-500 refineries
- Ethanol industry grew from 2B gal/year in 2002 to nearly 16 B gal in 2016
- There are approximately 215 ethanol refineries in the US built over 15 years primary in the Midwest.

#### **WE CAN DO THIS**

# **Are You Interested in Becoming a BETO Reviewer?**



## Wanted:

Subject matter experts to review research funding applications.

Applying is as easy as 1-2-3.

#### **Fact Sheet:**

energy.gov/eere/bioenergy/interested-becoming-beto-project-reviewer

#### **EERE Funding Opportunity Exchange:**

eere-exchange.energy.gov/Registration.aspx