

ENERGY Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy



# Separations and Performance Advantaged Bioproducts

April 6, 2023

### **Coralie Backlund**

**Technology Manager** 

1 | Bioenergy Technologies Office eere.energy.gov

### **Agenda Overview**

- Schedule for the Technology Area Review
- Reviewer Welcome
- Separations Overview
- Performance Advantaged Bioproducts Overview
- BETO Efforts



### **Session 2: Performance Advantaged Bioproducts**

Thursday April 6 – Separations Consortium

Friday April 7 – FY21 Scale up | PABP Consortium | FY19 BEEPs | FY20 Multitopic



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11:30 AM	11:50 AM	20	SEP2.1	Adsorption Based ISPR for ABF products		Gregg Beckham
11:50 AM	1:00 PM	70		Lunch	All	
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1:20 PM	1:40 PM	20	SEP2.4	Diol Separations		Ramesh Bhave
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4:10 PM	4:50 PM	40		Closed Door Comment Review Session	Reviewers	



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### **Reviewer Introductions**

Name	Affiliation			
Michael Mang	Danimer			
Vera Schroeder	Safar VC			
Alper Kiziltas	Amazon			
Debbie Mielewski	Dione Solutions			



### Separations & PABP Strategy | BETO Specific Goals

- Support scale-up of sustainable aviation fuels and other biofuels with >70% reduction in GHG emissions relative to petroleum.
- Enable commercial production of 10+ renewable chemicals and materials with >70% GHG reduction relative to relevant petroleumderived counterparts
- Enable 1+ cost-effective and recyclable bio-based plastic that mitigates ≥50% GHG emissions relative to virgin resin or plastic intermediates.



### **Separations Strategy | Motivation**

- Chemical separations account for up to 15% of total energy consumption in the United States.<sup>1</sup>
- Separations account for up to 50-70% of processing costs for biofuels and bioproducts.<sup>2,3</sup>
- Efficient separation and purification are key integration challenges for all technology pathways.<sup>4</sup>
- There is a need to raise technical maturity of biobased processes, including separations. Improving separations will positively affect the entire bioeconomy.<sup>5</sup>
- Additional research is needed to bridge the gap between small-scale and large-scale technologies.<sup>5</sup>
- Synergy of separations with conversion processes has the potential to reduce costs while maintaining high recovery rates and yields.<sup>6</sup>











<sup>1.</sup> Sholl and Lively. "Seven chemical separations to change the world," Nature, 2016 532: 425-437.

<sup>2.</sup> EERE. 2016. Strategic Plan for a Thriving and Sustainable Bioeconomy.

<sup>3.</sup> Biddy et al. "The Techno-Economic Basis for Coproduct Manufacturing To Enable Hydrocarbon Fuel Production from Lignocellulosic Biomass." ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng. 2016 4: 3196-3211.

<sup>4.</sup> EERE. 2019. Bioenergy Technologies Office 2019 R&D State of Technology.

<sup>5.</sup> EERE. 2018. Moving Beyond Drop-In Replacements: Performance-Advantaged Biobased Chemicals

<sup>6.</sup> EERE. 2020. Integrated Strategies to Enable Lower-Cost Biofuels.

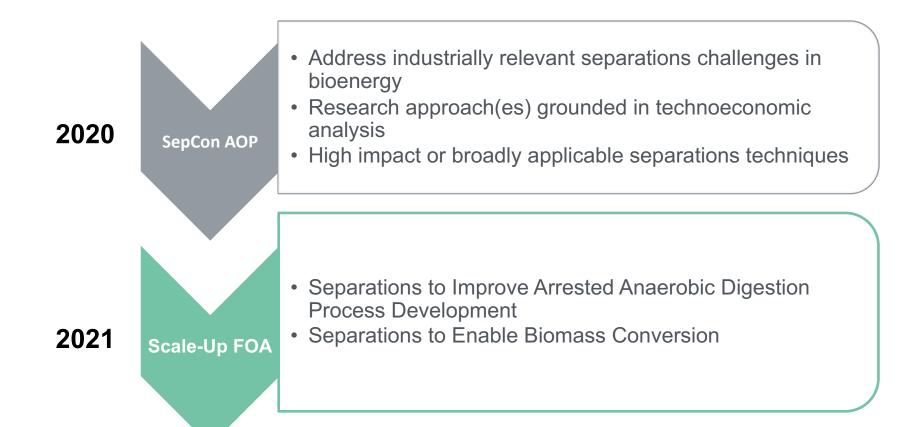
### PABP& Separations Strategy | Funding Approach

	FOA	AOP
Selection Method	Competitive	Lab Call
Open to the Public		×
National Lab Participant	Only as Subrecipient	
Go/No-Go Decision Points		
Verifications	<b>✓</b>	×
Award Modifications Method	Contracting Officer (CO)	AOP Tool Change Control

**FOA** = Funding Opportunity Announcement

**AOP** = Annual Operating Plan





### **Separations Strategy | Separations Consortium**



- Address industrially relevant separations challenges in bioenergy
- Research approaches grounded in technoeconomic analysis
- High impact or broadly applicable separations techniques

Launched Separations Consortium in FY17, ~\$3.5M/year

- >Renewed in 2020
  - Established an Industry Advisory Board with regular interactions
  - Launched a lab-directed funding opportunity
  - Developed an easy-to-use <u>website</u> to encourage partnerships

#### Goals:

- Address industrially relevant separations challenges in bioenergy
- Research approaches grounded in technoeconomic analysis
- High impact or broadly applicable separations techniques
- Avoid developing separations processes that are not well suited for biofuel applications
- Capitalize on shared expertise, resources, and passion

#### Challenges:

How do we determine what the most promising separations opportunities are?



### **Separations Strategy | Separations Consortium**

#### Sponsor **Bioenergy Technologies** Provides high-level decision, Office input, and resources. Project guidance Project leadership **Steering Committee Industry Advisory Board** Helps the Consortium Provides technical guidance, maintain an industry-relevant monitors progress and impact, focus, reviews results, and coordinates external provides feedback regarding communications, and manages Task 1 prioritization of research Consortium reporting and **Project Management and** projects. monthly calls. Integration Project work teams Task 2 Task 3 Task 4 Provide subject matter **Analysis and Computation** Diversity, Equity, and **Core Experimental Projects** expertise, leadership, and Inclusion accountability for subtasks.











### **Separations Strategy | 2021 Scale Up AOP**



- Separations to Improve Arrested Anaerobic Digestion Process Development
- Separations to Enable Biomass Conversion

**Topic 3a:** Separations to Improve Arrested Anaerobic Digestion Process Development

 Develop efficient and cost-effective separations approaches to isolate and potentially upgrade organic acids and products of interest from digesters

### **Topic 3b:** Separations to Enable Biomass Conversion

- Improve availability of data that will support separations development, as well as to develop supporting technologies to improve bioprocessing separations
- Collaborate with the Separations Consortium to address critical bioprocess separations challenges



### **PABP Strategy | Definitions**

**Drop-in Replacement:** a bioderived compound that is chemically identical to its petroleum counterpart

**Functional Replacement:** a bio-derived compound that has a different chemical structure than a petroleum counter part, but performs the same function/has the same performance attributes

Performance Advantaged Bioproduct: a bio-derived compound that does not resemble an existing petroleum-derived compound in structure, function, or performance attributes. The bio-based compound offers novel functionality or improved performance attributes



### PABP Strategy | Motivation



### **Product Design Benefits**

- Biomass contains functionality not present in other feedstocks
- Opportunity to design and bring new products to market



#### **Economic Benefits**

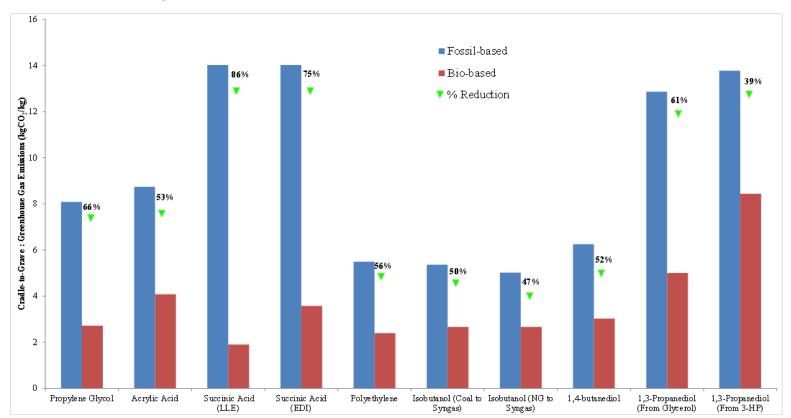
- Increase value of domestic feedstock; revitalize rural economies
- Provide additional source of revenue for existing bioprocessing facilities



#### **Environmental Benefits**

- Potential for lower toxicity
- Reduced life cycle impact
- Reduced energy requirements

### Bioproducts uniformly show emission reductions compared to their fossilderived counterparts



Life-Cycle Fossil Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Bioderived Chemicals and Their Conventional Counterparts – Felix Adom, Jennifer Dunn, Jeongwoo Han, and Norm Sather.



### PABP Strategy | Conversion Specific Goals

Identifying strategic opportunities for direct renewable chemical replacement

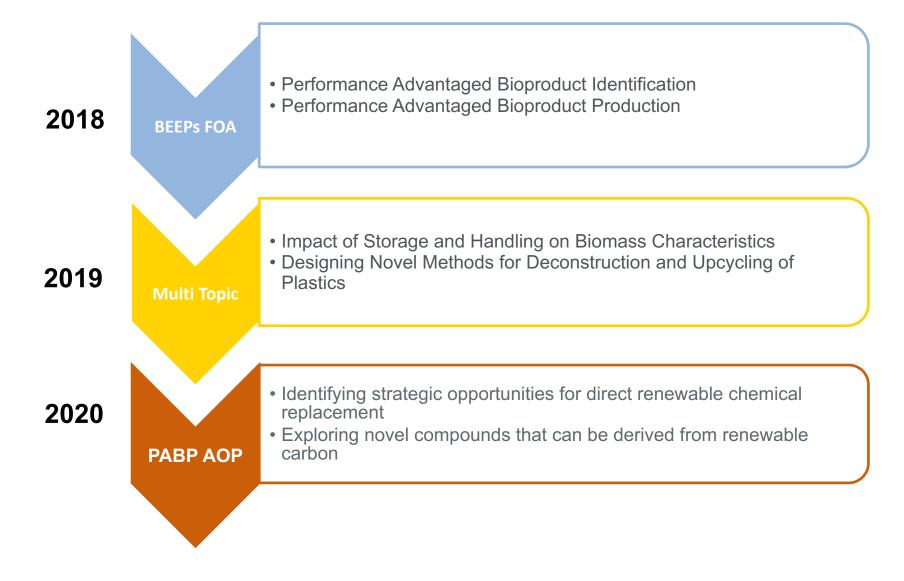
- Identify products with near term deployment/impact
- Decision matrices for cost, performance, and life cycle impacts of the targeted renewable chemical
- Understand process advantages, market size, and supply chains that favor renewable chemicals

Exploring novel compounds that can be derived from renewable carbon

- Investigate benefits of biomass conversion that cannot be matched by fossil carbon
- Determine end-product performance needs and identify biomass products that offer improved performance
- Developing unique biochemical and catalytic conversion strategies to such end products.



### Separations & PABP Strategy | Portfolio Development

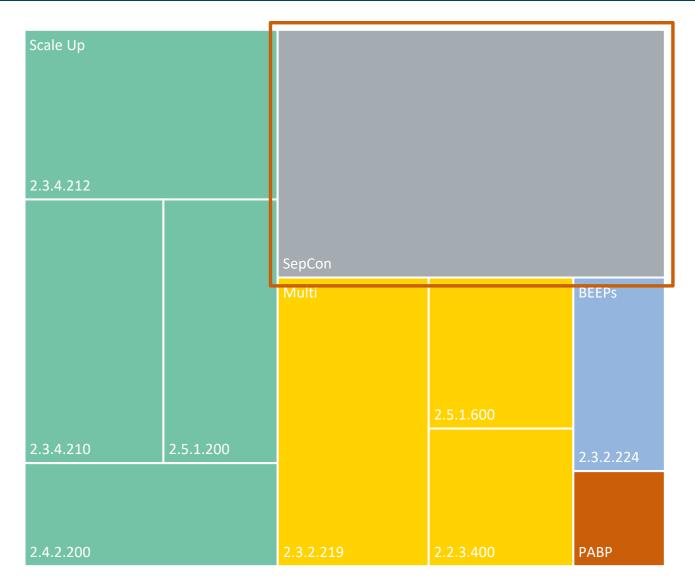


### Separations & PABP Strategy | Reviewer Feedback

- Consider other separations technologies, including reactive distillation, centrifugal enhanced heat transfer and extraction, and flash recovery from volatile pressurized extraction media
- Introduce the concept of prototyping. Aim to identify products and technologies that can be put into the hands of "customers," where appropriate, to test at early and regular time points.
- Ensure the best use of industry/commercial/subject matter experts and robust industry advisory boards (IABs) from the onset of projects and throughout.
- The availability of feedstocks from plastic waste recycle/recovery is particularly uncertain, so it is worth considering how the technology area can influence this. Coordination and collaboration across government funding agencies (e.g., National Science Foundation/DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy) and R&D development arms of agencies (e.g., U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) would be an efficient use of taxpayer dollars

Renewable Energy

### **Separations & PABP Strategy | Current Portfolio**





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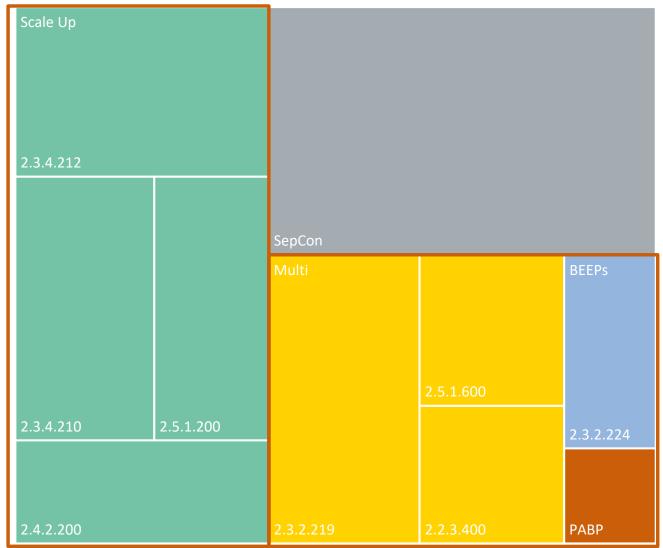
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### Separations & PABP Strategy | Current Portfolio



### **Separations Strategy | 2021 Scale Up AOP**



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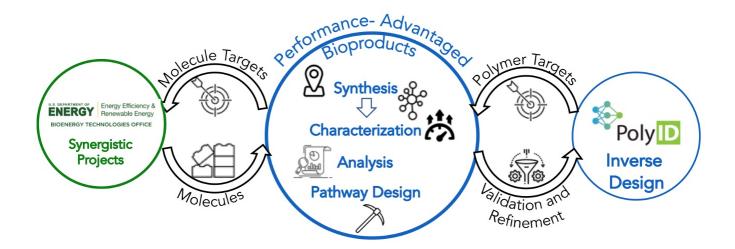
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- Identifying strategic opportunities for direct renewable chemical replacement
- Exploring novel compounds that can be derived from renewable carbon

Funded in 2018 with an initial focus on *polymers*  $\rightarrow$  expanded to include *small molecule* PABPs

Renewed in 2020 as a consortium between machine learning and synthesis





### **Separations Strategy | 2018 BEEPs FOA**



- Performance Advantaged Bioproduct Identification
- Performance Advantaged Bioproduct Production

**Topic Area 3a:** Performance Advantaged Bioproduct Identification

- Elucidating structure-function relationships for novel biobased compounds by using computational methods and/or high-throughput screening
- Identifying and publishing performance attributes unique to biobased compounds along with example compounds that display those attributes



### PABP Strategy | 2019 Multi-Topic FOA

Multi Topic

- Impact of Storage and Handling on Biomass Characteristics
- Designing Novel Methods for Deconstruction and Upcycling of Plastics

Topic Area 2b: Impact of Storage and Handling on Biomass Characteristics

- Novel storage and handling approaches for management of physical and chemical characteristics of the biomass and resulting feedstock
- New technologies and/or analytical tools to relate properties of plant tissue components to performance in storage and handling, and intrinsic inorganic element content
- Strategy design for field research-scale approaches for evaluating the effect of biomass transport on segregation of biomass by tissue type and/or compaction of biomass

Topic Area 8b: Designing Novel Methods for Deconstructing and Upcycling Existing Plastics

- Biological, low-temperature (<300 C) chemical, or hybrid systems capable of:
  - Breaking plastics down into low molecular weight streams which are either consumable by an organism, or are easily separable
  - Breaking down plastics into intermediates for upgrading into high value products
  - Breaking down multiple plastic streams simultaneously or sequentially
  - Tolerating contaminants generally found in mixed plastic waste streams



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