

Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY

Decarbonization Priorities, Bioenergy Technologies Office (BETO)

Gayle Bentley 21 March 2024



BETO develops technologies to produce fuels and chemicals from **renewable** resources, primarily biomass

- **Biomass** includes food waste, municipal solid waste, agricultural and forest wastes, animal wastes, and energy crops.
- **Bioenergy** is the conversion of biomass to energy that can replace fossil fuels.



Bioeconomy: An economy based on products, services, and processes derived from biological resources (e.g., plants and microorganisms) and encompassing multiple sectors.

Bioenergy is a key component of the U.S. bioeconomy and contributor to *decarbonizing transportation, industry, and agriculture*.

BETO Multi-Year Program Plan (MYPP)

BETO

Strategic

Goals

BIOENERGY TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE Multi-Year Program Plan

2023



Decarbonize Transportation



Decarbonize the transportation sector through RD&D to produce cost-effective, sustainable aviation and other strategic fuels.

- By 2030, enable SAF with >70% GHG emission reductions compared to petroleum
- By 2030, support scale up of SAF with >70% GHG reductions with >4 demo scale integrated biorefineries
- By 2030, support 3B gallons domestic SAF production, reaching 35B gallons by 2050

Decarbonize Industry



Decarbonize the industrial sector through RD&D to produce cost-effective and sustainable chemicals, materials, and processes utilizing biomass and waste resources.

- By 2030 enable commercial production of >10 renewable chemicals and materials with >70% GHG reduction relative to relevant petroleum-derived counterparts, supporting >1 million metric tons/year CO2e emissions reductions
- By 2030, enable at least one cost-effective and recyclable bio-based plastic that mitigates ≥50% GHG emissions relative to virgin resin or plastic production

Decarbonize Communities



Develop cost-effective, sustainable biomass and waste utilization technologies and innovative approaches contributing to the decarbonization of the agricultural sector, generating carbon-negative power, developing carbon drawdown strategies, or other beneficial uses.

By 2030, demonstrate more than three place-based strategies for climate smart agriculture, waste management, environmental remediation, or other beneficial uses of renewable carbon resources

BETO's Role in Decarbonizing Industry

Strategic Goal

Decarbonize the sector through R&D to produce cost effective sustainable chemicals, materials and processes utilizing biomass and waste resources.

2030 Performance Goal

- Enable production of <u>>10 renewable</u> <u>chemicals</u> and materials with >70% GHG reduction
- ➤ Enable <u>at least one</u> cost-effective and <u>recyclable bio-based plastic that</u> mitigates ≥50% GHG emissions





BETO Framework for Industrial Decarbonization



Nicholson unpublished, Material Flow Through Industries (MFI)

Industrial Decarbonization Efforts

- BETO funds projects that use biomass, wastes, and CO₂ as alternative feedstocks to petroleum for chemical and material production
- GHG reductions are a primary focus for all of these



- Biomass feedstocks for biochemicals and biofuels
- National Lab-led consortium
- 100+ industry and academic partnerships
- >15 commercial products enabled
- Target both SAF and chemicals
- \$18M FY24



- Biomass feedstocks for redesigned plastics
- Waste plastic feedstock
- National Lab-led consortium
- Redesign, recycling, and upcycling of plastics
- \$5M/year BETO, \$5M/year AMMTO
- Plastics FOA efforts \$8M FY19, \$10M FY20, \$5M FY21



- CO₂ feedstock
- CO₂ reduction to C1 intermediates
- Microbial intermediate upgrading to chemicals
- \$10M FY24 national lab call \$5M/year
- CO₂ FOA efforts \$7.5 M FY20, \$5M FY18



- Reduce Process Energy
- National Lab-led consortium
- 6 tasks that develop low-energy separations technologies

Additional BETO efforts in performance-advantaged bioproducts, algae polyurethanes, lignin-derived products



Backup Slides

BETO's Role in Decarbonizing Transportation

Strategic Goal

Decarbonize the sector through RD&D to produce cost-effective, sustainable aviation and other strategic fuels

2030 Performance Goal

- By 2030, enable SAF with >70% GHG emission reductions compared to petroleum
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US National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization, BETO contributes SAF, heavy duty, rail, and marine

SAF Grand Challenge

 Government-wide initiative led by DOE, USDA, and DOT to expand the domestic production of SAF to meet <u>100% of</u> <u>domestic demand</u> for aviation fuel.



Industrial Decarbonization Case Study. AVAPCO - From Strain Development to Demonstration



The Role of Biomass in Agriculture

- 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 Well to Pump

Focus areas in agriculture:

- Maximize soil CO₂ 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.



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

BETO has enabled a wide range of companies to produce renewable chemicals



U.S. Department of Energy Sustainable Transportation Offices



Petrochemical GHG emissions are strongly driven by process fuel. Bioprocesses can dramatically reduce these needs



Bioprocess separations are key to industrial decarbonization



BETO's Bioprocessing Separations Consortium: Develop cost-effective, high-performing separations technologies through coordinated separations research that targets industry-relevant bioprocessing separations challenges

Sholl and Lively. "Seven chemical separations to change the world," *Nature*, **2016** 532: 425-437.
EERE. 2016. Strategic Plan for a Thriving and Sustainable Bioeconomy.
Biddy et al. "The Techno-Economic Basis for Coproduct Manufacturing To Enable Hydrocarbon Fuel Products from Lignocellulosic Biomass." *ACS Sustainable Chem. Eng.* **2016** 4: 3196-3211.

Strategic Goal

Decarbonize the sector through R&D to materials and processes utilizing bioma

2030 Performance Goal

- Enable production of >10 renewable
- Enable <u>at least one cost-effective and</u> **GHG** emissions



million

CO₂ Emissions

Commercial

FIGURE 3. U.S. PRIMARY ENERGY-RELATED CO2 EMISSIONS BY END USE SECTOR (LEFT PIE CHART) AND A BREAKOUT BY INDUSTRIAL SUBSECTOR (RIGHT STACKED CHART) IN 2020.

Cement and Lime

Food Products

22 (2% of Industrial)

Lignin fractionation	Lignin fractionation enables conversion to valuable fuels and co-products that can enhance process economics and sustainability.	
Recovery of carbon from dilute streams	Increasing carbon efficiency of processes from recovery of valuable co-products can lead to improved process economics.	° C
Removal of impurities from aqueous streams	Poisons and foulants limit the lifetimes of upgrading (bio)catalysts. Impurities limit drop-in fuel compatibility. Selective removal strategies to eliminate them will extend catalyst life and decrease processing costs.	
Process intensification	Reducing the number of processing steps associated with separations, including through reactive fermentation and in-situ product recovery, reduce process energy intensity and costs.	

Nature is replete with chemical complexity

Many bio-based chemicals can be accessed through conserved, central carbon pathways with a wide range of functionalitiesincluding products with heteroatoms



Industrial Heat Shot

Summit

October 2023

Biomanufacturing Process Improvements



* Office of Fossil Energy R&D on technologies of relevance to bioenergy industry.