

# INITIATIVE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Richard “Dick” Hemmingsen, Director

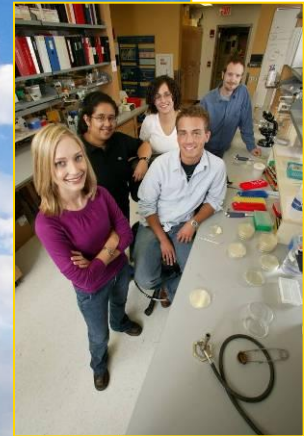


June 2, 2010

INSTITUTE ON THE  
ENVIRONMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Driven to Discover™

# IREE Mission (est. 2003)

To promote statewide economic development, sustainable, healthy, and diverse ecosystems, and national energy security through development of bio-based and other renewable resources and processes.



# Legislative Support

## 2003 Special Session, H.F. 9

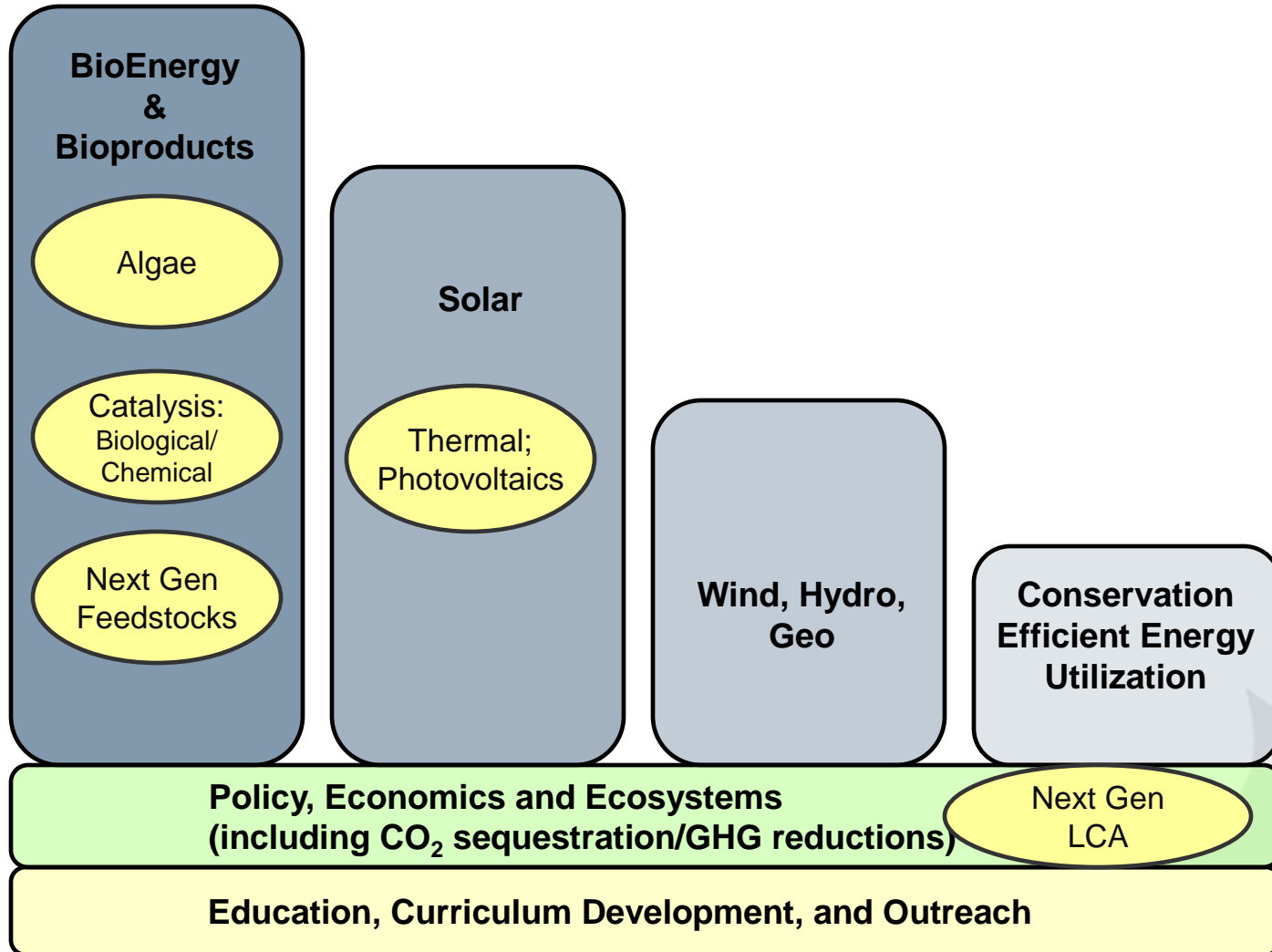
\$10 Mil. from Xcel Renewable Development Fund  
~\$2Mil./yr for five years from Xcel CIP obligation

## 2007 Session

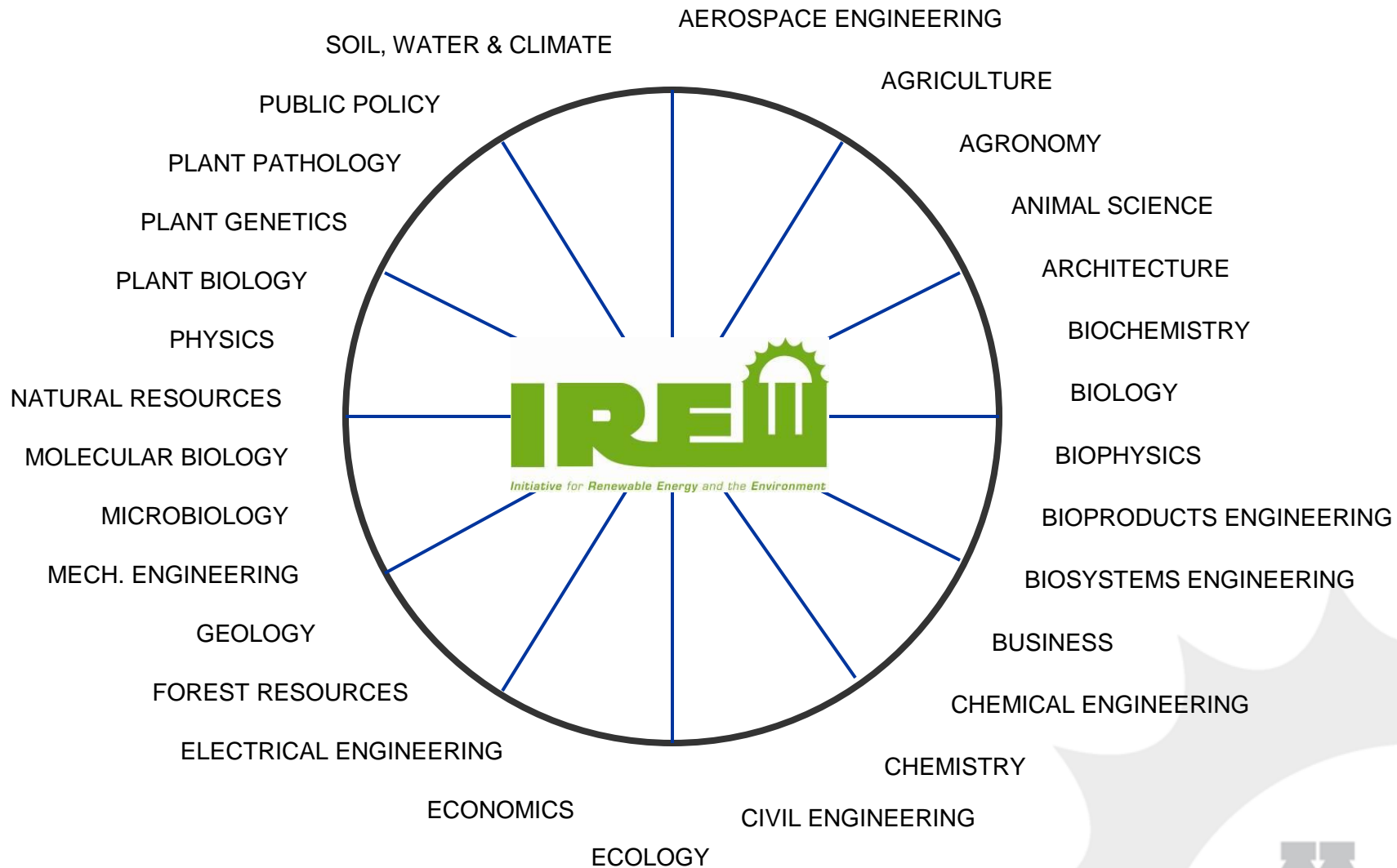
Re-authorized and transitioned to current level of \$5  
mil/year from Xcel Renewable Development Fund



# IREE's Portfolio – Moving Forward



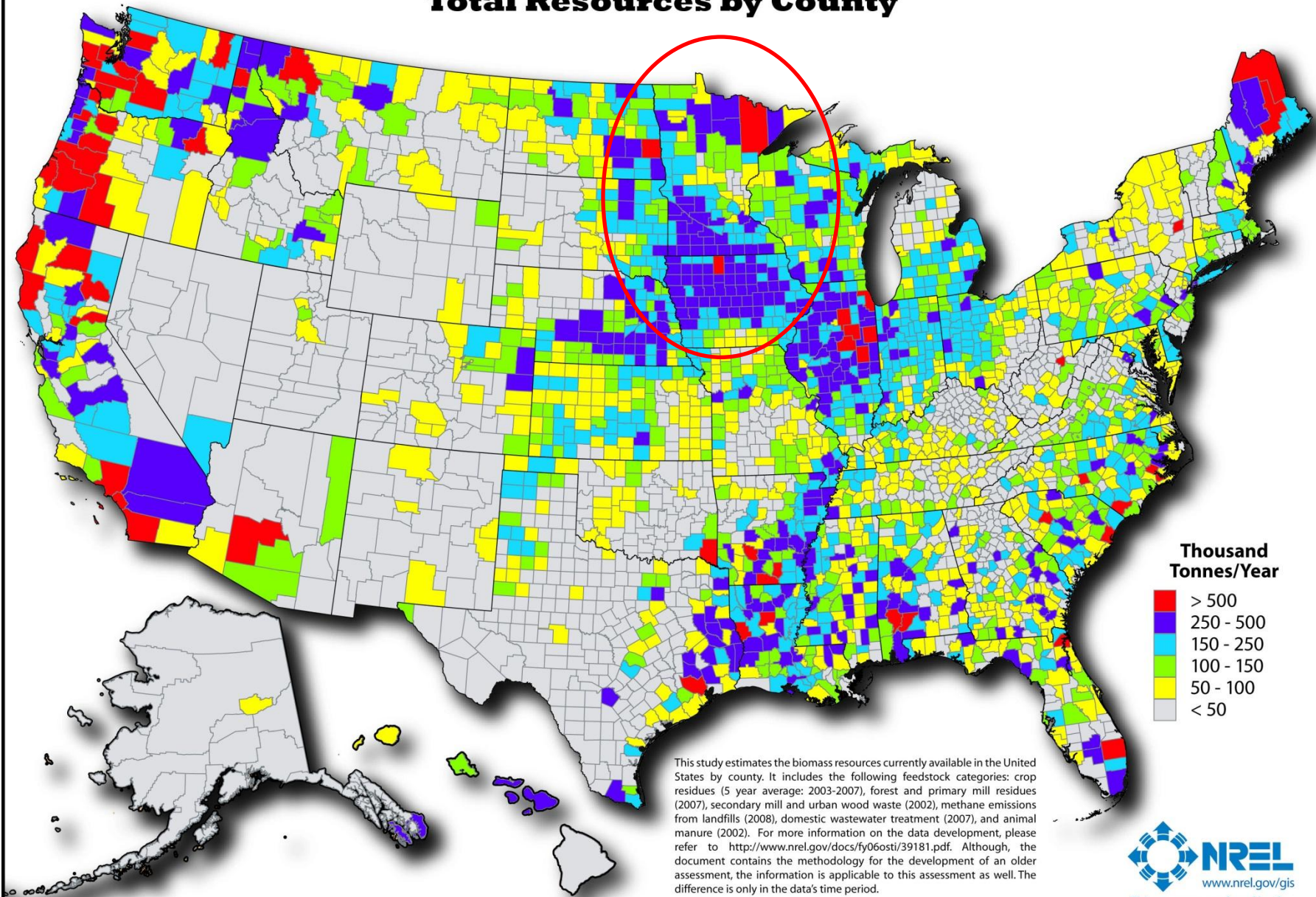
# Facts and Figures – Disciplines





# Biomass Resources of the United States

## Total Resources by County



This map was produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy.

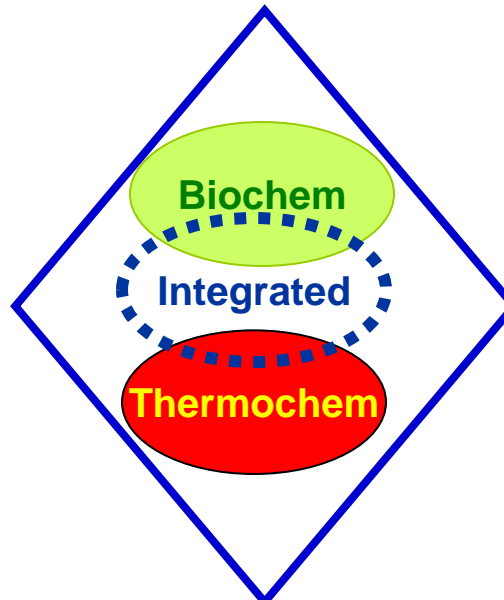
Author : Billy Roberts - September 23, 2009

# Next Generation Bioenergy/Bioproducts Systems

Next-generation feedstocks

e.g.  
Energy crops  
Woody biomass  
Prairie systems  
Microalgae  
Microbes  
Waste streams

Next-generation conversion systems



Next-generation Fuels/products

eg.  
DME  
Methanol  
Green diesel  
Butanol  
Alkanes  
Polymers  
Bldg mats  
Power

Policy, Economics and Ecosystems  
(including CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration/GHG reductions)



# Carbon Negative Biofuels from Prairie Grasses

## *Impacts:*

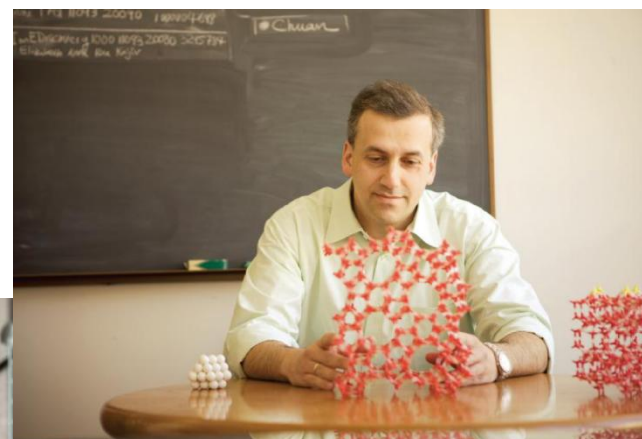
- 2x the biomass compared to monoculture
- Significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions - Carbon Negative!
- Adapted to marginal soils
- Require fewer inputs to grow and cultivate
- More resilient to drought, disease, and pests
- Applicable to fuels and power



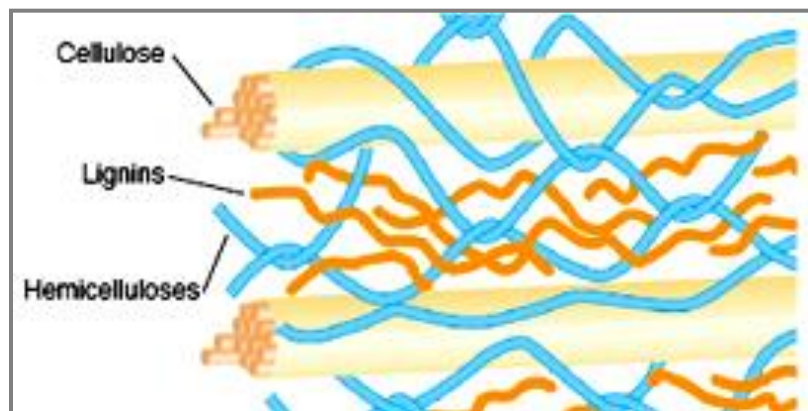


# Thermochemical Approaches to Conversion of Biomass in **Small-Scale, Distributed Systems**

Project leads: [Michael Tsapatsis](#), ChemE; [Roger Ruan](#), BBE

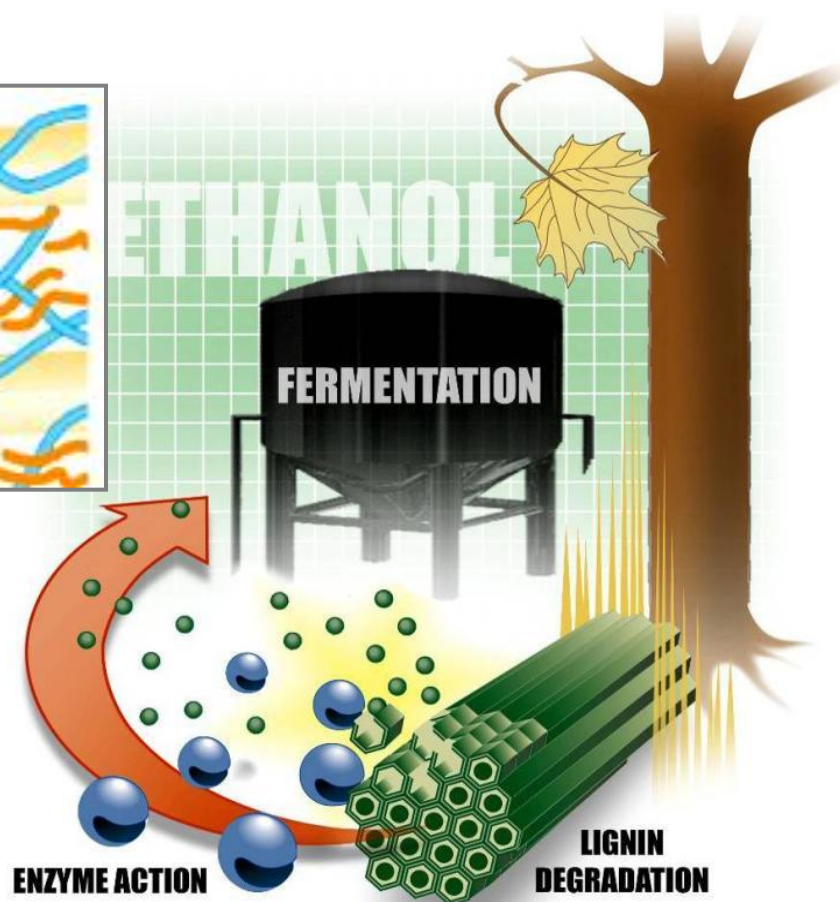


# BREAKING DOWN LIGNIN

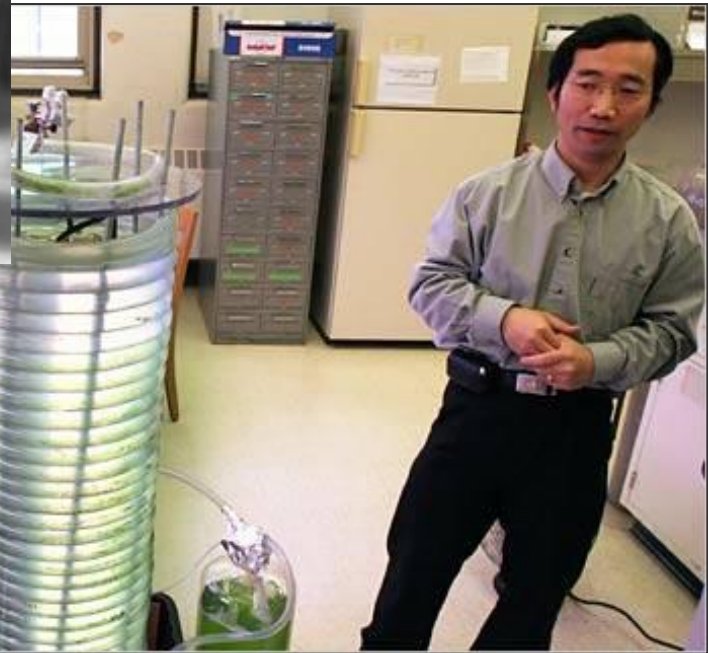


Related Sarkanen work included in BioEnergy Science Center led by the DOE's Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge

Related Schilling work selected as DOE Early Career award



# Algae/waste water-to-biofuels/co-products research

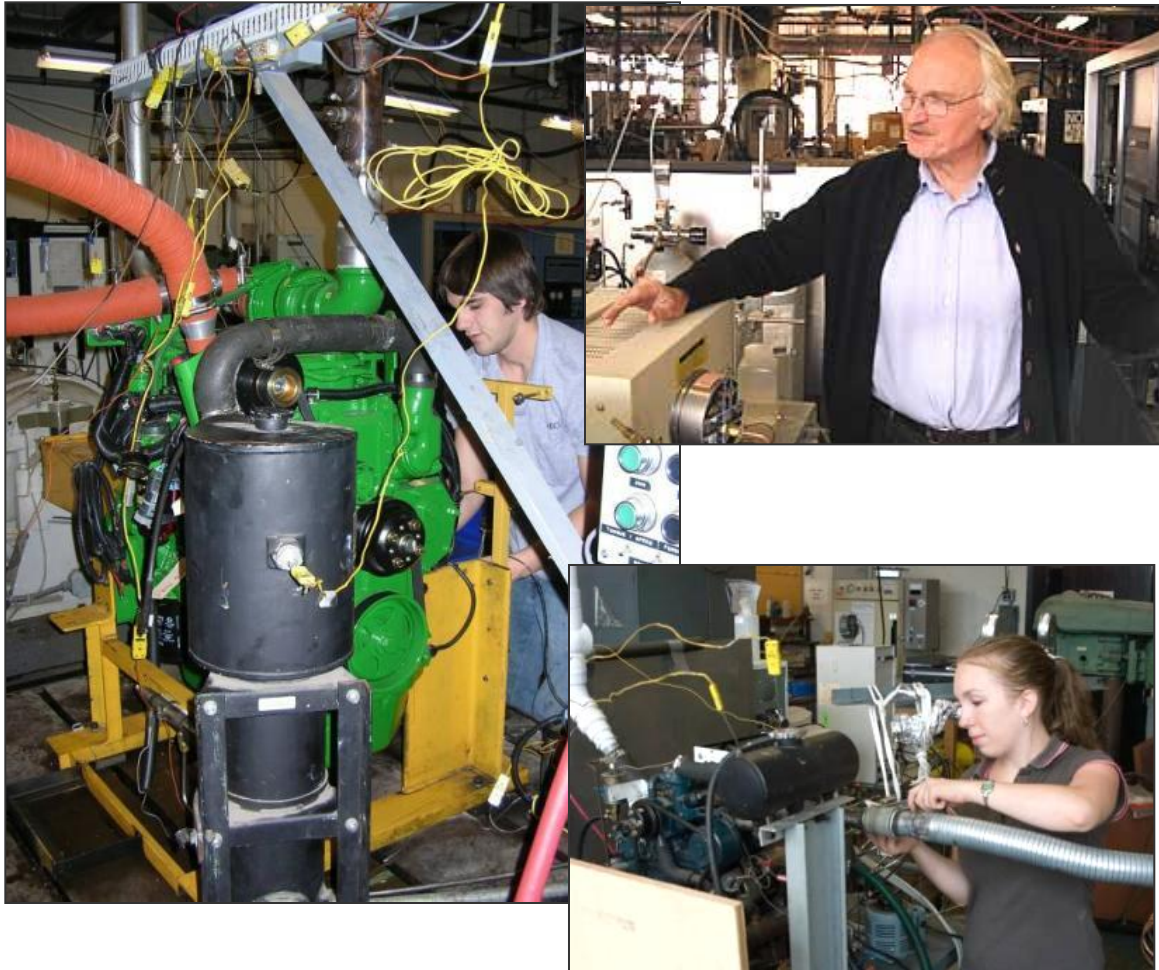


In Partnership with:



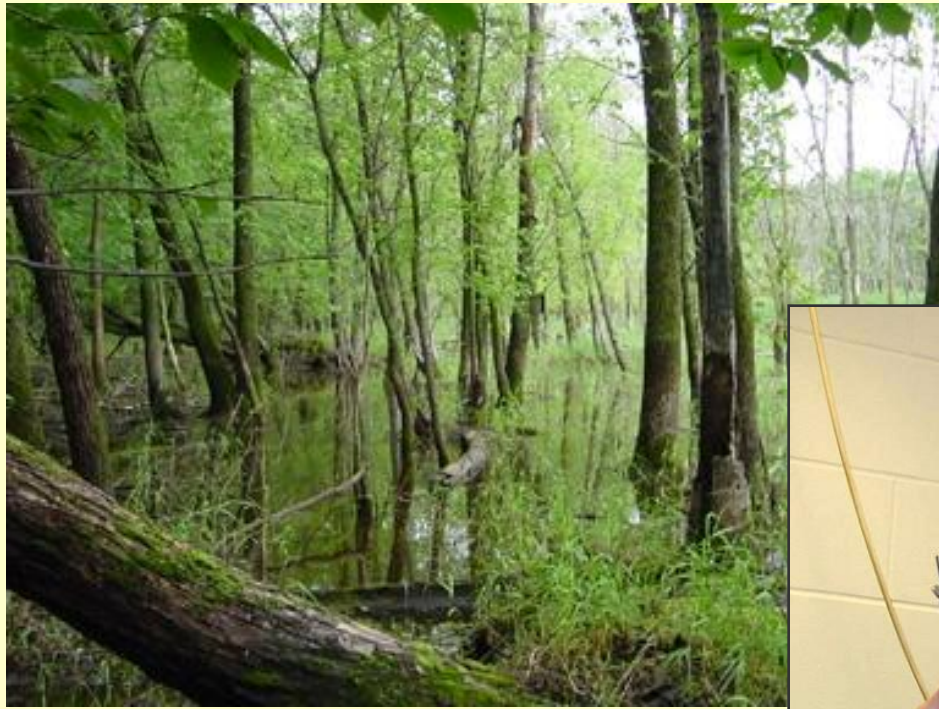


# NEXT GENERATION ENGINES AND EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF BIOFUELS

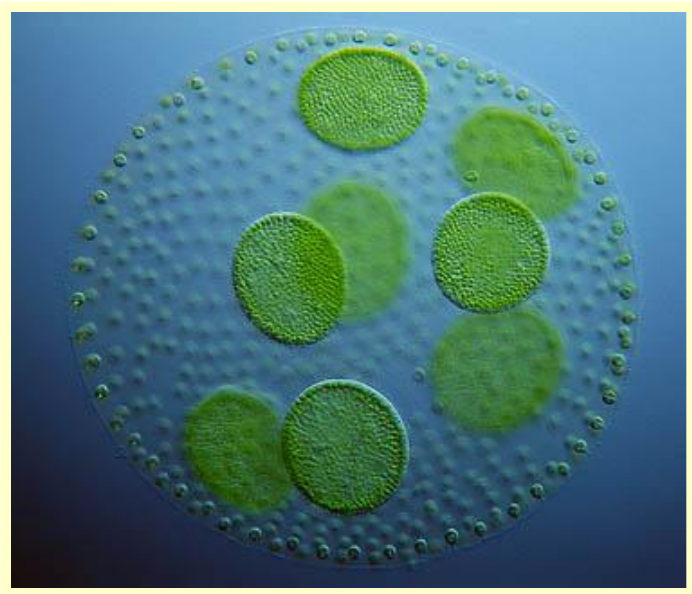




# OPTIMIZING MICROBIAL FUEL CELLS

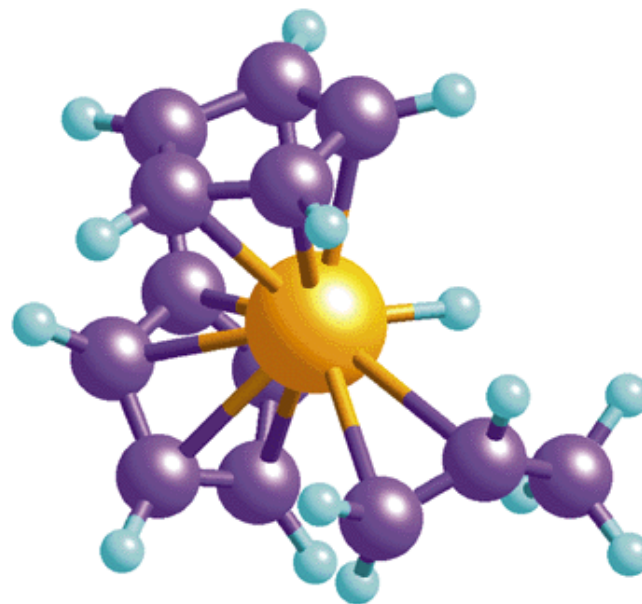


# ENHANCING THE PRODUCTION OF HYDROGEN BY GENETIC ENGINEERING OF THE ALGA *Chlamydomonas Reinhardtii*



# Sustainable Polymers: Tomorrow's Advanced Materials

Project lead: [Marc Hillmyer](#), Chemistry

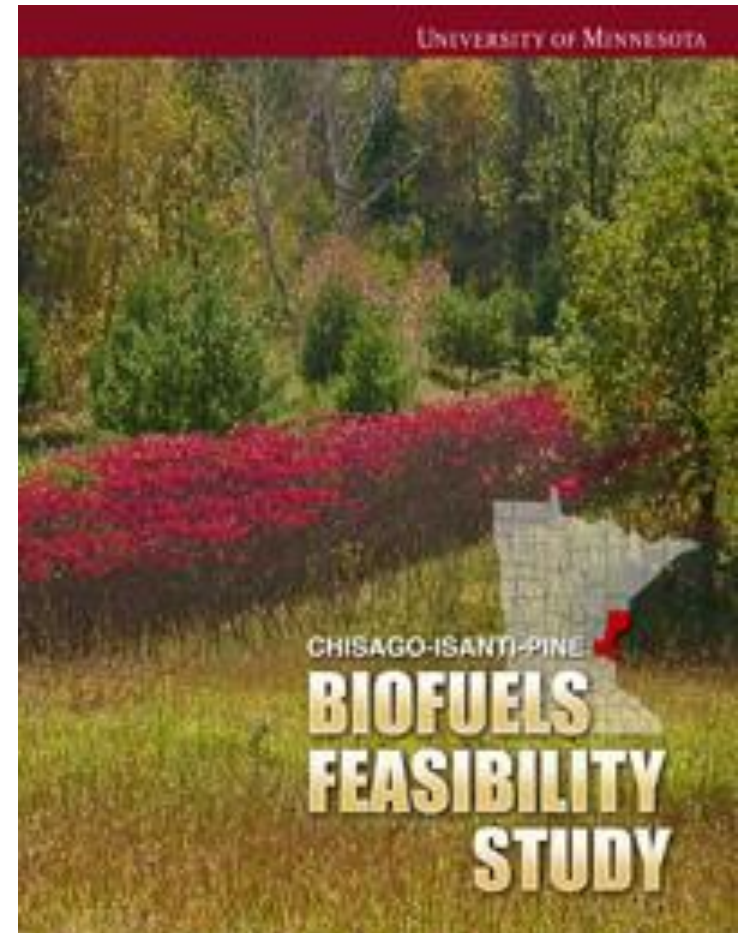
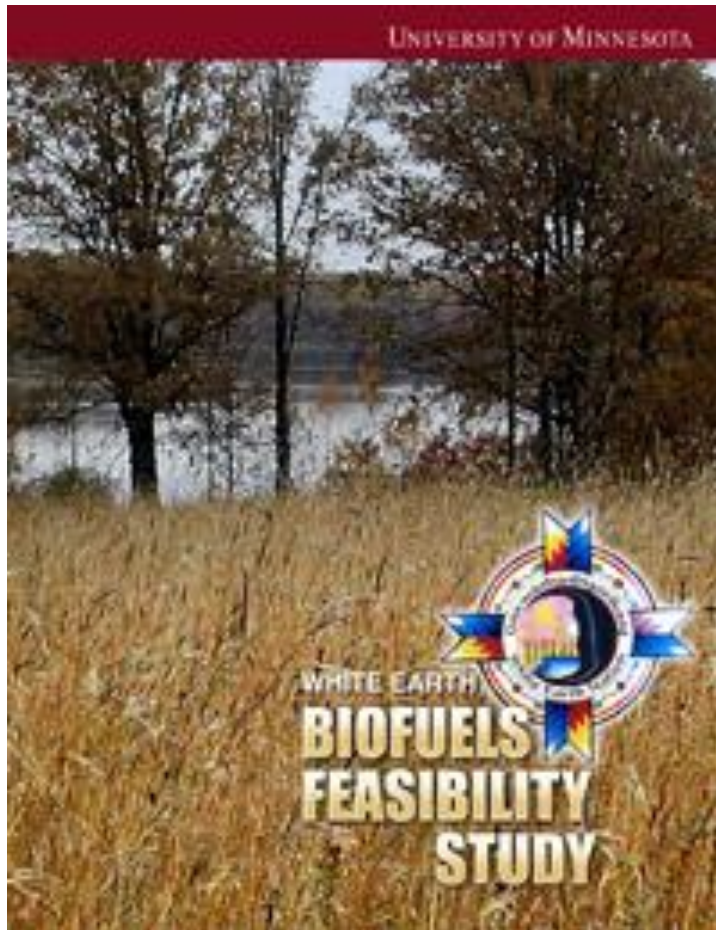


<http://www.chem.umn.edu/csp/>





# IREE completes 2 comprehensive biofuels feasibility studies



[http://www.bti.umn.edu/WE\\_CIP/index.html](http://www.bti.umn.edu/WE_CIP/index.html)

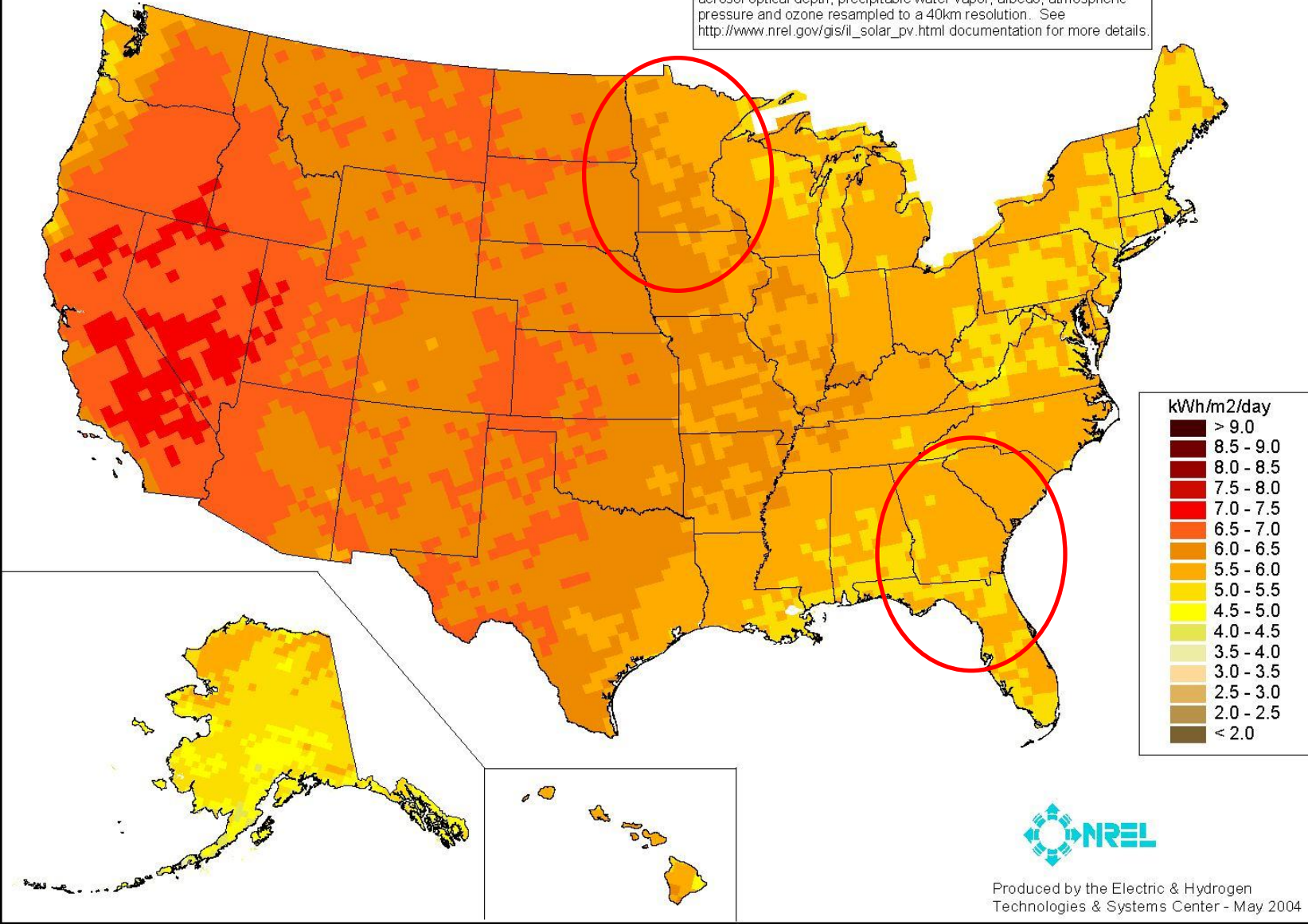




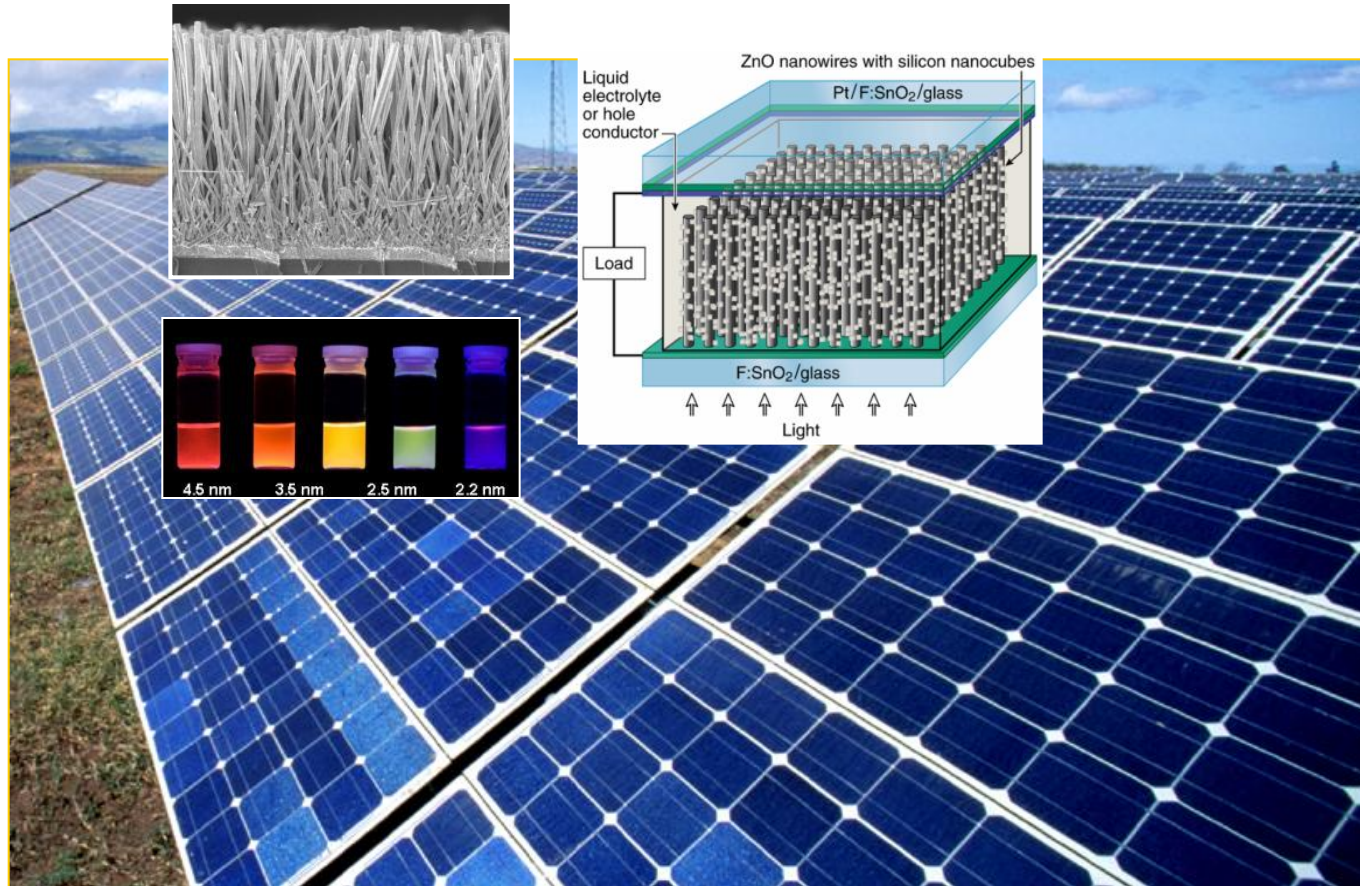
# PV Solar Radiation (Flat Plate, Facing South, Latitude Tilt)

July

Model estimates of monthly average daily total radiation using inputs derived from satellite and/or surface observations of cloud cover, aerosol optical depth, precipitable water vapor, albedo, atmospheric pressure and ozone resampled to a 40km resolution. See [http://www.nrel.gov/gis/il\\_solar\\_pv.html](http://www.nrel.gov/gis/il_solar_pv.html) documentation for more details.



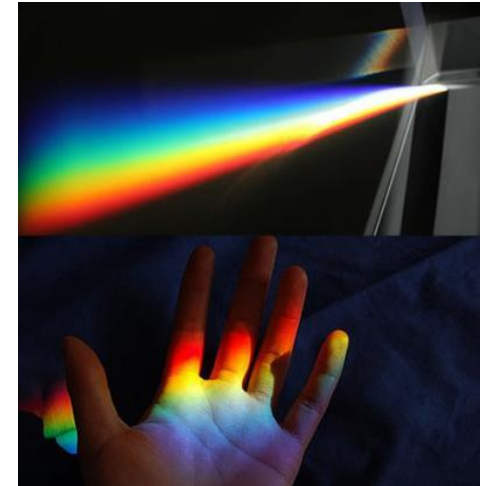
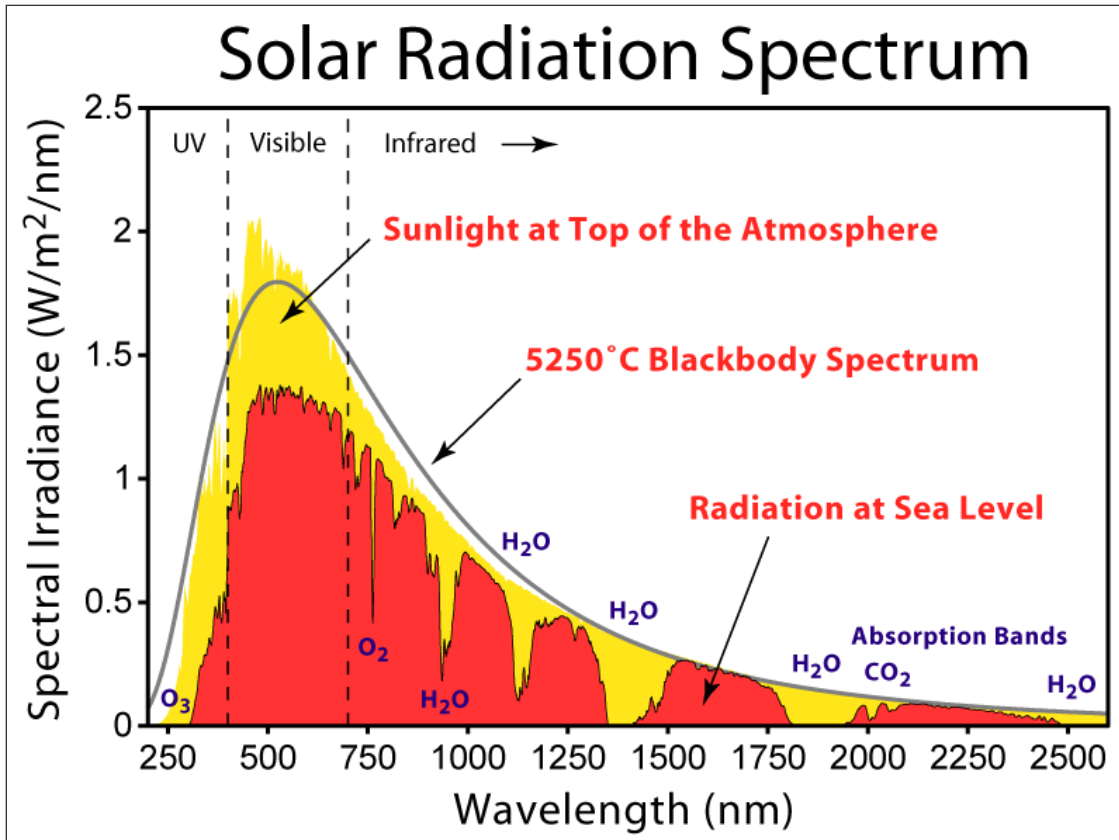
# USING NANOTECHNOLOGY TO CREATE HIGH-EFFICIENCY, LOW-COST SOLAR CELLS





# Laterally Integrated Photovoltaic Systems

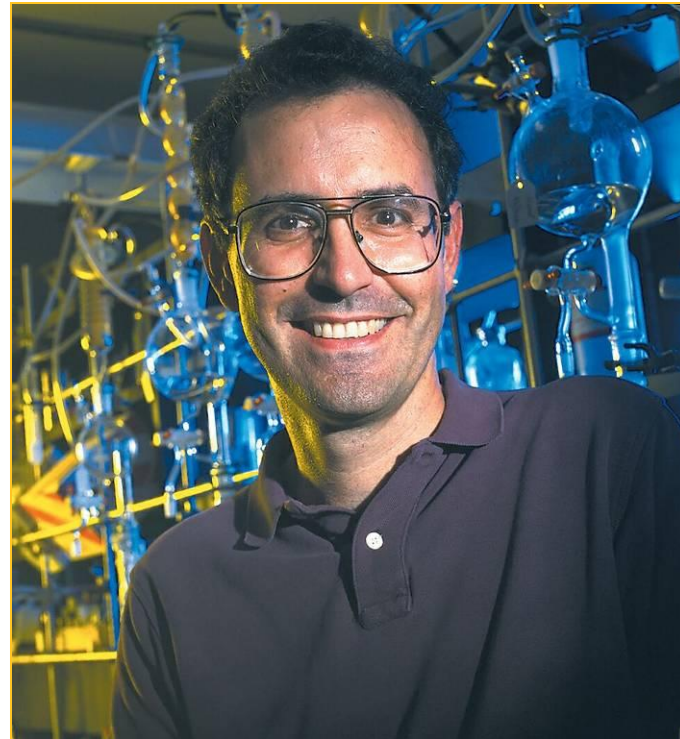
Project lead: [Philip Cohen](#), Electrical and Computer Engineering



# *Ink Jet Direct Write Solar Cells*

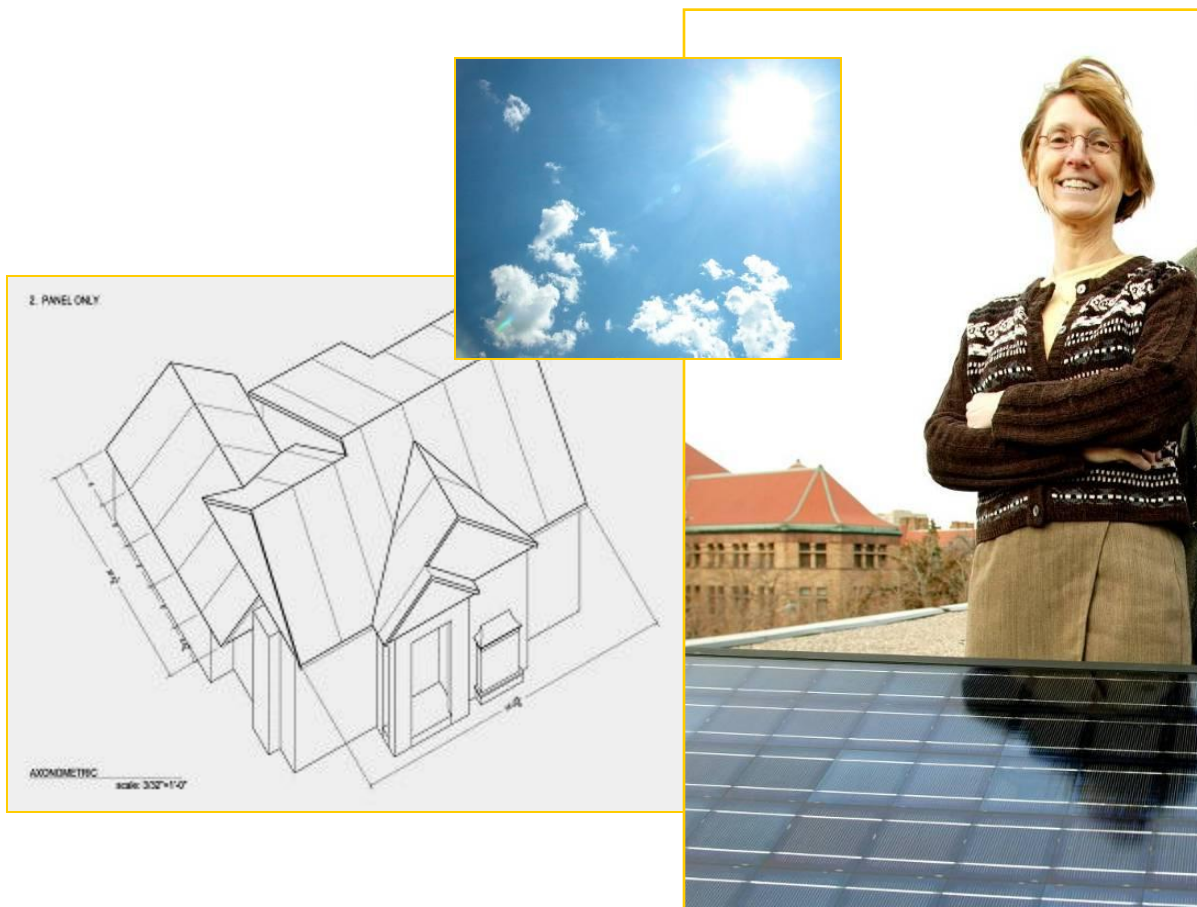
*Research to develop lower-cost solar cells using ink jet technology.*

Impact: Will Enable solar technology to be cost competitive with other current energy generation sources, thereby providing a strong driving force for it to be incorporated into a diversified power generation portfolio.



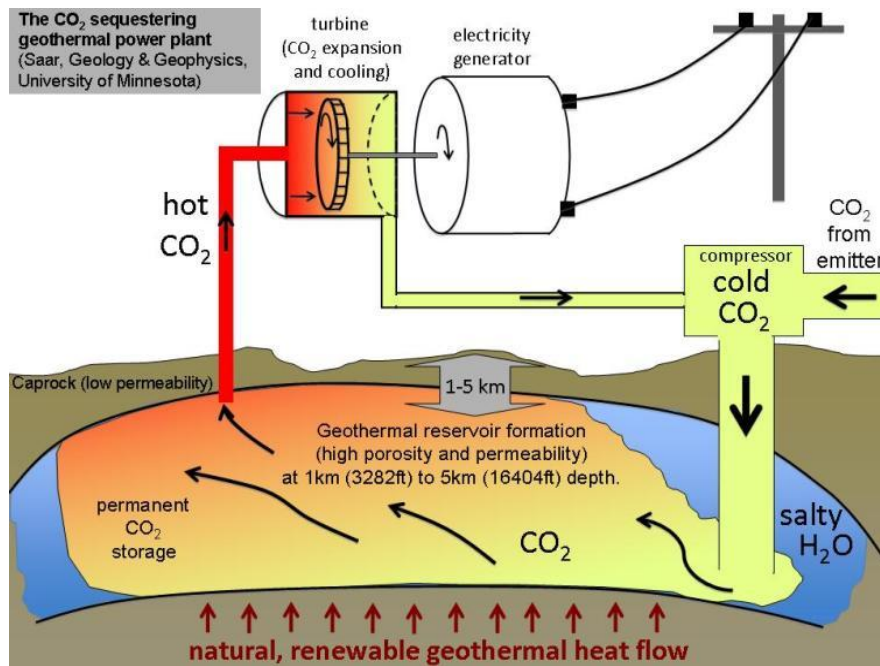


# SOLAR-THERMAL RESEARCH



# Combining Geothermal Energy Extraction and CO2 Sequestration to Produce Clean, Renewable, Carbon Negative Electricity

Project lead: [Martin Saar](#), Geology and Geophysics



High-temperature Geothermal – Iceland

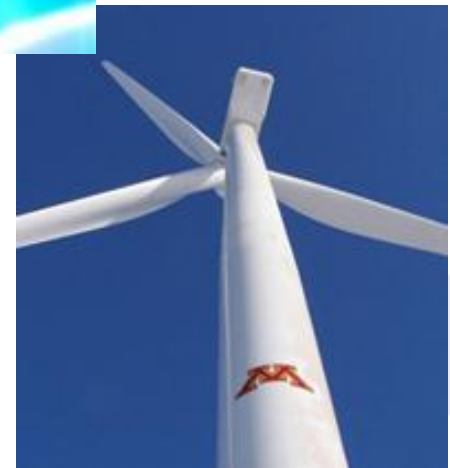
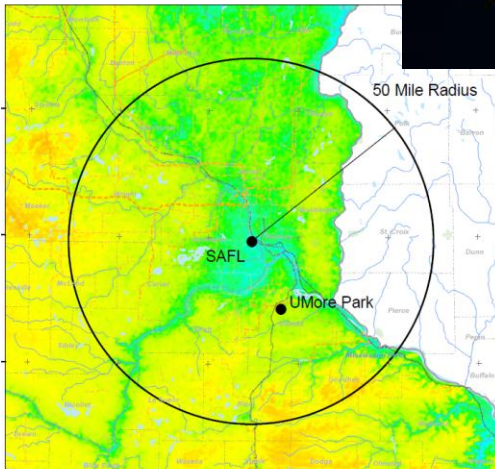
Low-temperature Geothermal – Minnesota



## \$1.5 mil award (11/09)



# Industry/Academe Consortium for Achieving 20% wind by 2030 through Research & Workforce Training



# Consortium Participants

## Institutions of Higher Learning

- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities (UM)
- Syracuse University (SU)

## Technical College

Dakota County Technical College (DCTC)

## Industrial Partners



## Funding

\$8M (DOE) + \$3.5M(cost-share)

## Project PI

Fotis Sotiropoulos – (CE) UM

## Project co-PIs

- R. E. Arndt – (CE) UM
- G. Balas – (AEM) UM
- M. Glauser – (MAE) SU
- M. Jovanovich – (ECE) UM
- M. Kaveh – (ECE) UM
- J. Labuz – (CE) UM
- S. Mantell – (ME) UM
- N. Mohan – (ECE) UM
- F. Porte-Angel (CE) UM
- K. Stelson – (ME) UM
- H. Stolarski – (CE) UM

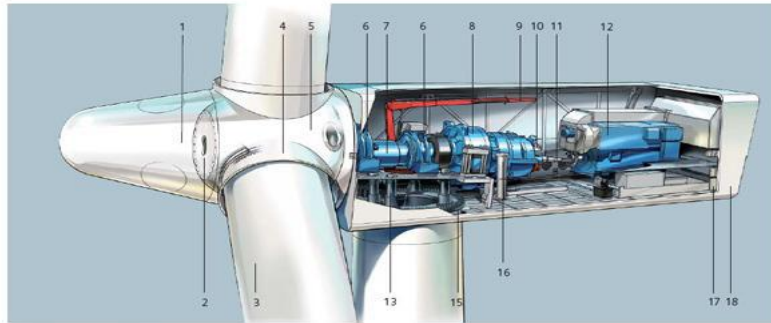




# Research Challenges

Siemens Wind Turbine SWT-3.6-107

Description Technical Specification Design

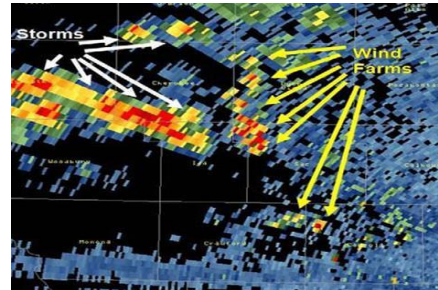


Nacelle Arrangement

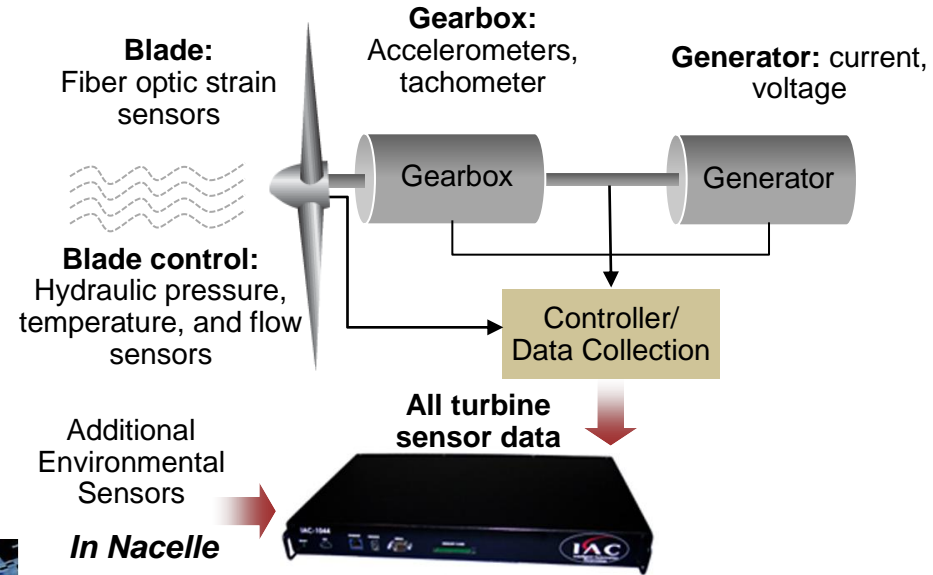
Gear box and generator reliability & efficiency



Foundation design



Wind farms & weather radars



Health-based monitoring and preventive maintenance



# Wind-to-Battery Storage



 **Xcel Energy**<sup>®</sup>

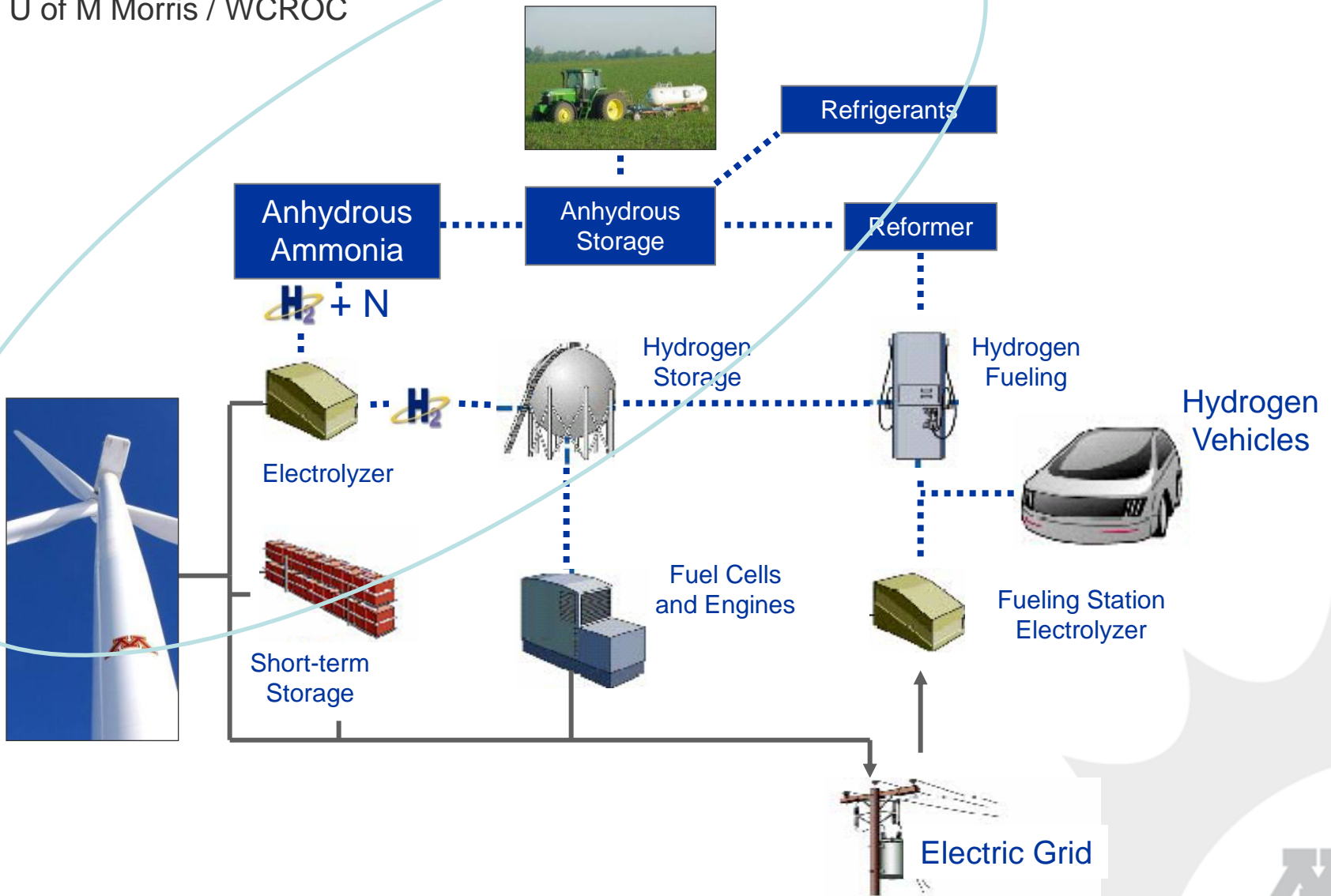


Lifting a battery module into place  
Photo courtesy of S&C Electric Company



# Wind-to-Hydrogen

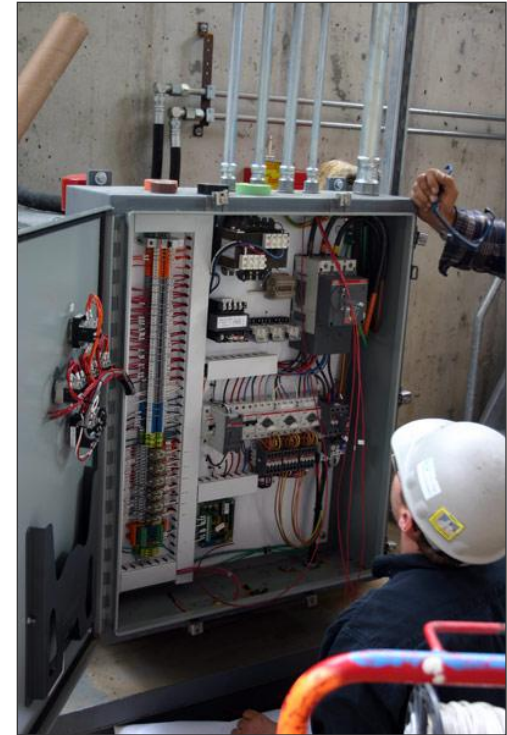
U of M Morris / WCROC





# Evaluation, Validation and Demonstration of Small-Scale Renewable Energy Systems for Homes and Businesses

Project lead: [Michael Reese](#), Morris WCROC



# Air Pollution Impacts of Conventional and Alternative Fuels: A Spatial and Temporal Life Cycle Analysis Decision Support Tool

(Advanced Life Cycle Analysis: tracking amount, location, and timing of GHG emissions)

Project lead: [Julian Marshall](#), Civil Engineering



# FY 2010 Investment Strategy

## Large Grants

- 25 pre-proposals (100 investigators - \$15.6 mil)
- 19 invited full proposals (71 investigators - \$10.8 mil)
- 9 proposals awarded (36 investigators - \$4.85 mil)

## \*Early Career Grants (\$750K)

- 16 pre-proposals (22 investigators - \$2.3 mil)
- 10 invited full proposals (12 investigators - \$1.5 mil)
- 6 proposals awarded (8 investigators, - \$796,361)

## Seed Grants (\$750K)

- 27 proposals (51 investigators - \$1.8 \$ mil)
- 9 proposals awarded (23 investigators - \$565,574)

## Special Opportunity Program

- Waste to energy?
- Conservation/Energy Efficiency?
- Leveraging significant (DOE) solicitations?





# Matching Grant Program

## Status May 27. 2010

14 currently active Matching Grants

\$ 1,919,520 IREE investments

\$14,044,920 extramural funds leveraged

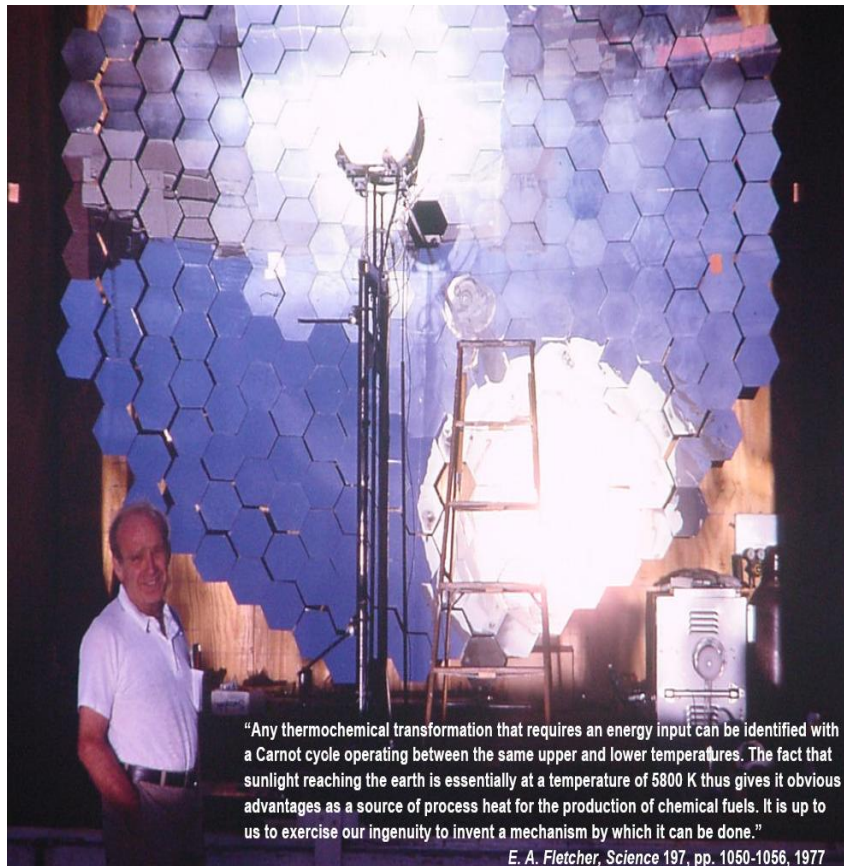
15 currently pending Matching Grants

\$ 1,55,129 IREE funds pledged

\$28,249,828 extramural funds leveraged if all funded



# The critical need for substantial and sustained investment in public research



CONCENTRATING) SOLAR  
RESEARCH -- circa 1970's



# Thermochemical Fuels: Solar at Night

Project lead: [Jane Davidson](#), Mechanical Engineering



H<sub>2</sub> production two step water splitting/ZnO cycle

Concentrating solar for biomass gasification

Solar Recycling of CO<sub>2</sub> to fuels

**\*\* Sunlight to fuels – CO<sub>2</sub> to hydrocarbons - DOE Hub**





# The Larry Wackett Research Group



# *Shewanella* as an Ideal Platform for Producing Hydrocarbon Biofuels

Leverage DOE investment in *Shewanella* to develop novel hydrocarbon production strains utilizing renewable substrates

- Wackett and Gralnick Labs, U. Minnesota

Collaboration with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to use *Shewanella* and phototroph co-cultures to make hydrocarbons

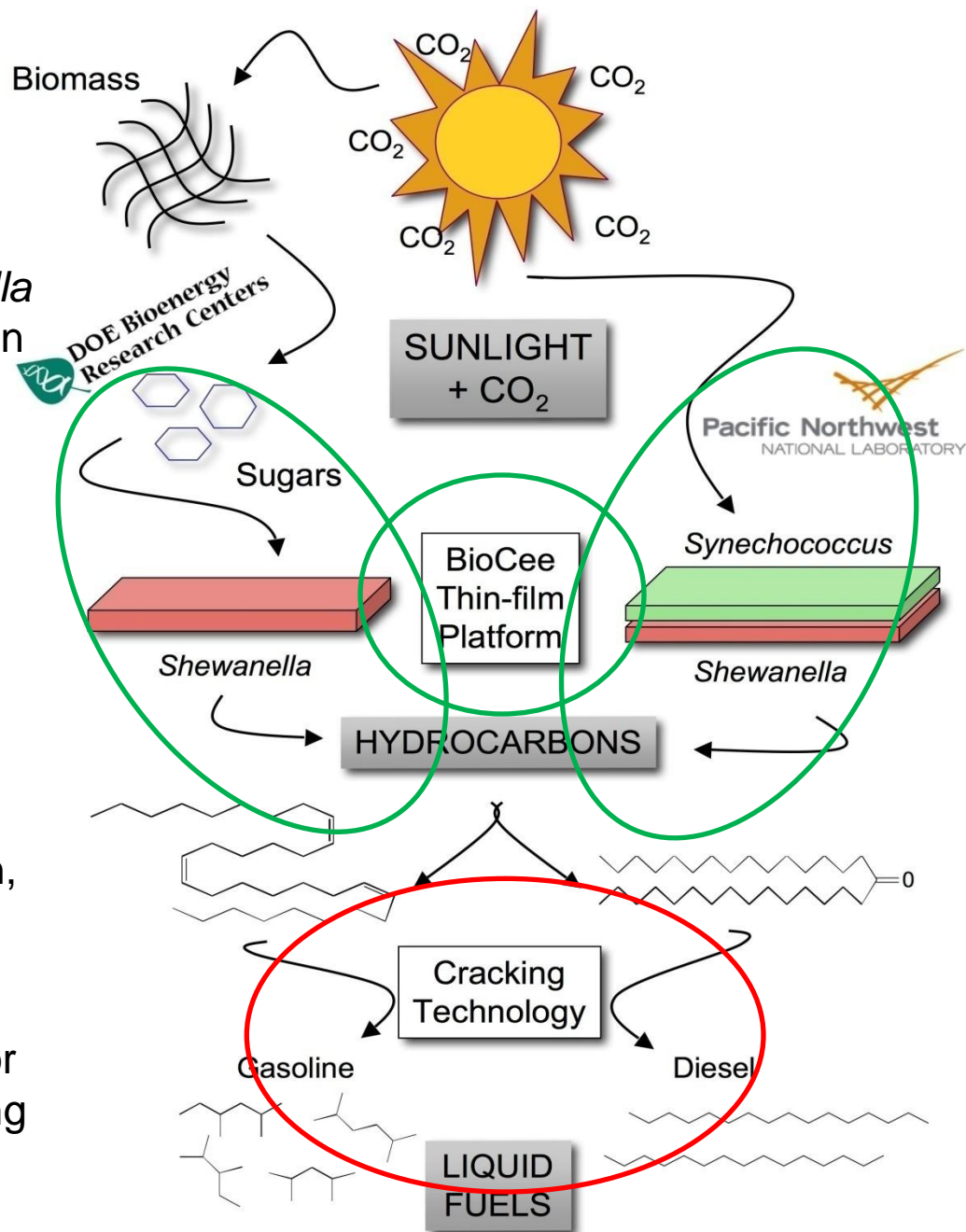
- Fredrickson and Beliaev Labs, PNNL

Thin-film biocatalysis using BioCee biocoating technology for cost reduction, stabilization and control

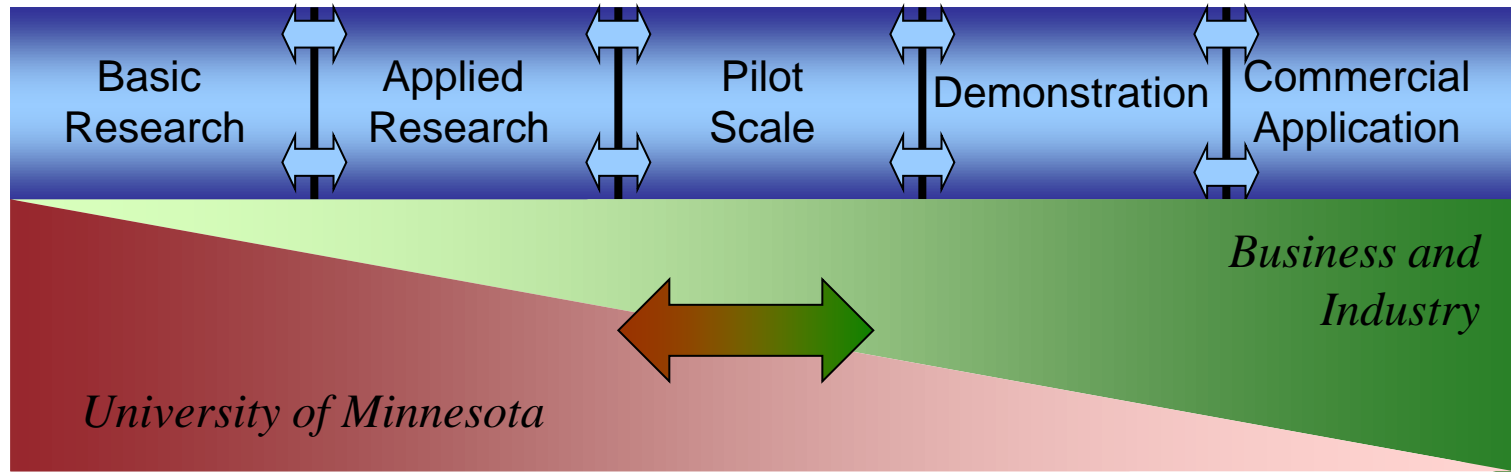
- BioCee, Inc, Minneapolis, MN

Novel single-pipe metal & zeolite reactor configuration for hydrocarbon processing

- Schmidt and Bhan Labs, U. Minnesota



# The Research-Development-Commercialization Continuum





Mark your calendar!



**GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE BIOENERGY**  
**NORTH AMERICAN CONVENTION 2010**

SEPTEMBER 14-16 AT MARQUETTE HOTEL, MINNEAPOLIS

[environment.umn.edu/gsb](http://environment.umn.edu/gsb)



Mark your calendar!

# E3 2010



**The Midwest's Premier Energy,  
Economic and Environmental Conference**  
Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre

[www.iree.umn.edu/e3](http://www.iree.umn.edu/e3)



We need to develop *next-generation renewable energy systems* with multiple benefits...*systems approaches* for the best mix of desirable benefits:

- Economic benefits
- Energy security benefits
- Environmental benefits
  - water quality
  - air quality
  - soil quality
  - habitat





## IN CLOSING...

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to



you by your children. We do not inherit the

Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our

Children."

**- Ancient Indian Proverb**



THANK YOU



Questions?