

**\$1 A GALLON SYNTHETIC LIQUID FUEL  
WITH NEAR-ZERO GHG EMISSIONS  
FROM COAL + BIOMASS  
USING NEAR-TERM TECHNOLOGY**

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Viewgraphs for Presentation

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# SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

- Super-clean “*designer*” synfuels @ plant-gate cost ~ \$1.0-\$1.2 a gallon of gasoline equivalent (gge)\* can be made via “*coordinated*” production from secure and abundant domestic coal + biomass
  - Such designer fuels can facilitate shift to super-efficient Diesel cars
  - Average GHG emission rate = that for H<sub>2</sub> from coal with CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage (CCS)...*if CCS pursued for both coal and biomass*
  - This strategy realizable with commercial/near-commercial technologies → significant market penetration during 2010-2025 ...long before H<sub>2</sub> economy can be established
- 
- For comparison, US refinery-gate gasoline prices:
    - \$1.0 a gge in 2003 (*for crude oil @ \$29/barrel*)
    - \$1.3 a gge in June 2004 (*for crude oil @ \$35/barrel*)
  - For comparison, projected cellulosic ethanol costs:.
    - \$1.6 a gge post-2010 (*NREL projection*)
    - \$1.0 - \$1.1 a gge *eventually* for “fully mature and optimized cellulosic production process” (NCEP, *Ending the Energy Stalemate*, 2004)

# MAJOR CHALLENGES POSED BY OIL AND CARS

- Supply insecurity
- Oil price (*prospective peaking of global production*)
- Health impacts of air pollution (*especially for Diesel vehicles*)
- Climate change (*need to decarbonize energy for cars*)

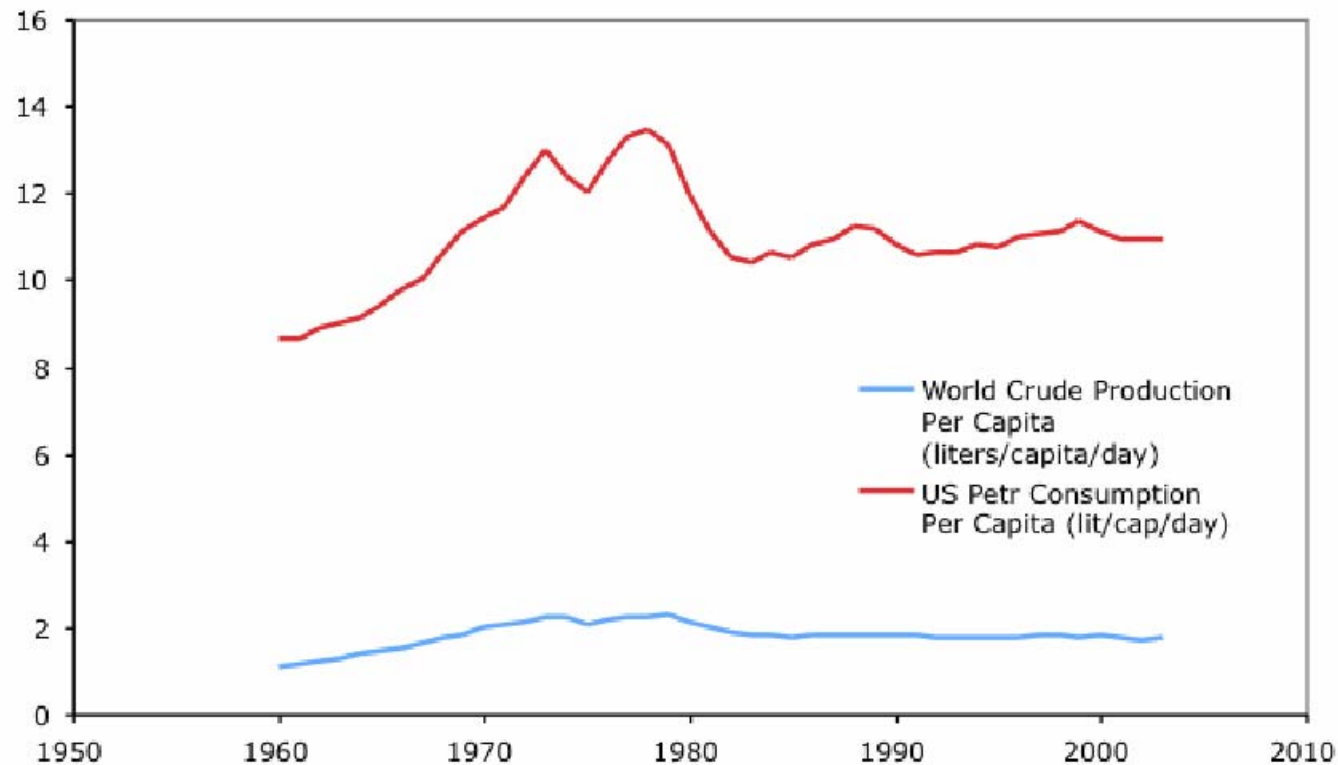
## THE CAR'S CONTRIBUTION TO OIL, CLIMATE CHALLENGES

Year	2000	2030
Number of light-duty vehicles worldwide, 10 <sup>6</sup>	690	1270
Average fuel economy (mpg <sub>ge</sub> )	24.4	28.0
Crude oil consumed, 10 <sup>6</sup> barrels/day (% of Persian Gulf production, 2000)	16.7 (89)	27.1 (136)
Fuel cycle-wide GHG emissions, GtC/year (% of global total, 2000)	0.74 (11.6)	1.20 (18.8)

Source: World Business Council for Sustainable Development, *Mobility 2030: Meeting the Challenges of Sustainability*, The Sustainable Mobility Project, 2004

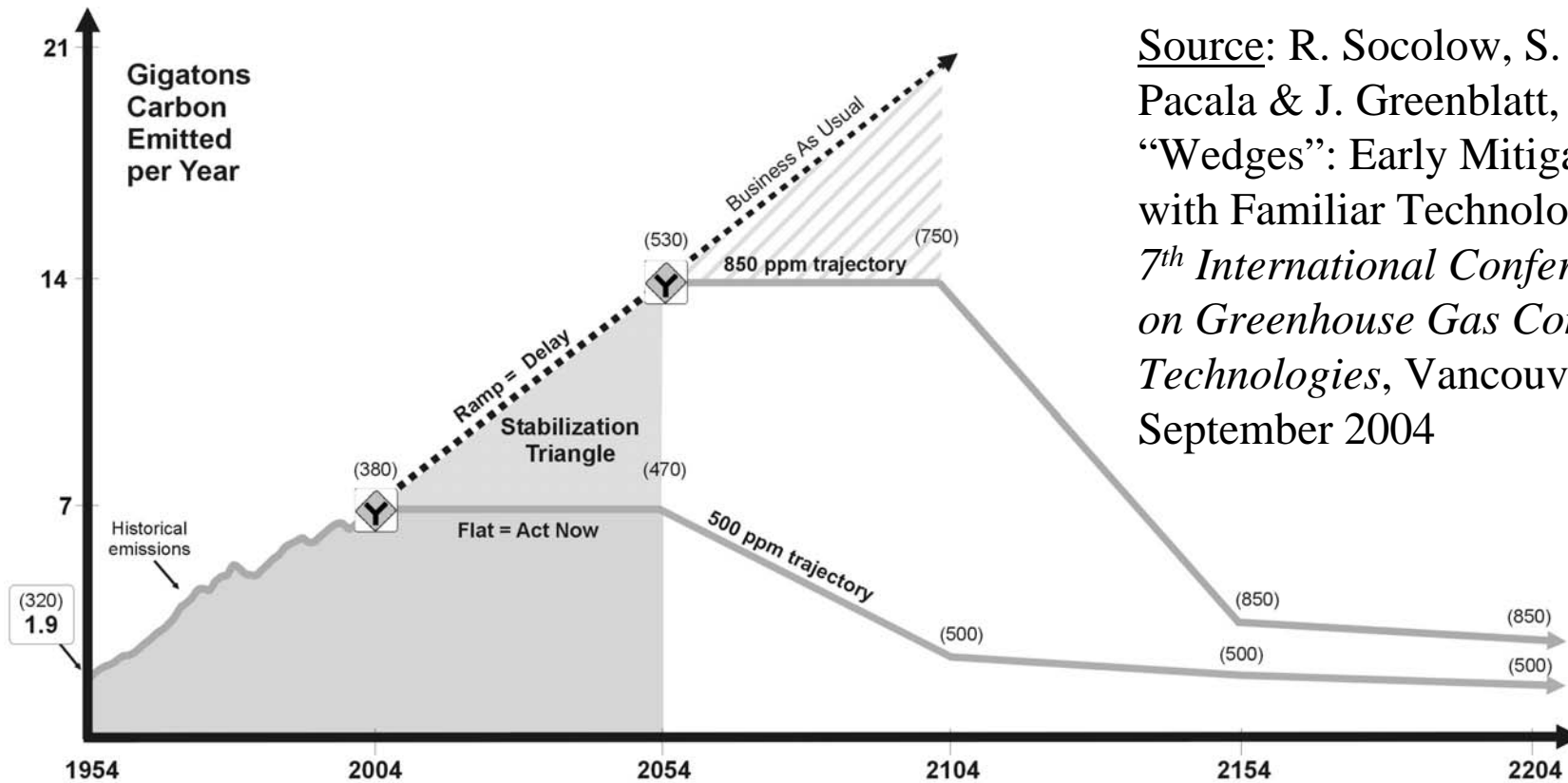
# HIGH FUEL ECONOMY/SYNFUELS IMPERATIVE

**World Oil Production/Capita Peaked before 1980  
at Fraction of US Per Capita Oil Consumption Rate**



→ Both high fuel economy and alternative fuels are needed

# WHAT IS REQUIRED TO STABILIZE ATMOSPHERIC CO<sub>2</sub> AT ≤ 2X PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVEL?



Source: R. Socolow, S. Pacala & J. Greenblatt, "Wedges": Early Mitigation with Familiar Technology," 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Greenhouse Gas Control Technologies, Vancouver, September 2004

Stabilizing @ 500 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>

➔ by 2050 cut emissions ~ 7 GtC/y relative to BAU

## Distribution of Global CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from FFs (%)

Year	2000	2020	2050
Electricity generation	36	25-38	22-43
Industry (FUD only)	32	28-32	24-37
Transportation (FUD only)	21	21-25	18-33
Residential/commercial (FUD only)	12	12-20	11-19

**Must decarbonize fuels used directly (FUD) as well as electricity**

IEA data for 2000. Projections are for A1B-AIM, AIT-Message, A2-Image, B1-Image, B2-Message scenarios of IPCC's *Special Report on Emissions Scenarios* (IPCC, 2000)

# COAL: CHALLENGE...AND OPPORTUNITY

- Coal = main challenge for energy w/r to climate change
- Also severe air pollution problems, mining hazards
- Coal not likely to be abandoned because of:
  - Abundance
  - Low, non-volatile prices
- Can coal be made environmentally acceptable?  
...*Gasification is key, as alternative to combustion*

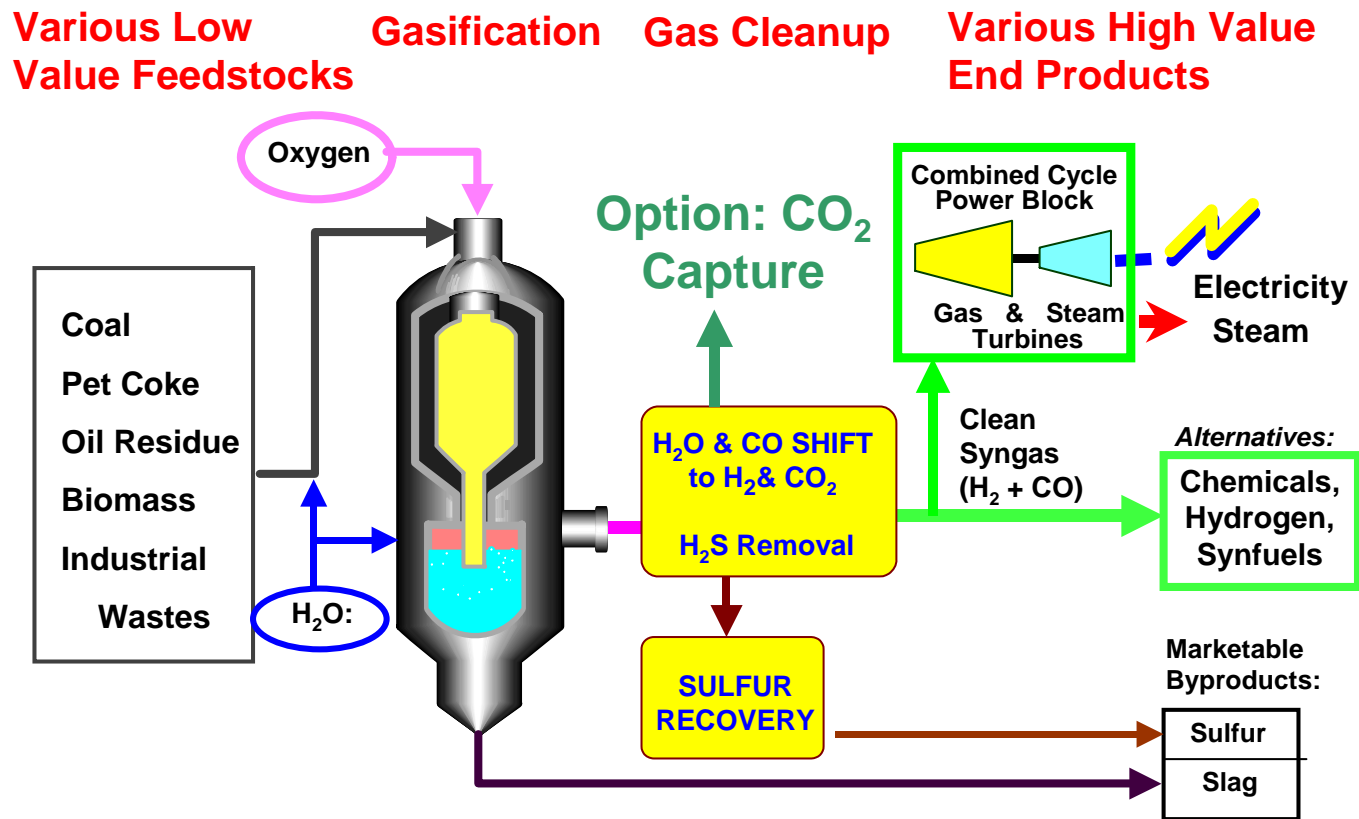
# WHY SYNFUELS FROM COAL AND BIOMASS?

- Constraints on conventional oil, other unconventional oil
- **Gasification-based coal synfuels** are nearly commercially ready...and **competitive at oil prices ~ \$30 per barrel**
- China is pursuing coal-derived liquid fuels
- **Liquid synfuels derived from biomass + coal with CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage (CCS) would be climate friendly**
- Alternative options for decarbonizing FUD have limited potential for addressing challenges in this Qtr century:
  - H<sub>2</sub>, fuel cell vehicles (*Administration, automakers focus*) cannot make major contributions before 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr of 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - Land-use constraints → **biofuels *alone* cannot do the job**

# OPTIONS FOR CO<sub>2</sub> DISPOSAL

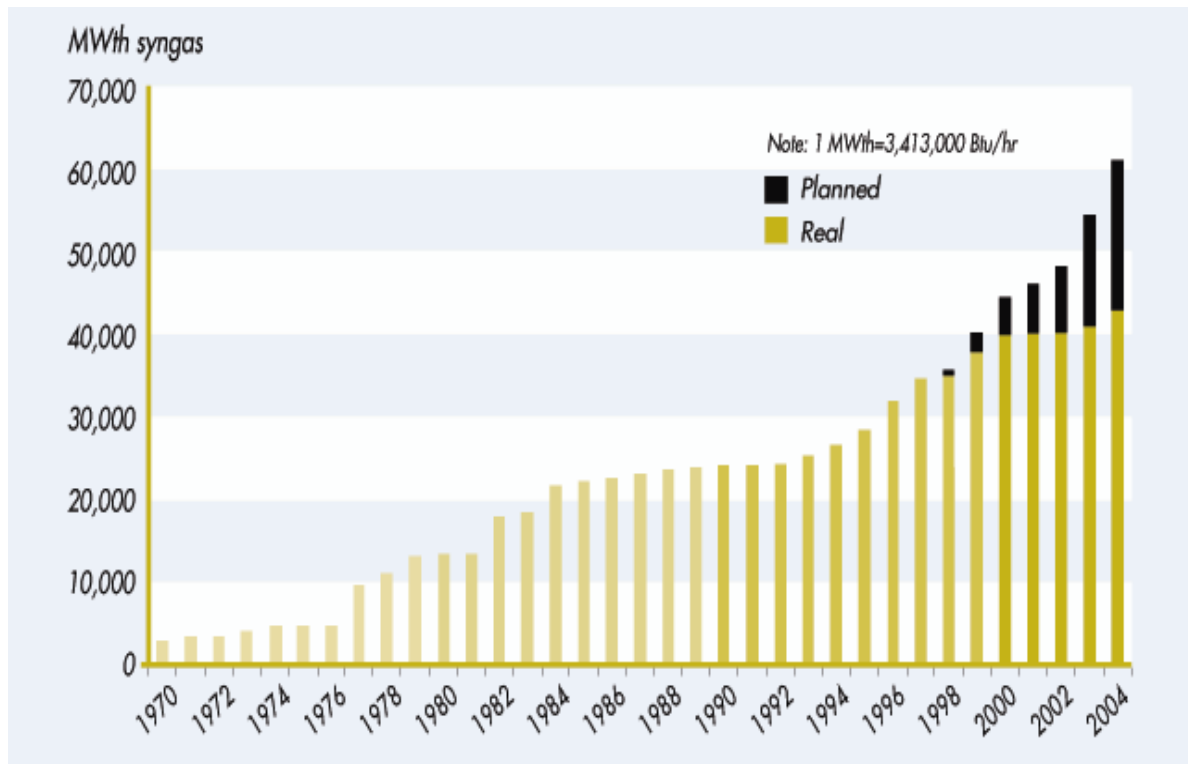
- Goal: store 100s to 1000s of GtC for long periods (*100s to 1000s of y*)
- Major options, disposal in:
  - Deep ocean (*concerns about storage effectiveness, environmental impacts, legal issues, difficult access*)
  - Carbonate rocks [*100% safe...but costly (huge rock volumes), embryonic*]
  - **Disposal in geological media** (*focus of current interest*)
    - Enhanced oil recovery (*30 x 10<sup>6</sup> tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/y—for 4% of US oil*)
    - Depleted oil and gas fields (*geographically limited*)
    - Beds of unminable coal (*CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed in pore spaces of coal*)
    - **Deep saline aquifers—huge potential, ubiquitous** (*at least 800 m down*)
      - Such aquifers underly land area = 1/2 area of inhabited continents (*2/3 onshore, 1/3 offshore*)
  - Most large anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> sources within 0-200 km of geological disposal sites (*800 km = longest US CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline for EOR*)
  - Already some experience (*e.g., Sleipner, North Sea; EOR*) but many more “megascale” CO<sub>2</sub> storage demos needed

# GASIFICATION TO CONVERT LOW-VALUE FEEDSTOCKS INTO HIGH-VALUE PRODUCTS



Gasification is key to low cost CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage (CCS) and thus coal's playing major roles in a climate-constrained world

# GASIFICATION IS BOOMING GLOBAL ACTIVITY

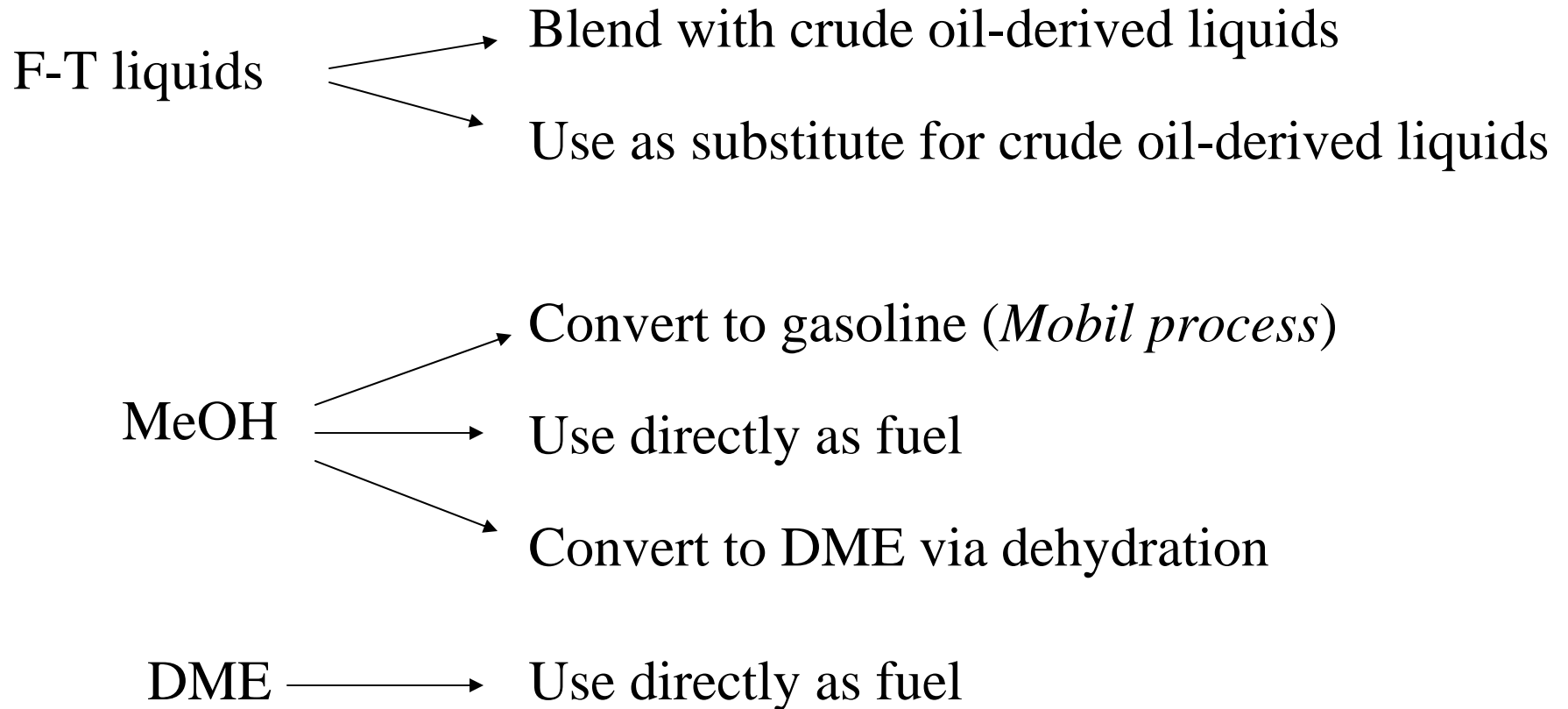


Worldwide gasification capacity is increasing by 3 GW<sub>th</sub> per year and will reach 61 GW<sub>th</sub> in 2004

- **In 2004**
- By activity:
- 24 GW<sub>th</sub> chemicals
- 23 GW<sub>th</sub> power
- 14 GW<sub>th</sub> syngas
- By region:
- 9 GW<sub>th</sub> China
- 10 GW<sub>th</sub> N America
- 19 GW<sub>th</sub> W Europe
- 23 GW<sub>th</sub> Rest of world
- By feedstock:
- 27 GW<sub>th</sub> petroleum residuals
- 27 GW<sub>th</sub> coal
- 6 GW<sub>th</sub> natural gas
- 1 GW<sub>th</sub> biomass

Current market dominated by polygeneration of chemicals, electricity, process heat via petroleum residuals gasification...largest potential = polygeneration of syngas, electricity, process heat via coal gasification

# SYNFUEL OPTIONS VIA COAL GASIFICATION

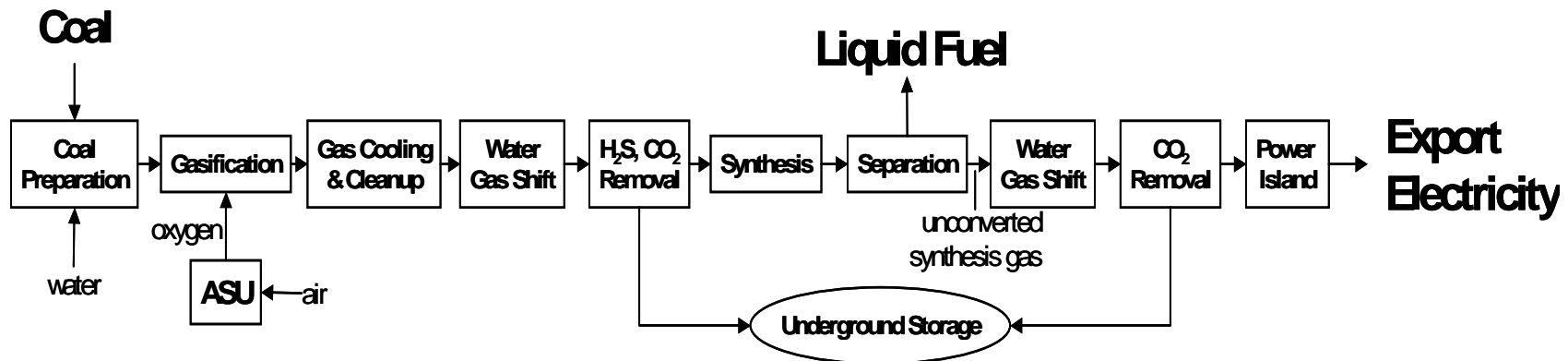


F-T = Fischer-Tropsch; MeOH = methanol; DME = dimethyl ether

# CANDIDATE DESIGNER FUEL: DME (CH<sub>3</sub>OCH<sub>3</sub>)

- Ozone-safe aerosol propellant and chemical feedstock
- Production ~ 150,000 t/y by MeOH dehydration (*small plants*)
- Clean cooking fuel—LPG supplement—esp. for LDCs
- Outstanding Diesel engine fuel:
  - high cetane #
  - no sulfur, virtually no soot formation → no PM/NO<sub>x</sub> tradeoff in quest for low emissions, so low NO<sub>x</sub> emission rate readily achievable
    - **Can facilitate shift to super-efficient Diesel or Diesel/hybrid vehicles**
- Drawbacks:
  - Gas at atmospheric pressure—mild pressurization (*as for LPG*) needed
    - **new infrastructure for transport...but far more modest challenge than for H<sub>2</sub>**
  - Further engine developments needed before DME is ready for transport markets
- Production plans (*targeting domestic fuel applications*):
  - NG → DME: 110,000 t/y (*Sichuan, China, 2005*); 800,000 t/y (*Iran, 2006*)
  - Coal → DME (*800,000 t/y project approved, Ningxia, China*)

# MOST COST-EFFECTIVE PLANTS WOULD OFTEN PRODUCE LIQUID FUEL + ELECTRICITY

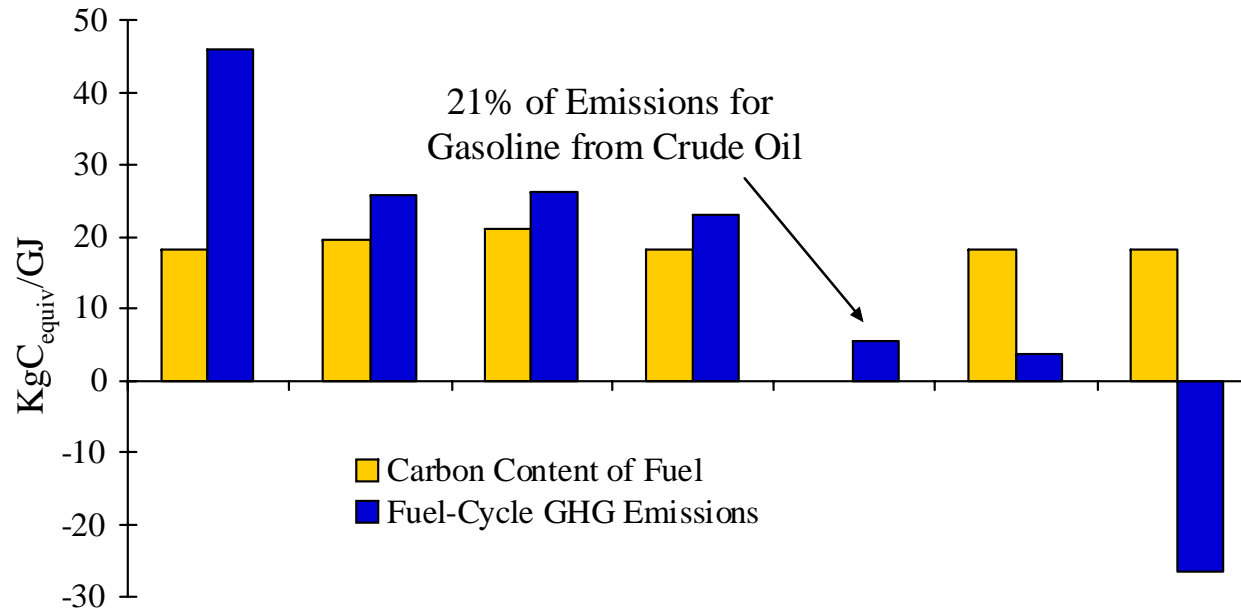


Under climate constraint, CO<sub>2</sub> can be captured both upstream and downstream of synthesis reactor

Fuel-cycle-wide GHG emissions for coal-derived liquid fuels ~ 80-90% of emissions for crude-oil-derived hydrocarbon fuels with CCS...but must do *much better* under C constraint.

Can do much better with coordinated development of syngas from coal + biomass (*not necessarily at same site*)...with CCS in both instances...biomass plants would be similar to coal plants

# FUEL C CONTENT, FUEL-CYCLE GHG EMISSIONS FOR A LIMITED SAMPLE OF FUELS/PRIMARY ENERGY SOURCES

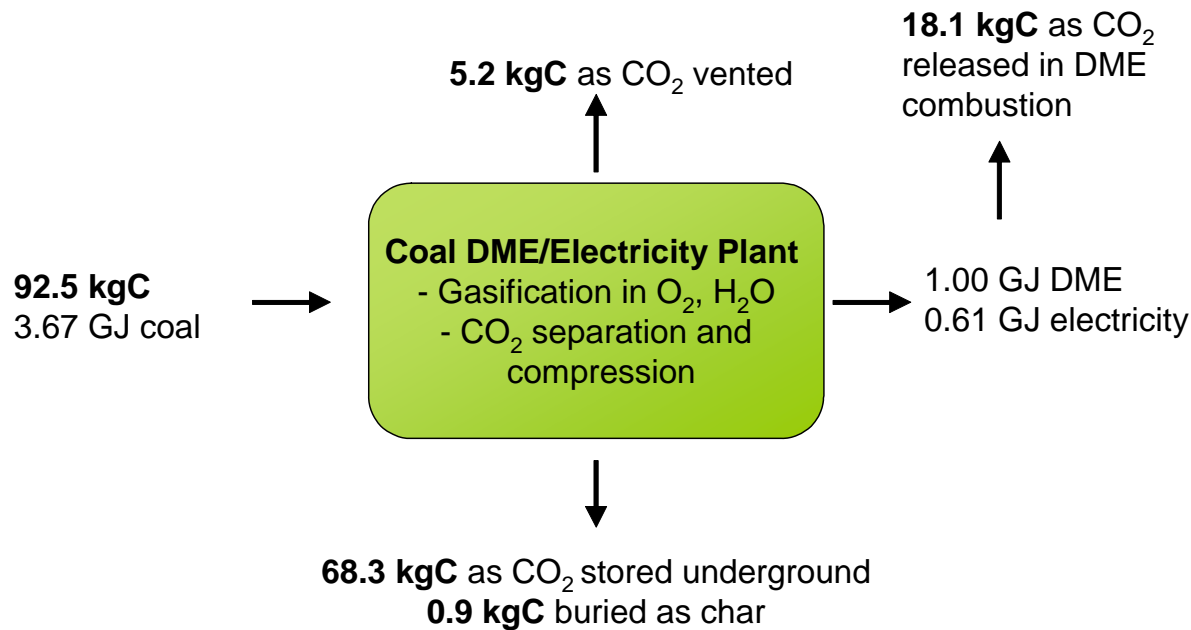


<b>Energy Carrier</b>	DME	Gasoline	Diesel	DME	Hydrogen	DME	DME
<b>Primary Energy Source</b>	Coal	Crude Oil	Crude Oil	Coal	Coal	Biomass	Biomass
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage?</b>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Consider coordinated production of DME from coal + biomass with CCS (*not necessarily at same site*) such that GHG emission rate = that for H<sub>2</sub> from coal with CCS

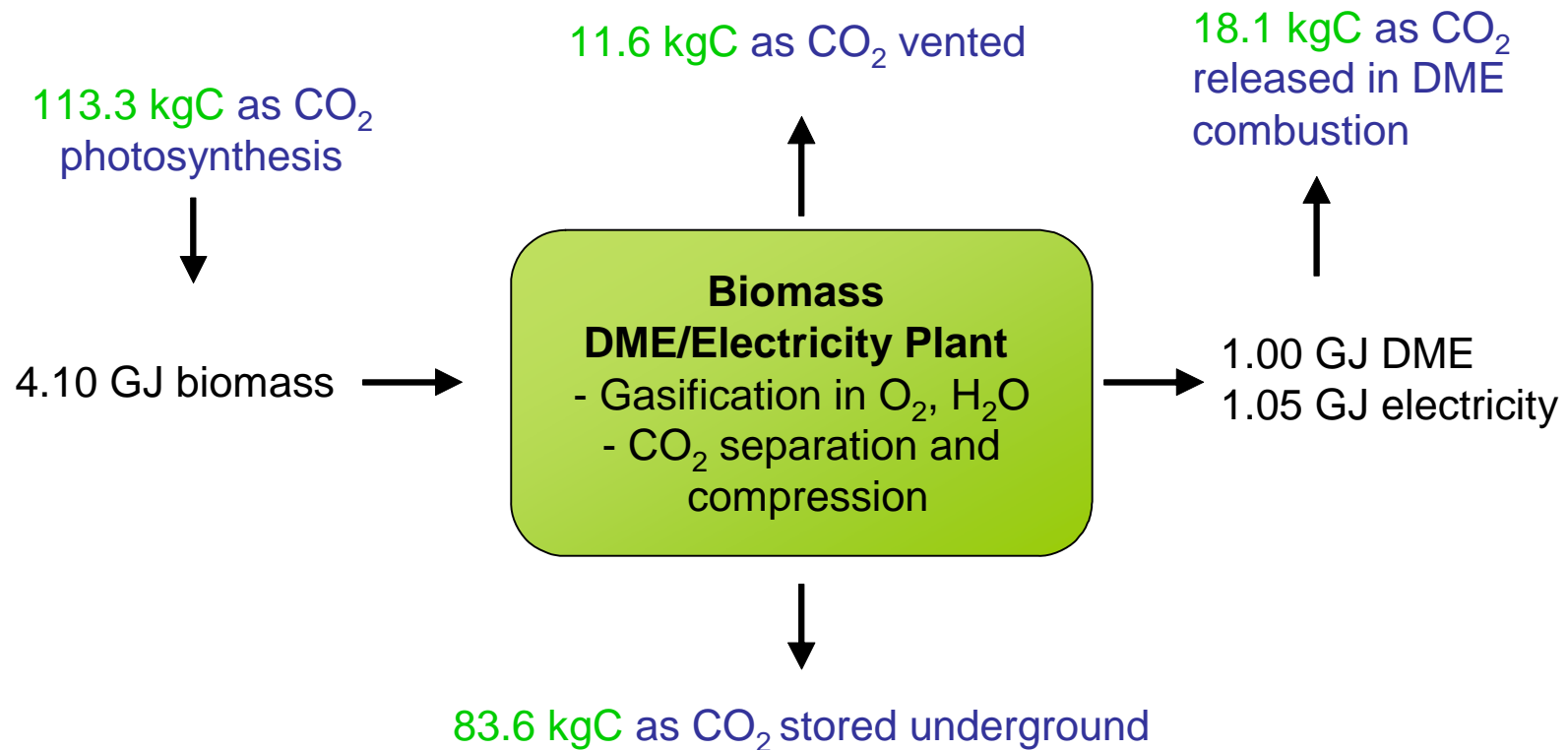
The coal DME CCS option is a once-through configuration with CO<sub>2</sub> capture both upstream and downstream of synthesis. The biomass DME with CCS option is a recycle configuration with CO<sub>2</sub> capture only upstream of synthesis

# CARBON/ENERGY BALANCES IN MAKING DME + ELECTRICITY FROM COAL w/CO<sub>2</sub> CAPTURE/STORAGE



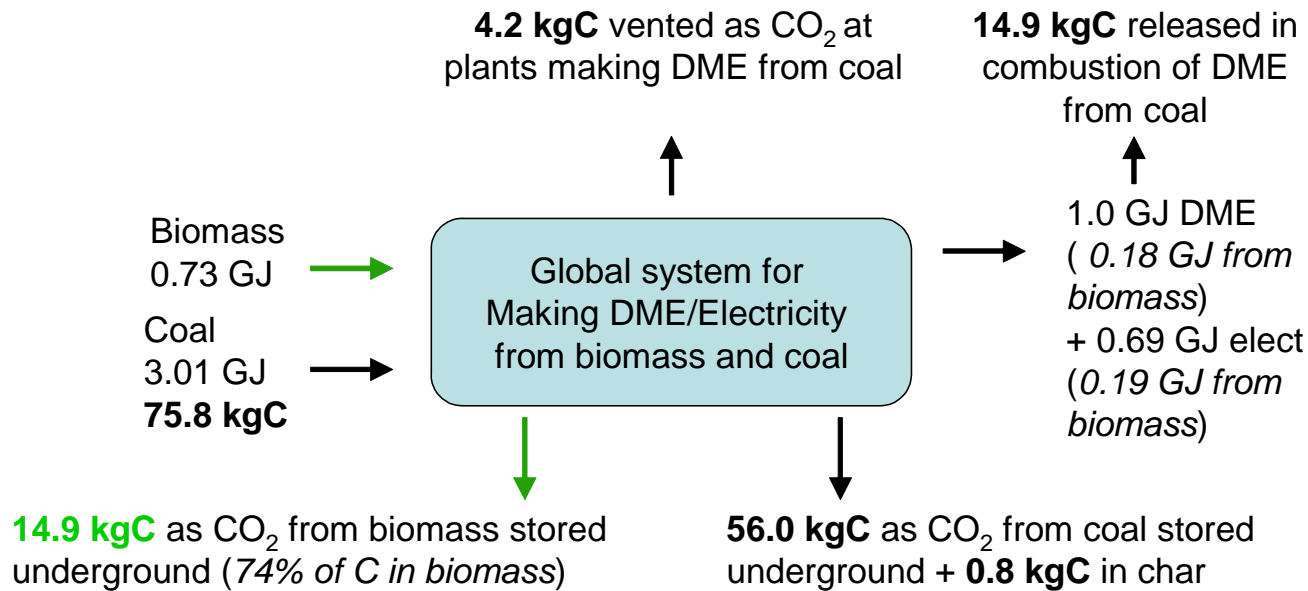
- For this system: ~  $\frac{3}{4}$  of coal C stored underground
- GHG emission rate per GJ of synfuel would be (*slightly*) less than for crude-oil-derived hydrocarbon fuel
- In climate-constrained world, a much lower GHG emission rate may be necessary

# CARBON/ENERGY BALANCES IN MAKING DME + ELECTRICITY FROM BIOMASS w/CO<sub>2</sub> CAPTURE/STORAGE



- Here ~ ¾ of biomass carbon can be stored underground  
➔ “negative” CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that “make room in the atmosphere” for coal liquids

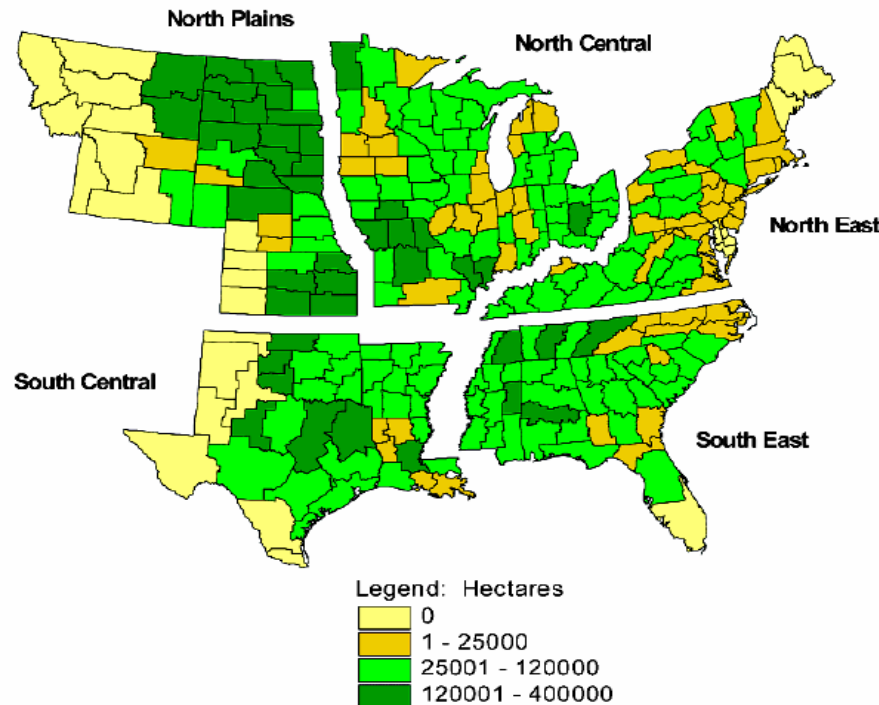
# ENERGY/CARBON BALANCES FOR DME FROM COAL/ BIOMASS HYBRID WITH NEAR-ZERO GHG EMISSION RATE



- Hybrid can provide liquid fuel @ \$1.0 - \$1.2/gge by exploiting:
  - Low cost, abundance of coal
  - Negative emissions potential of biomass
- Can provide 2.3 X as much liquid fuel with a near-zero GHG emission rate as conventional biofuel with CO<sub>2</sub> vented
- Can be established commercially during 2010-2015

# BIOMASS FEEDSTOCK OPTIONS

- Agricultural/forest product industry residues in near term
  - DME from pulp and paper residues (*Sweden*)
  - Sugar cane in developing countries (*esp. Brazil*)
- Energy crops—e.g., switchgrass in Great Plains—for longer-term



Source: McLaughlin et al., 2002: High-value renewable energy from prairie grasses, *Envir. Sci. & Tech.*, **36** (10): 2122-2129

This study projects that **if the market valued switchgrass at current average farm-gate cost (\$44/t), 41 million acres would be converted to switchgrass.**

**Delivered cost of switchgrass is high with current technology**  
**~ \$3. 1 per million BTU (~ 2.5 X coal price for US power plants)**

# SCENARIO FOR DME FROM COAL/SWITCHGRASS

- Make DME + decarbonized electricity from US switchgrass/coal with:
  - DME used in 52 mpg<sub>ge</sub> fuel-efficient (*e.g., hybrid-electric*) Diesel-type cars
  - Decarbonized electricity displaces coal steam-electric plants
- Primary energy inputs:
  - switchgrass (*farmgate price = \$44/t, today's technology*) on 41 x 10<sup>6</sup> acres (*equivalent to 1.35 X land idled under Conservation Reserve Program*)
  - New coal = 18% of coal for US power, 2002
- DME would fuel 130 x 10<sup>6</sup> cars
  - Plant-gate DME cost ~ \$1.0 to \$1.2 a gge
  - ~ 1/10 GHG emission rate per car of today's average gasoline car
  - Oil import reduction ~ 5.6 million barrels/day (*53% of imports, 2002*)
- Decarbonized power for 37% of coal power generation, 2002
- Reduce GHG emissions by 26% of US CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 2002
- CO<sub>2</sub> storage rate ~ 1 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>/year

# CONCLUSIONS

- It is feasible to make a major contribution in addressing challenges posed by the automobile—*in this Qtr century*—via production/use of designer synfuels from coal/biomass with CCS
  - Major technical uncertainty is “gigascale” viability of CO<sub>2</sub> storage—many more “megascale” CO<sub>2</sub> storage demos needed...soon
  - Biomass gasification technology must be demonstrated and commercialized ...new Swedish biomass synfuel test facility at former biomass gasifier combined cycle demo site
  - Synfuel plants with CCS must be demonstrated...but radical new technologies not needed
- Carbon mitigation policy needed to drive technology adoption
- Institutional/cultural challenges:
  - Overcoming widespread ill feelings about coal synfuels—costly synfuels failures of late 1970s-early 1980s
  - Ambitious automotive efficiency improvements
  - Coalition-building for proposed strategy—across multiple industries and involving international collaborations (*e.g., among Australia, Brazil, China, US*)



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## Collaborators

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