NextSTEPS Sustainable Transportation Energy Pathways

Biofuel development and commercialization

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Nathan Parker (Postdoc, ITS-UC Davis)
Lew Fulton (Co-Director, NextSTEPS, ITS-UC Davis
Julie Witcover (Postdoc, ITS-UC Davis)
Geoff Morrison (Postdoc, ITS-UC Davis)

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Outline

- State of California biofuels
- Understanding cost and potential
- How is the industry developing?
- Looking for an Incremental path to reduce risk
- Policy incentives: what is being communicated to the market through prices?

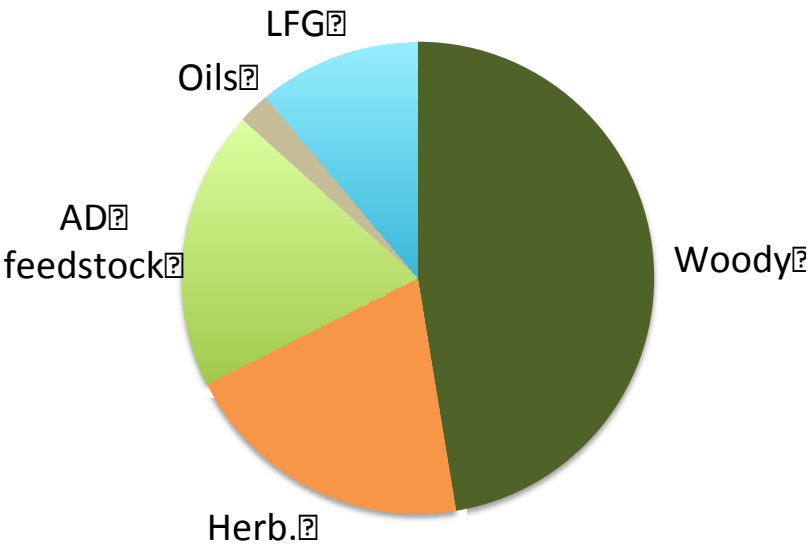
California a major player in biofuel knowledge base
But not a major player in production

Snapshot of California's biofuel industry

Product	Firms	Production Capacity (MGY)	# Plants (demo/comm.)
Corn ethanol	7	164	4
Biodiesel	24	165	10
Sugar beet ethanol	1	0	0
Cellulosic ethanol	6	25**	3
Drop-in	11	0	0
Renewable Jet	3	30***	2
Biomethane	7	In progress	0
Other*	16	0	0
Total	**75**	**384****	**19**

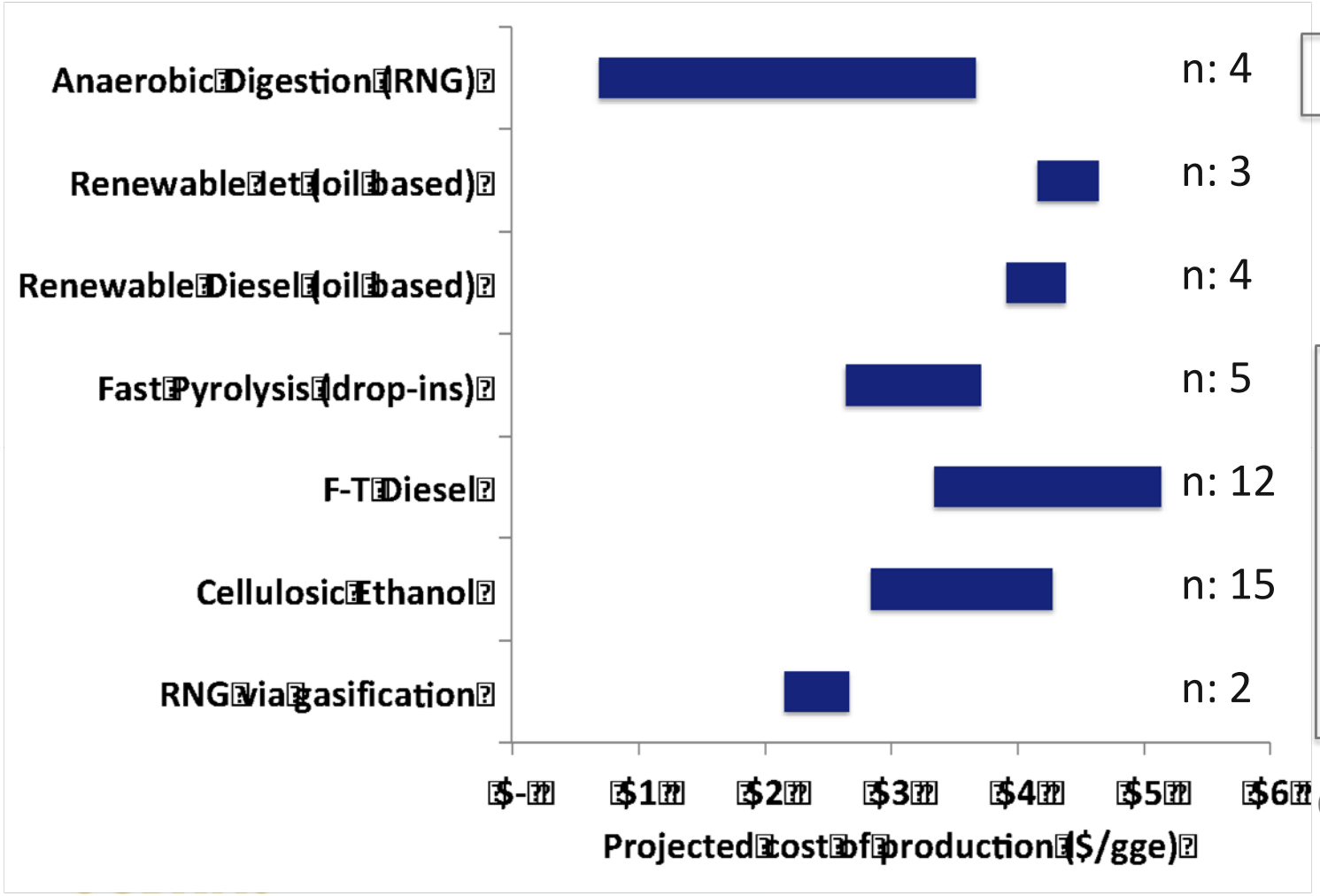
*Other includes biochemicals, biobutanol, or multiple products
**Planned production (Canergy in 2016)
***Planned production (AltAir in 2014; Alipha Jet, no date specified)
****US Biofuel production ~15 BGY/year (mostly ethanol)

California's biomass resource base without energy crops is roughly 0.5 EJ (~1.5-2.0 BGGE).



Source: CA Biomass Collaborative, Biomass Resource Assessment, 2014

Wide range of costs and potential for advanced technology biofuels from waste (n^{th} Plant)



	# of studies	CA Potential (MGGEY)
Anaerobic Digestion (RNG)	n: 4	350-1,250 (400)
Renewable Jet (oil based)	n: 3	75 - 95
Renewable Diesel (oil based)	n: 4	75 - 95
Fast Pyrolysis (drop-ins)	n: 5	650 - 1,400
F-T Diesel	n: 12	1,100 – 1,400
Cellulosic Ethanol	n: 15	1,200 – 1,500
RNG via gasification	n: 2	1,800 – 2,000

Cellulosic resources

Cellulosic technologies face large capital costs and risk

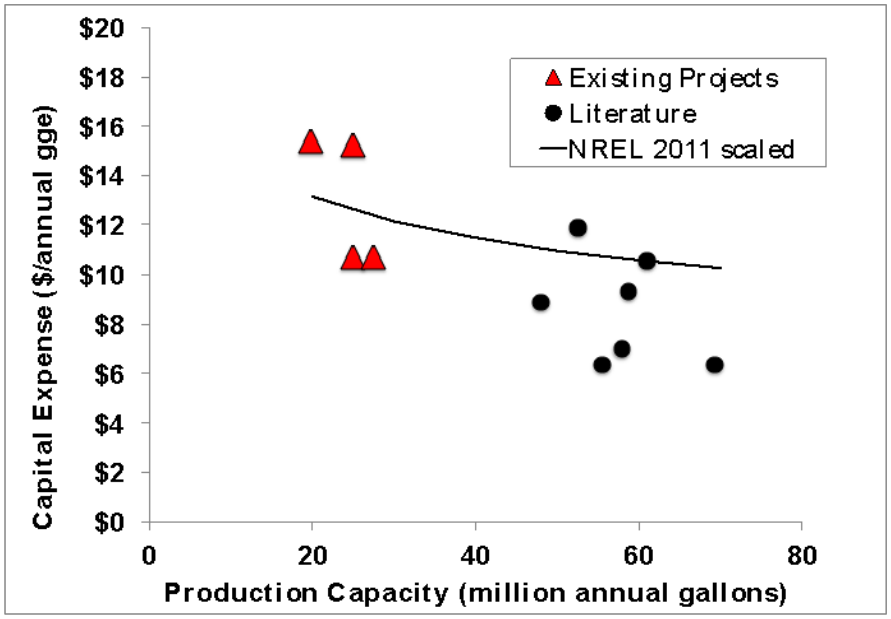
Research Design

- Literature review and meta-model to standardize inputs and financial assumptions
- Compare with reported values from industry

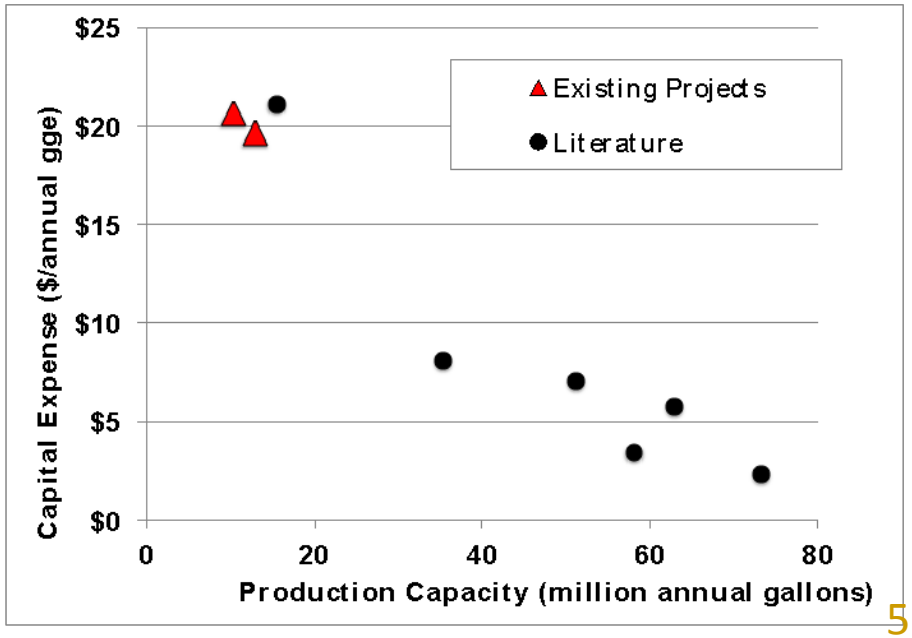
Take home messages

- Existing projects are smaller scale and higher capital intensity than what is evaluated in academic literature.
- Reported plant costs are in line with scaled literature values.

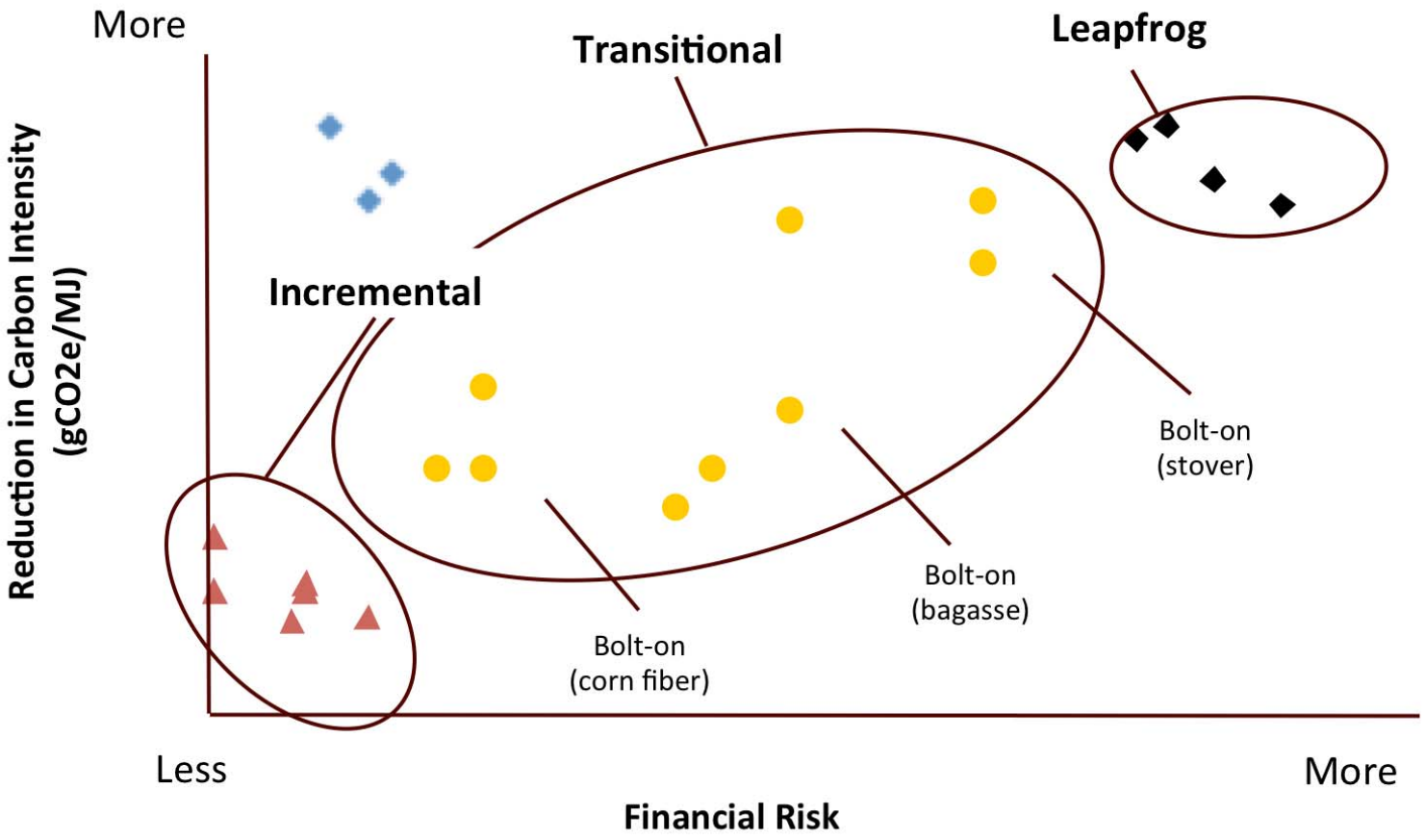
Capital Expenditure for Cellulosic Ethanol



Capital Expenditure for Pyrolysis-based Drop-in Biofuels



Is there a path with lower risk at each step that leads to the large resources?



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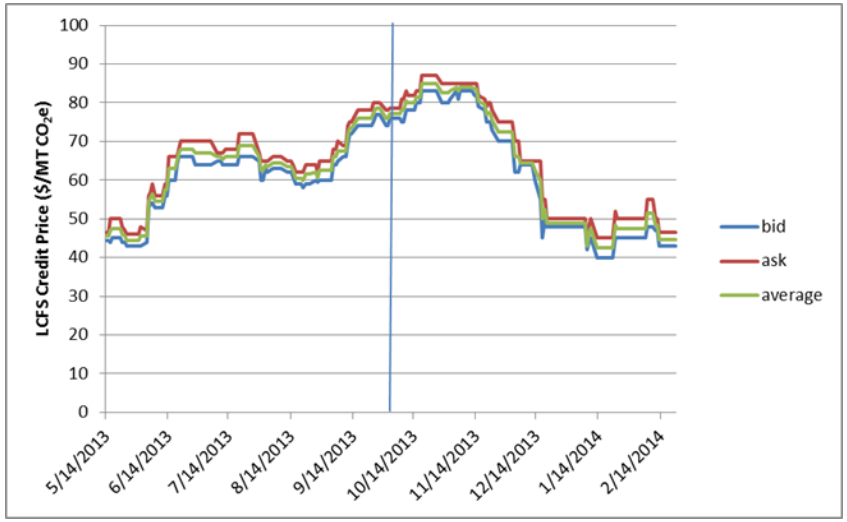
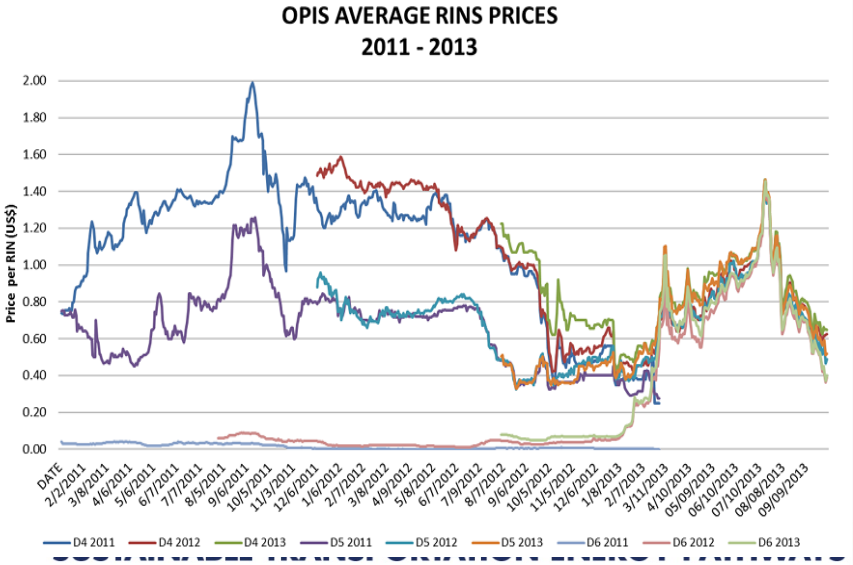
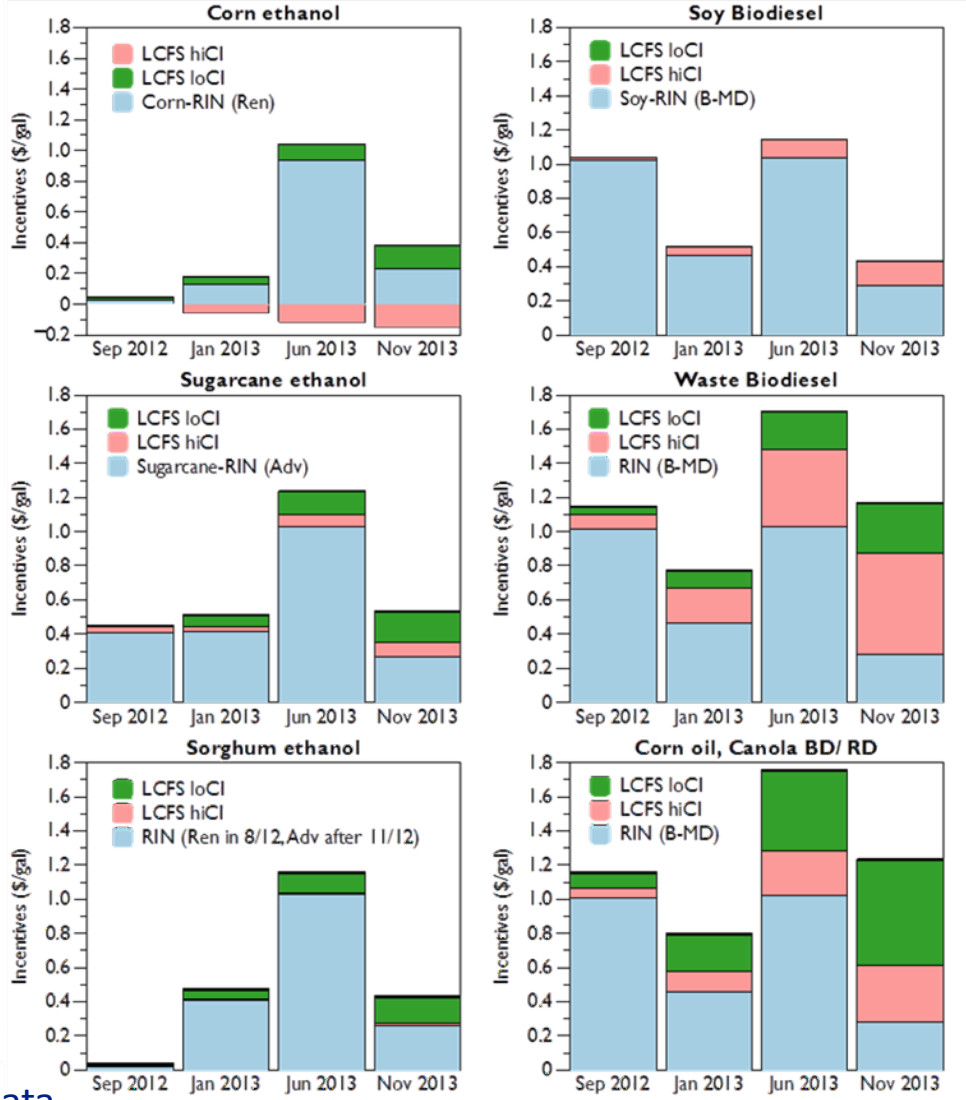
LCFS v. RFS Price Volatility Means Shifting Incentives

LCFS Credit Price Trends





LCFS $/gal v. US RFS2 $/gal



Sources: OPIS price data, CARB carbon intensity data

Summary of points

- Waste oil supplies are limited but important for near term reductions
- Need to get to cellulosic or algae resource base
- Path there with a good business case is unclear