



Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy
EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Sustainable Energy Conversion Pathways for Solid Wastes

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Earth and Environmental Engineering & Chemical Engineering
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Columbia University

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- [More on AR5](#)

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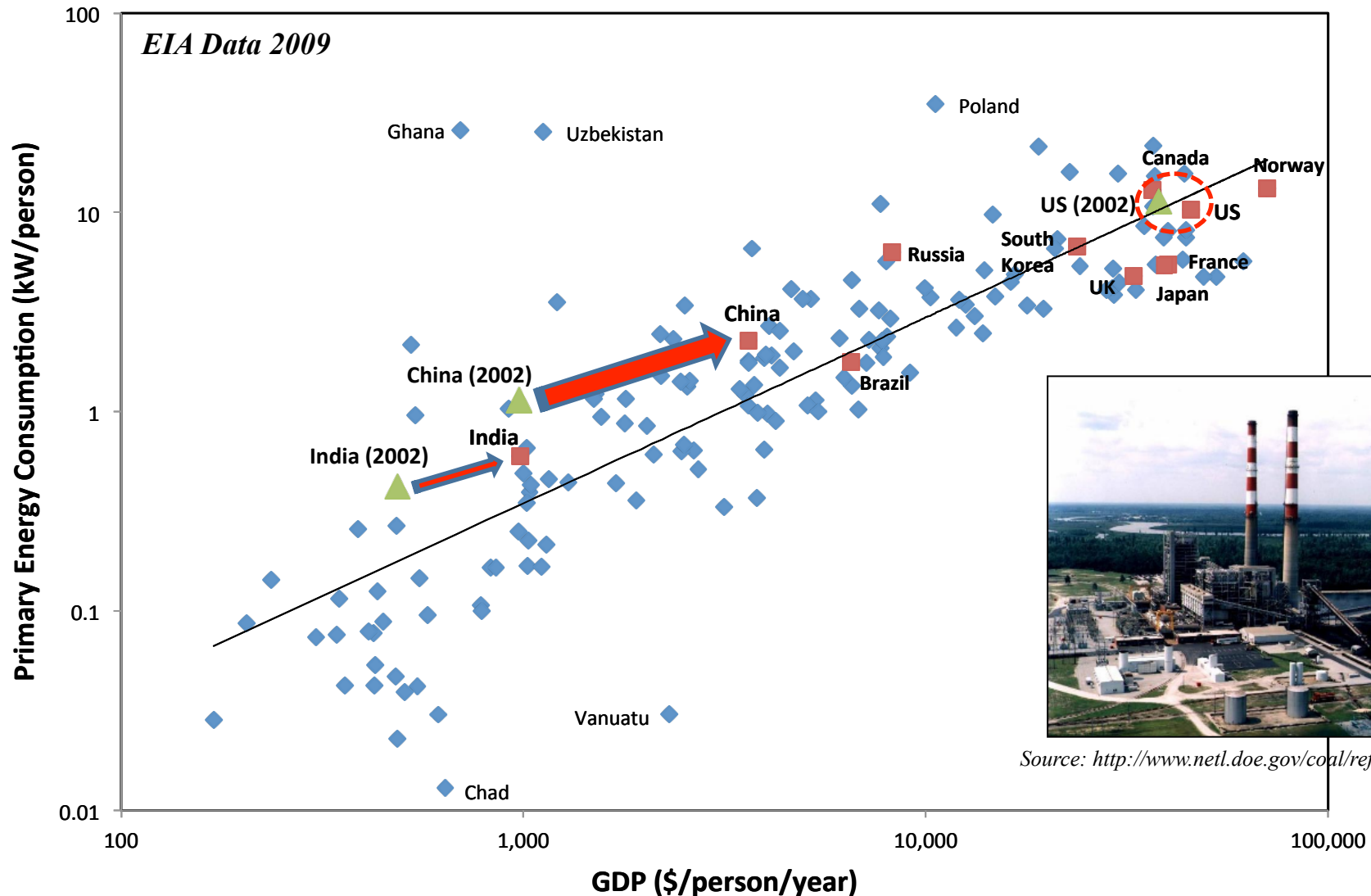
E.8 Climate Stabilization, Climate Change Commitment and Irreversibility

Cumulative emissions of CO₂ largely determine global mean surface warming by the late 21st century and beyond (see Figure SPM.10). Most aspects of climate change will persist for many centuries even if emissions of CO₂ are stopped. This represents a substantial multi-century climate change commitment created by past, present and future emissions of CO₂. {12.5}

- Methods that aim to deliberately alter the climate system to counter climate change, termed geoengineering, have been proposed. Limited evidence precludes a comprehensive quantitative assessment of both Solar Radiation Management (SRM) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) and their impact on the climate system. CDR methods have biogeochemical and technological limitations to their potential on a global scale. There is insufficient knowledge to quantify how much CO₂ emissions could be partially offset by CDR on a century timescale. Modelling indicates that SRM methods, if realizable, have the potential to substantially offset a global temperature rise, but they would also modify the global water cycle, and would not reduce ocean acidification. If SRM were terminated for any reason, there is *high confidence* that global surface temperatures would rise very rapidly to values consistent with the greenhouse gas forcing. CDR and SRM methods carry side effects and long-term consequences on a global scale. {6.5, 7.7}

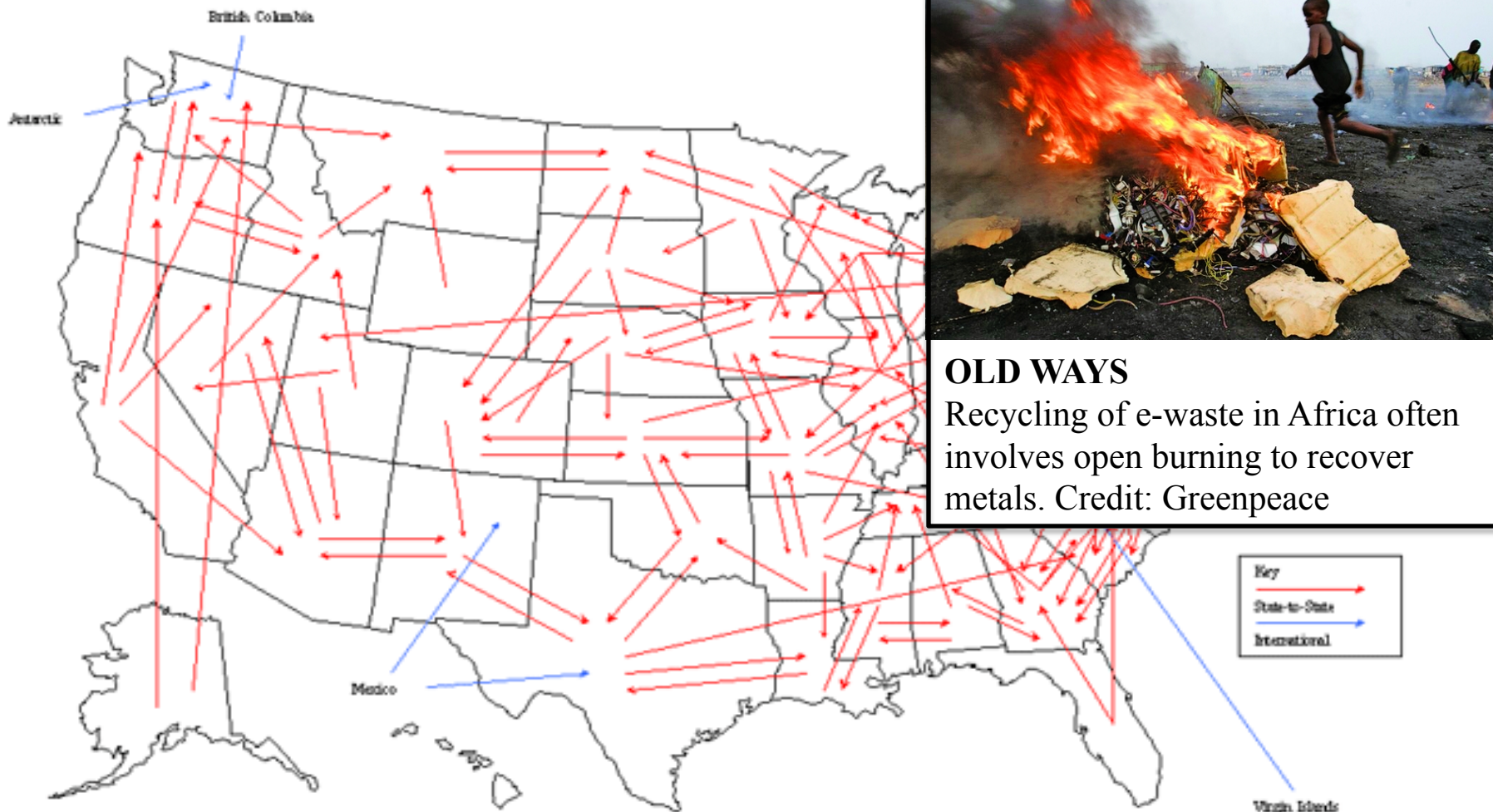
BECCS

Energy, Economic Growth and Quality of Life



Interstate Transport of Municipal Solid Wastes

(Congressional Research Service)



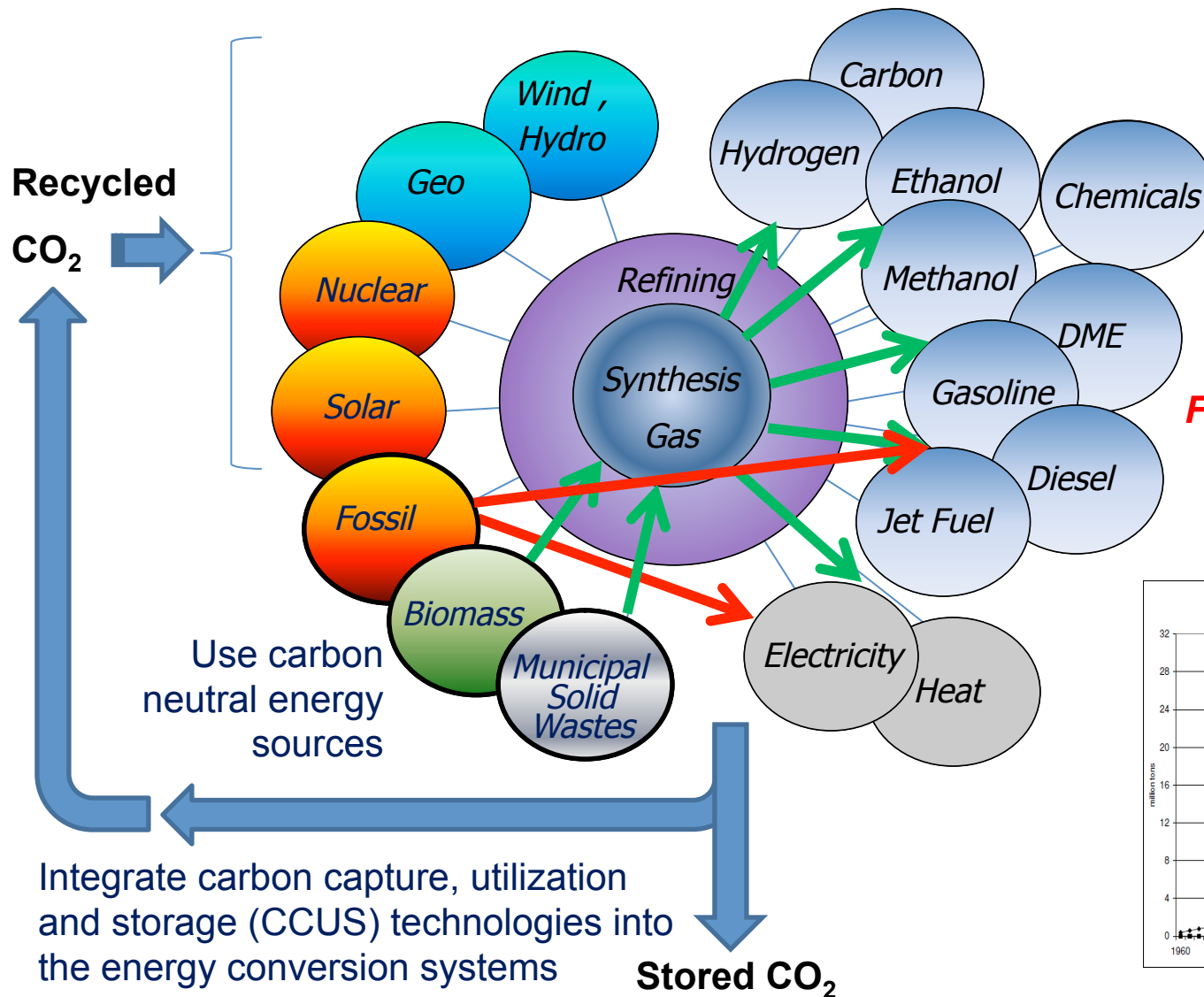
Interstate Shipment of Municipal Solid Waste in 2002 (CRS, 2002)
Note: Map does not include transactions with the District of Columbia



OLD WAYS

Recycling of e-waste in Africa often involves open burning to recover metals. Credit: Greenpeace

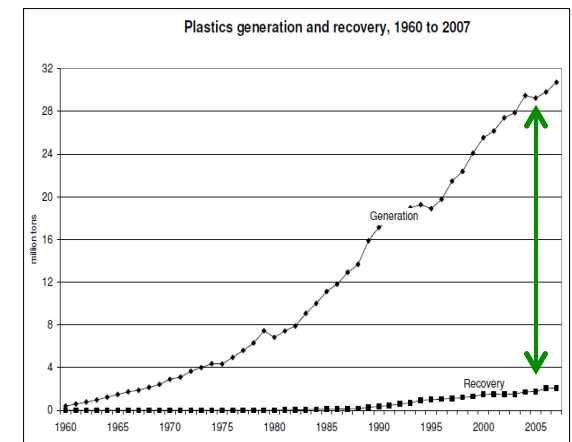
Towards Sustainable Energy and Environment



Use domestic energy sources to achieve energy independence with environmental sustainability

Fossil fuels are fungible...

Energy from Waste



Post-Combustion CO₂ Capture

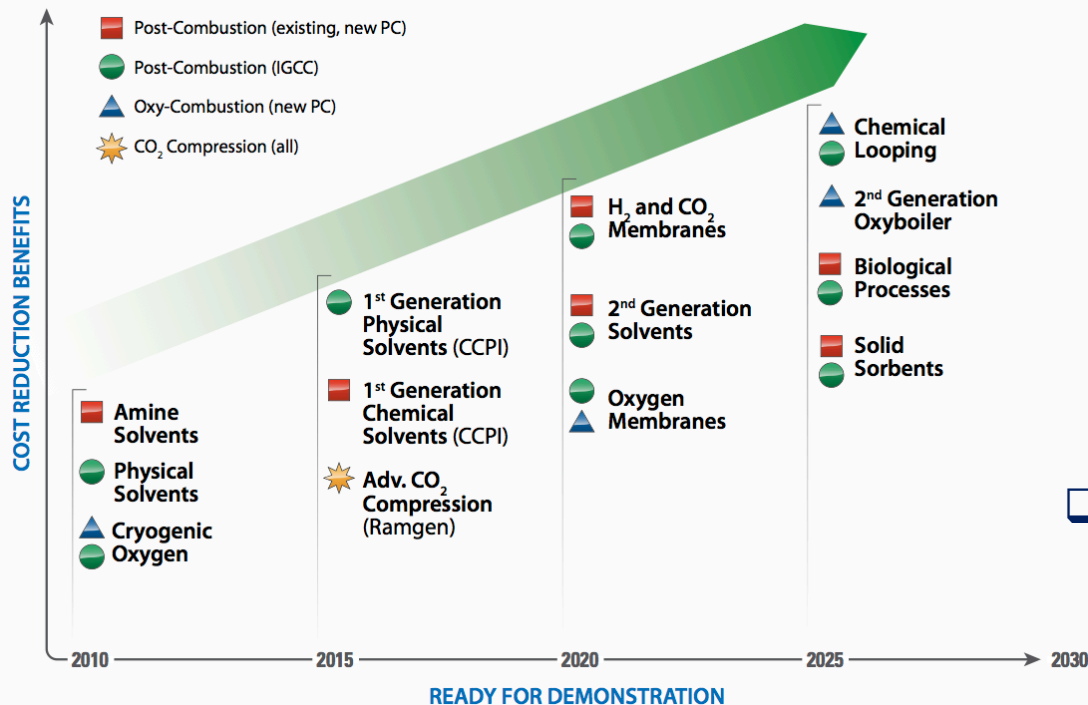
Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Technologies (CCUS)

Utilization

Capture

Storage

Carbon Capture Technologies



(NETL, 2010)

Required characteristics for CCS

- Capacity and economic feasibility
- Environmental benign fate
- Long term stability

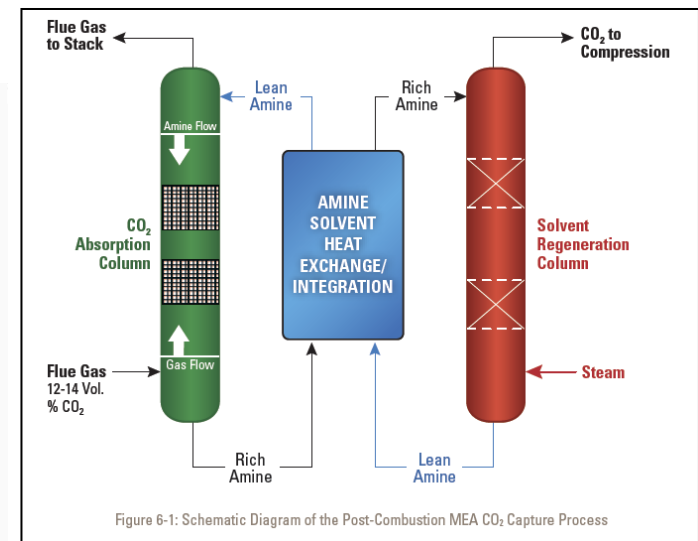


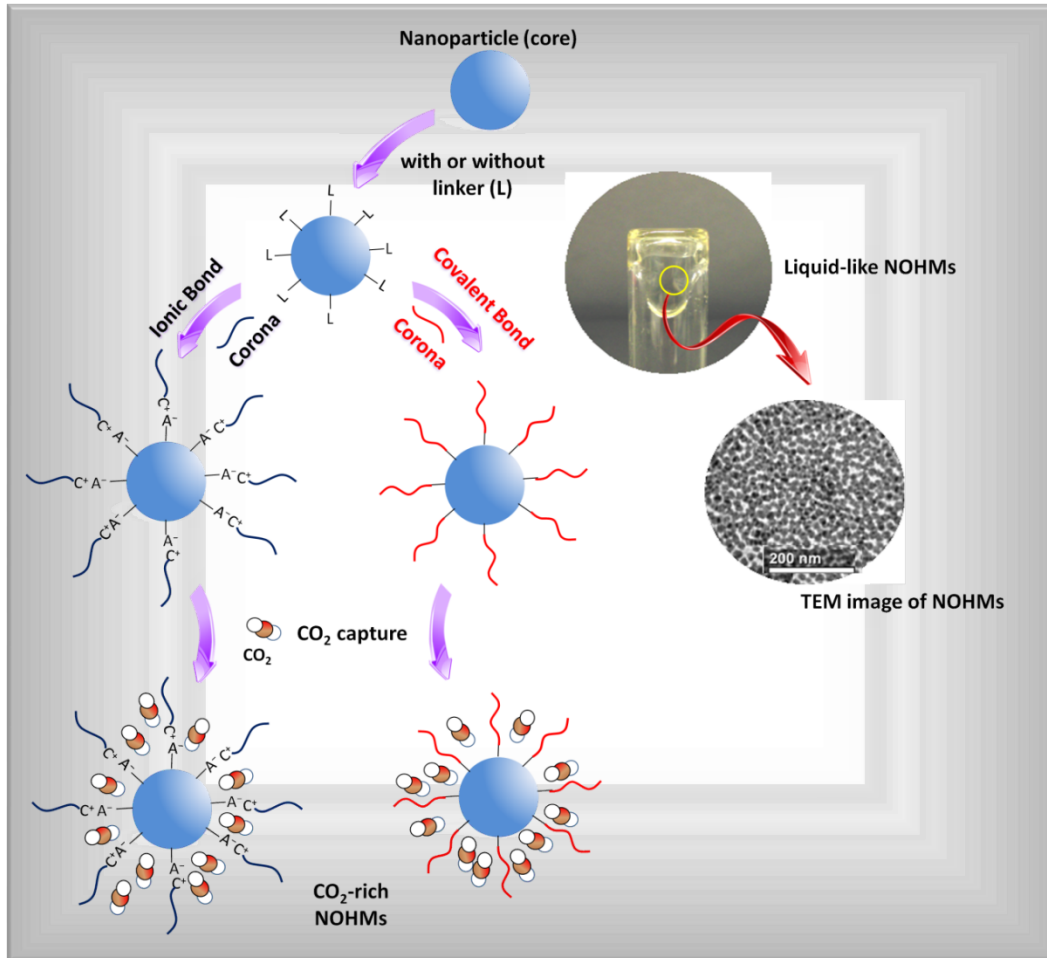
Figure 6-1: Schematic Diagram of the Post-Combustion MEA CO₂ Capture Process

(NETL, 2011)

MEA Challenges

- Corrosion and solvent degradation
- High capital and operating costs
- High parasitic energy penalty

Nanoparticle Organic Hybrid Materials (NOHMs)



☐ Solvent-free liquid-like hybrid systems

- Solvent tethered to nanoparticle cores
- Zero-vapor pressure and improved thermal stability

☐ Tunable chemical and physical properties

- Liquid, solid, gel
- Solvation in NOHMs driven by both entropic and enthalpic interactions

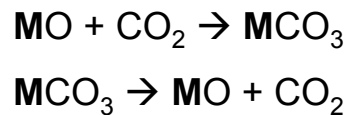
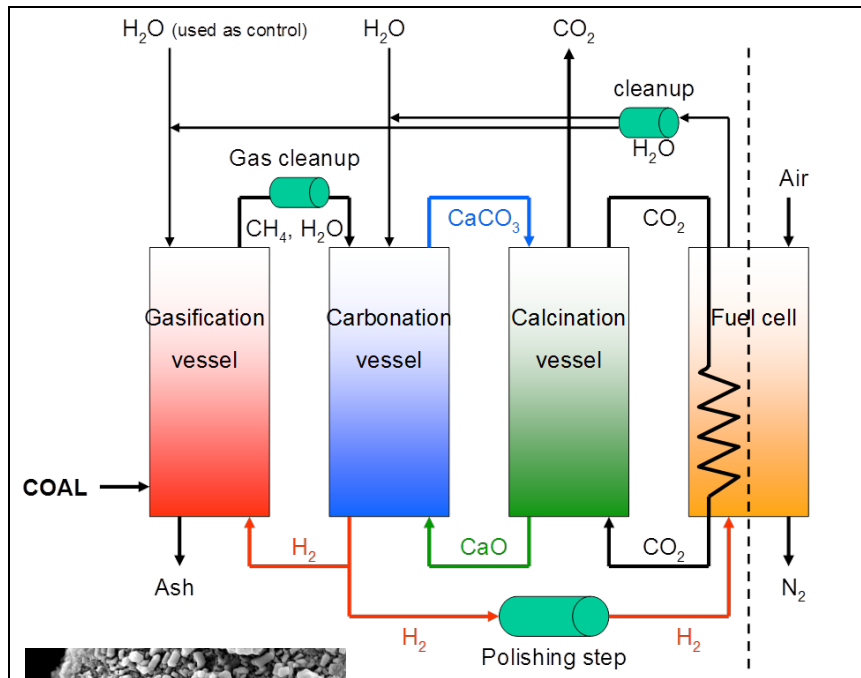
☐ Straightforward synthesis

- Easy to scale up

ZERO VAPOR PRESSURE+ TUNABLE PROPERTIES

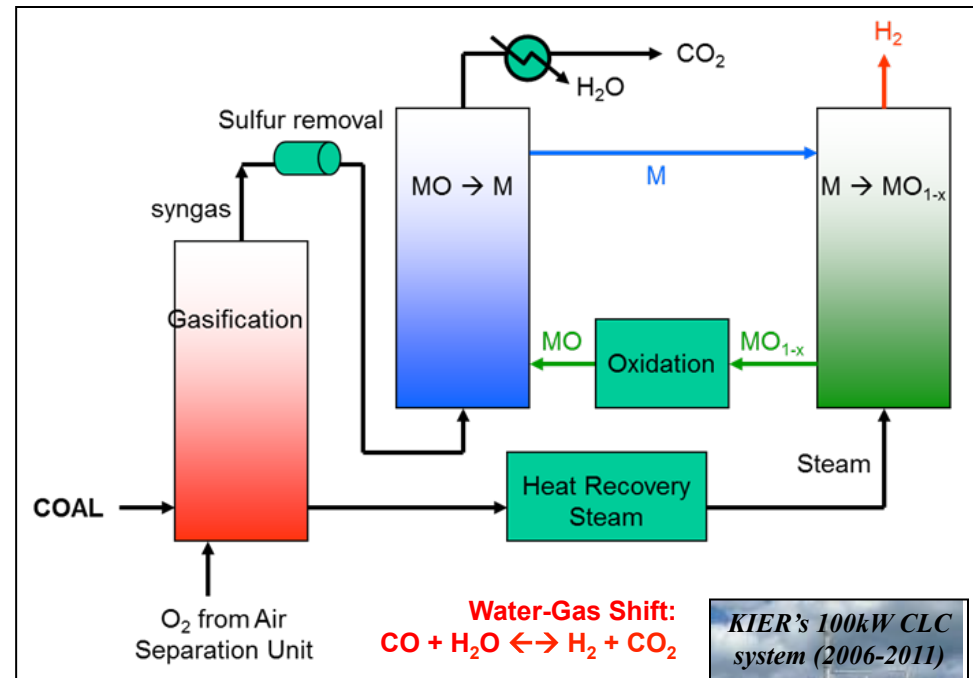
Solid Sorbents & Chemical Looping Technologies

Carbonation / Calcination cycle

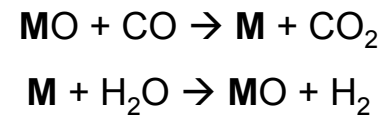


e.g., ZECA process
(Los Alamos National Lab)

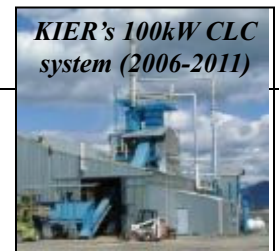
Oxidation / Reduction cycle



Water-Gas Shift:
 $\text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \leftrightarrow \text{H}_2 + \text{CO}_2$

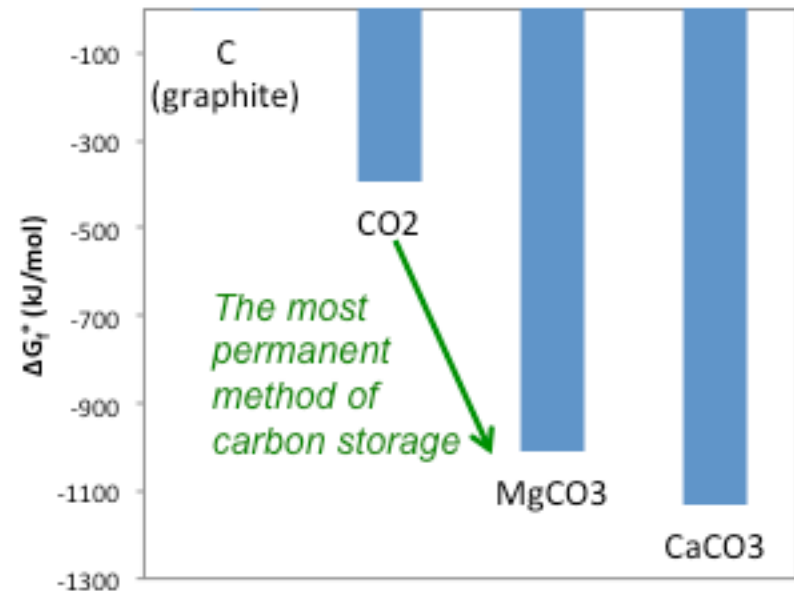
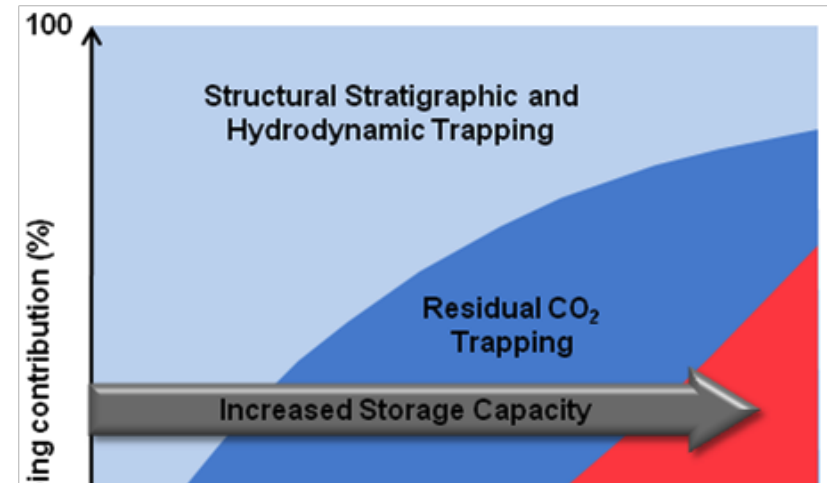
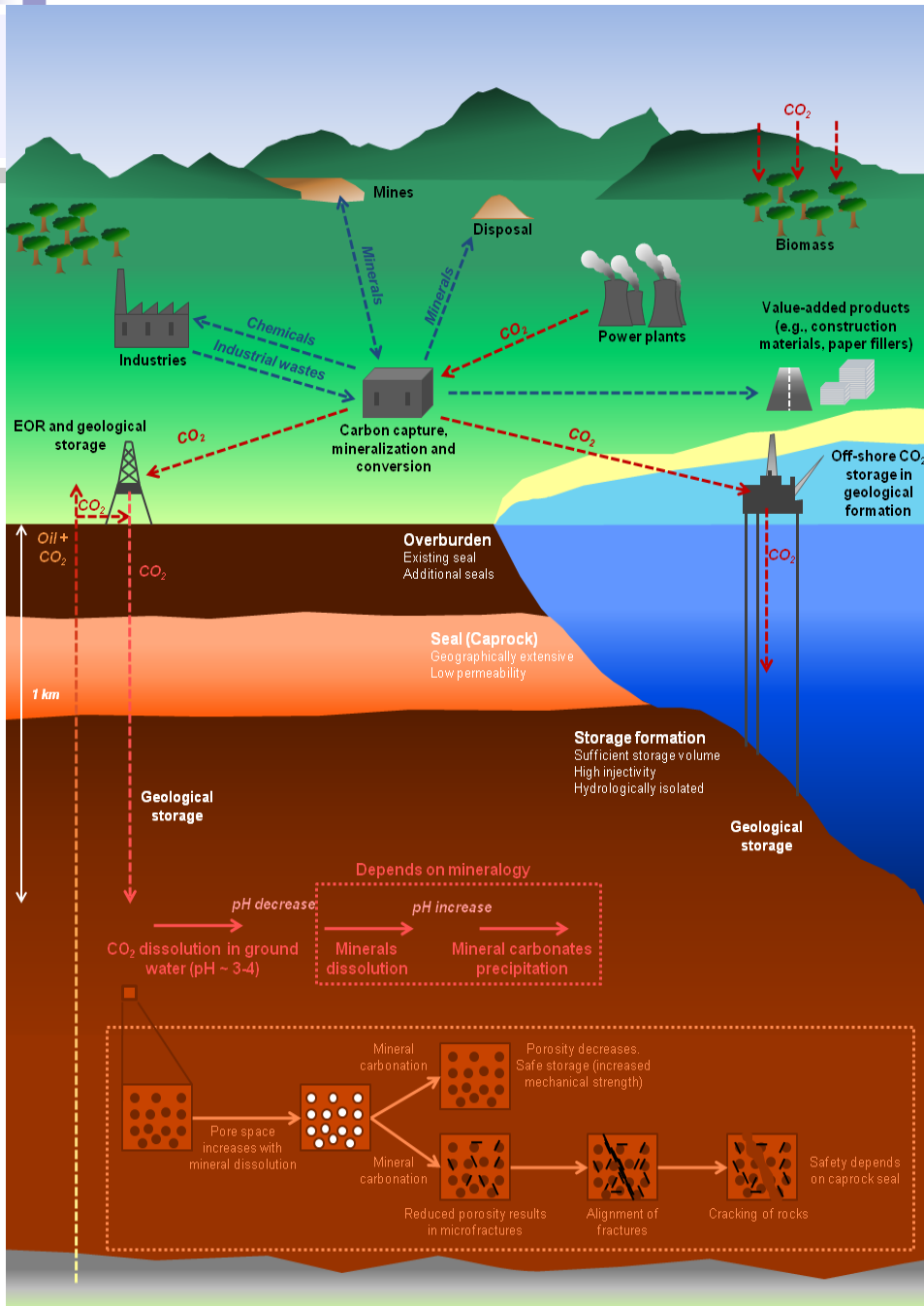


e.g., Chemical Looping process for H₂ production
(Ohio State Univ.: U.S. Patent No. 11/010,648 (2004))

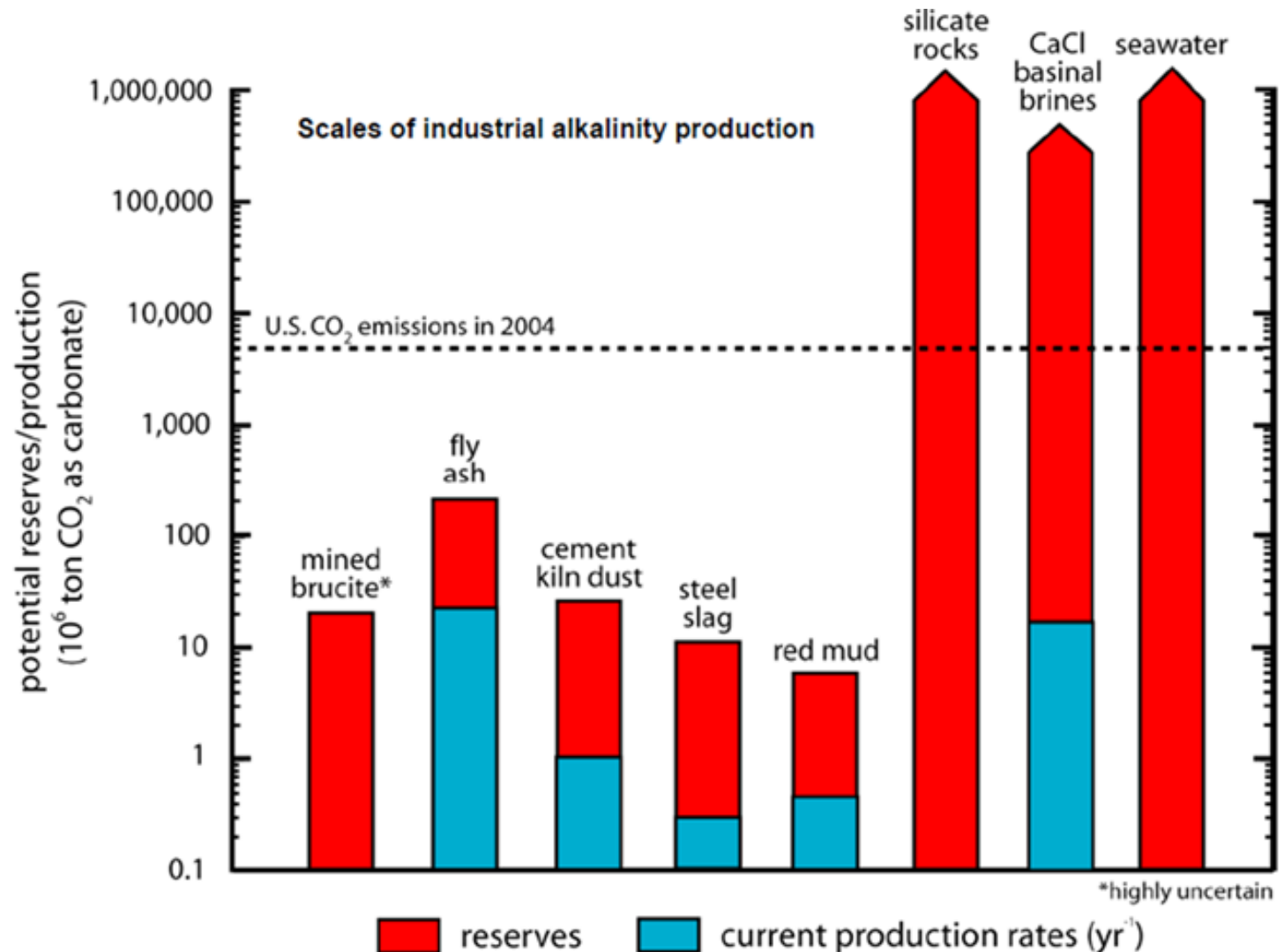


Can we combine CO₂ capture and storage?

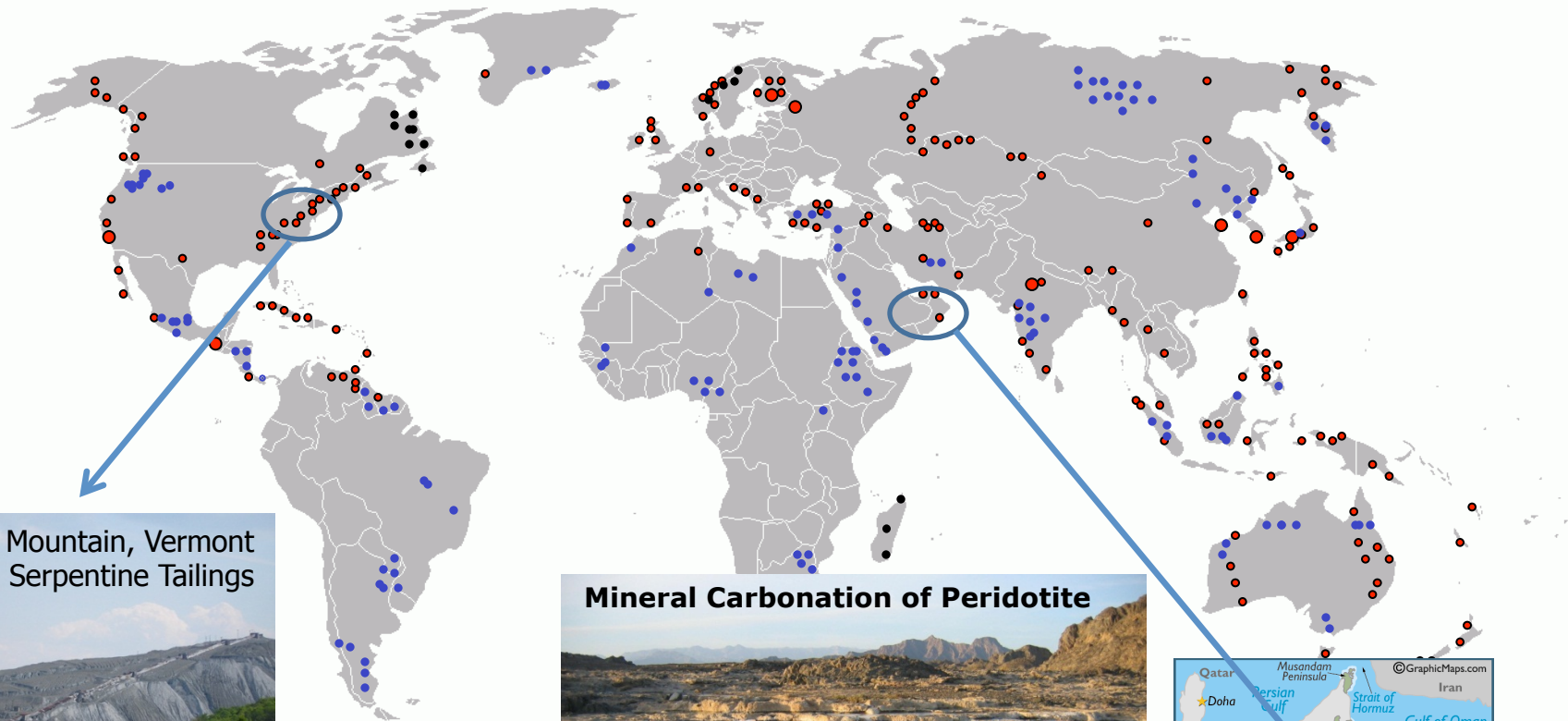
Carbon Storage in Geologic Formations



Availability of Industrial Wastes



Availability of Minerals



Belvidere Mountain, Vermont
Serpentine Tailings



- Basalt
- Labradorite
- Magnesium-based Ultramafic Rocks (Serpentine, Olivine)

Mineral Carbonation of Peridotite

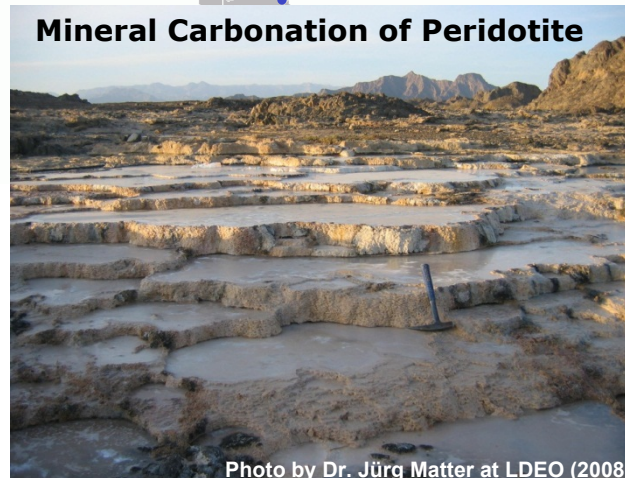
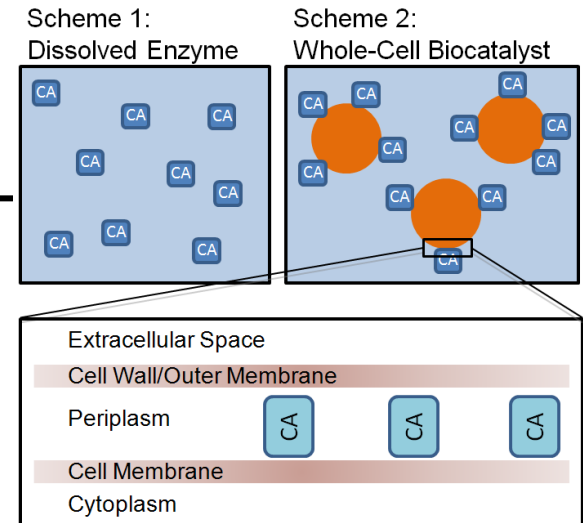
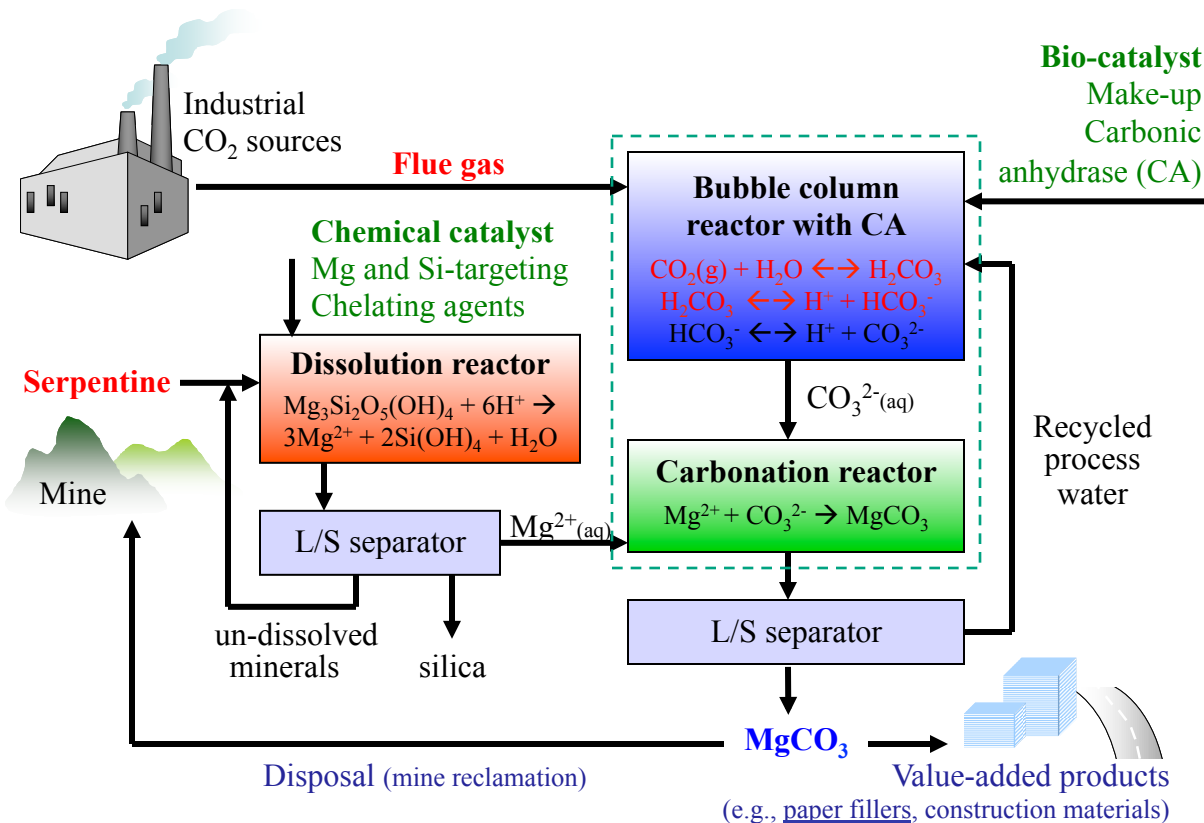


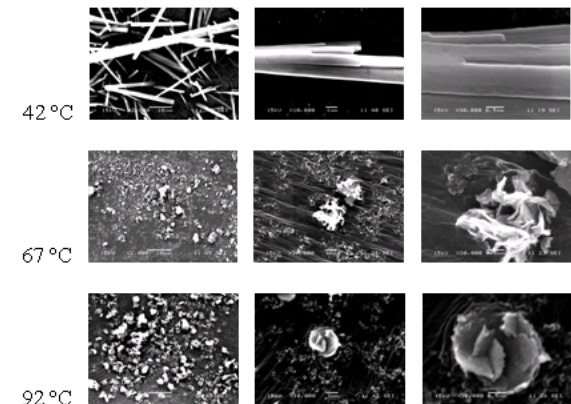
Photo by Dr. Jürg Matter at LDEO (2008)



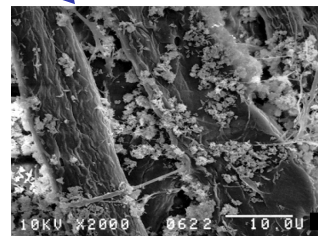
Chemical and Biological Catalytic Enhancement of Weathering of Silicate Minerals as Novel Carbon Capture and Storage Technology



Controlled Formation of Precipitated Magnesium Carbonates



- ❑ No need for the solvent regeneration and CO₂ compression, straightforward MVA
- ❑ Alternative CO₂ utilization option with improved economic feasibility

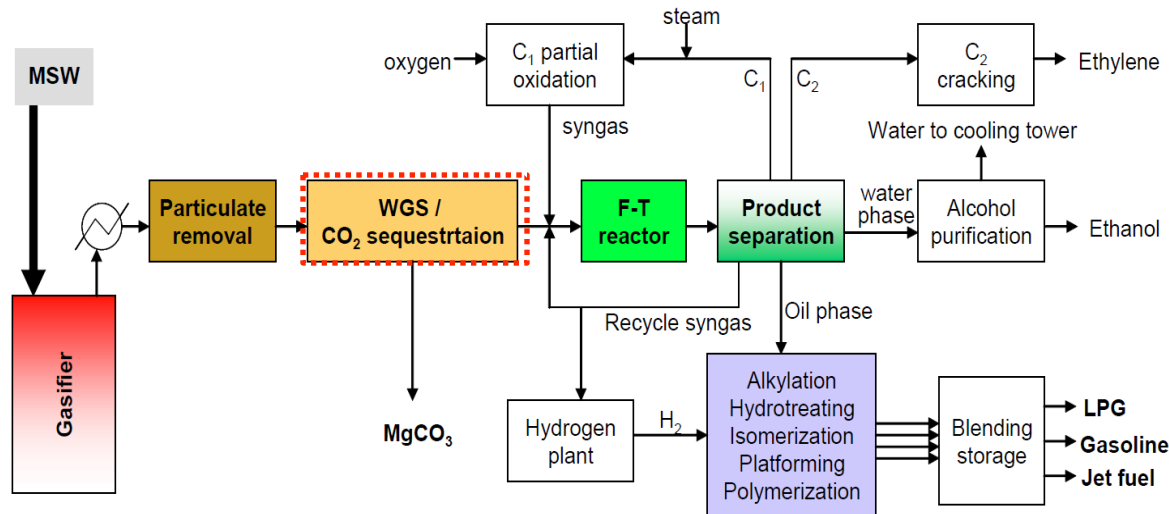




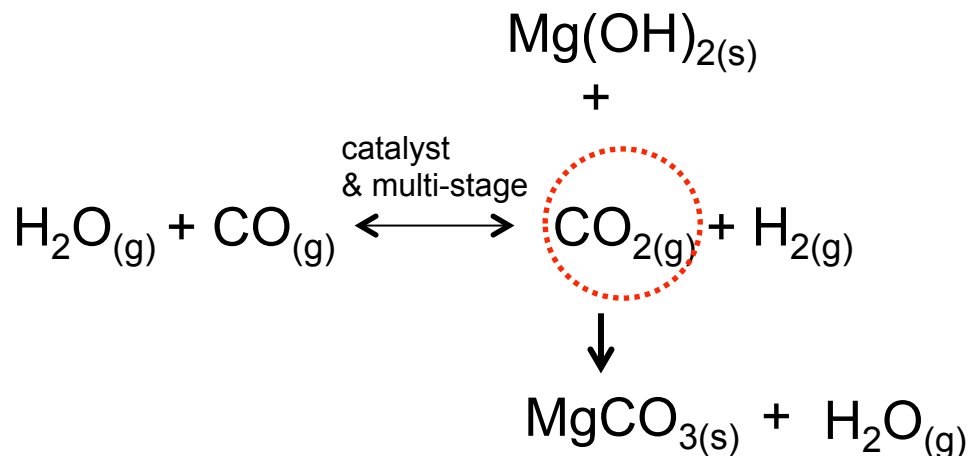
Synthetic Liquid Fuels from Solid Wastes with integrated CCS

Energy Conversion with CCS

Sustainable Waste-to-Liquid Fuel Scheme

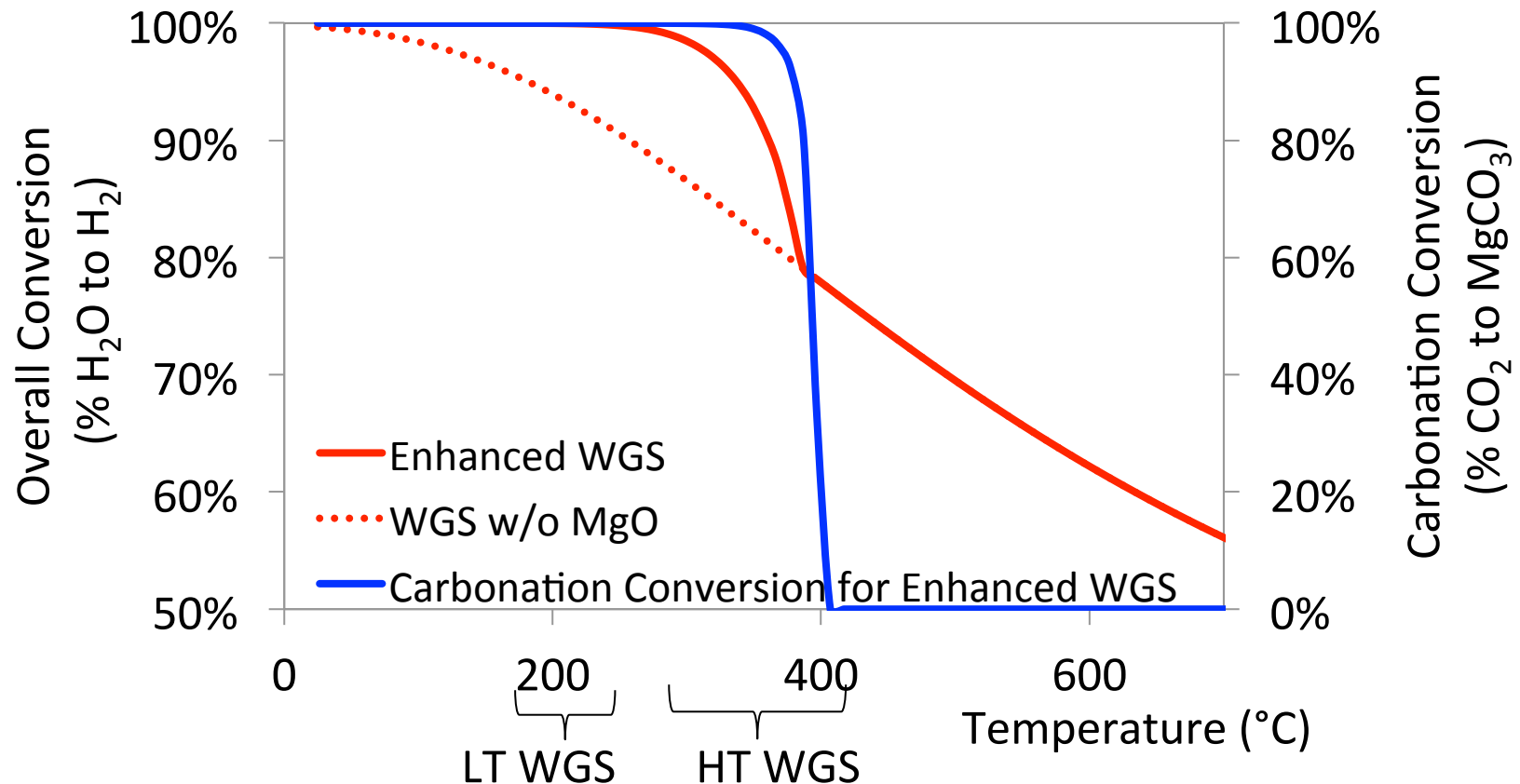
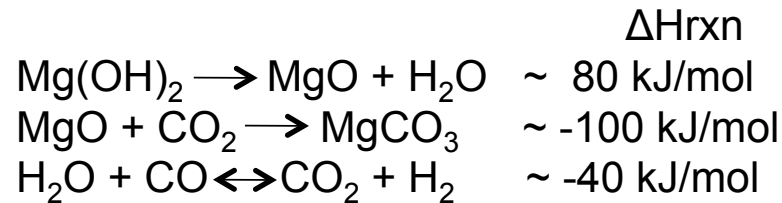


X-to-Liquids processes have high carbon footprint

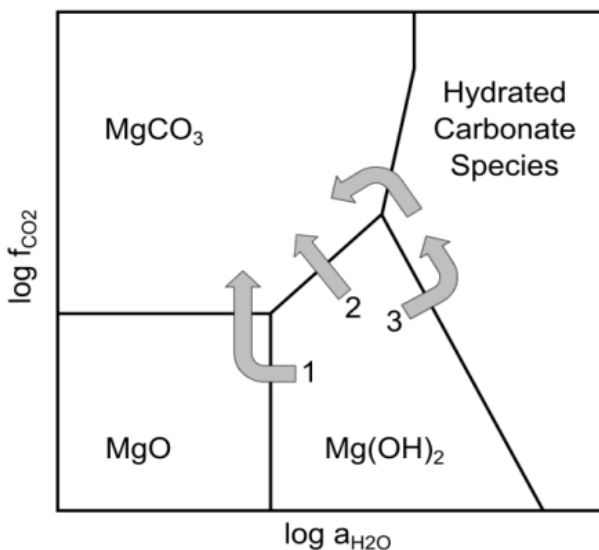


- ✓ Shifts equilibrium to products
- ✓ Provides Water
- ✓ Economic prospects

Water Gas Shift with *in-situ* Carbon Capture: Theoretical Enhancement

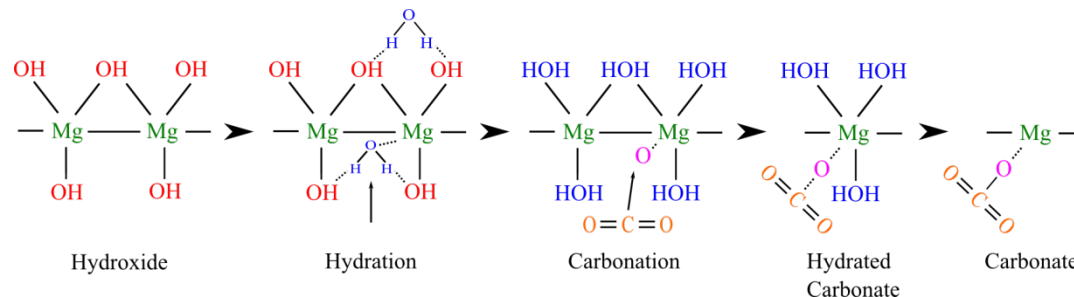


Reaction Pathways in $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ Carbonation



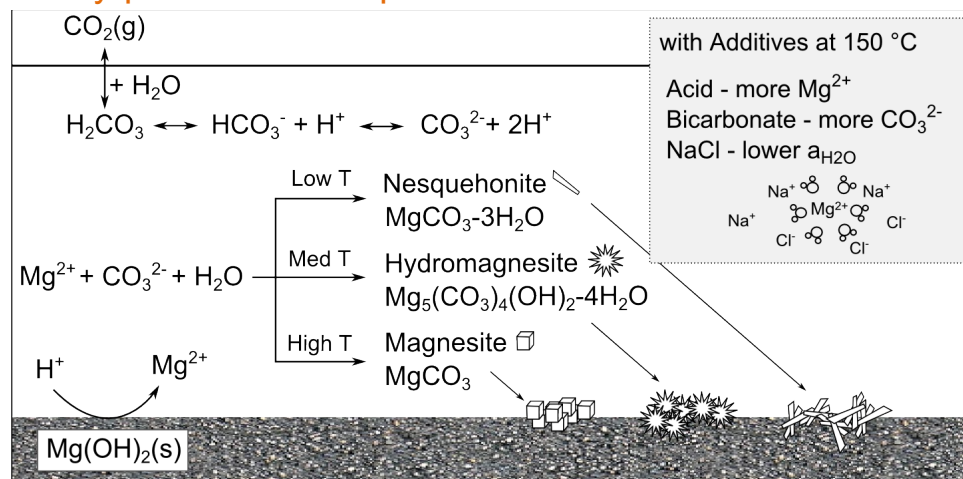
Geochemists Work Bench software (Release 7.0.2) at $T = 300\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ and $P_{\text{total}} = 1\text{ atm}$ (basis, Magnesite activity = 1).

Proposed gas-solid reaction pathway:



Adapted from Schaef *et al.* 2011

Slurry-phase reaction phenomena:



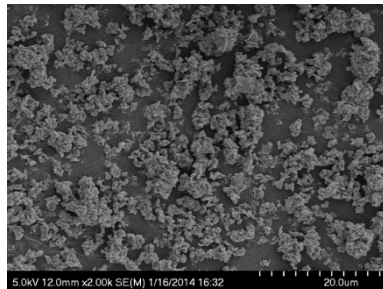
Schaef, H. T.; Windisch, C. F.; McGrail, B. P.; Martin, P. F.; Rosso, K. M., Brucite $[\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2]$ Carbonation in Wet Supercritical CO_2 : An in situ High Pressure X-Ray Diffraction Study. *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* **2011**.

Fricker, K.; Park, A. H., Effect of H_2O on the Carbonation of $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ for Combined CO_2 Capture and Storage. *Chemical Engineering Science* **2013**, *100*, 332-341, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ces.2012.12.027>

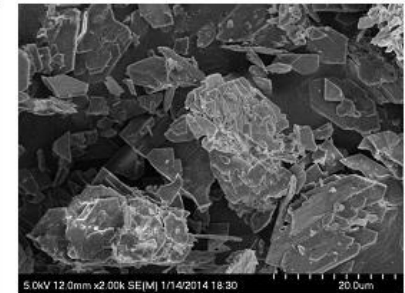
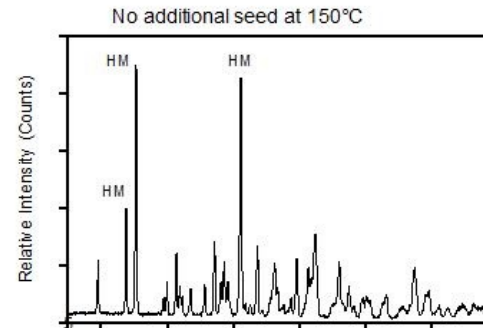
Fricker, K.; Park, A.-H. A., Investigation of the Temperature Effect on Carbonate Phase Formation in $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ Slurry Carbonation. **2014**, *In Preparation*.

Effect of Seeds on Slurry Carbonation Experiments at 150 °C

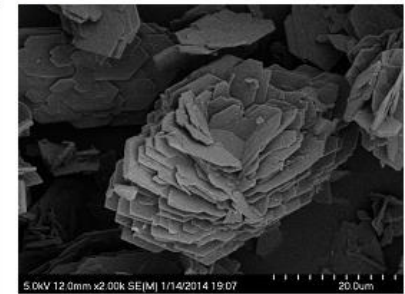
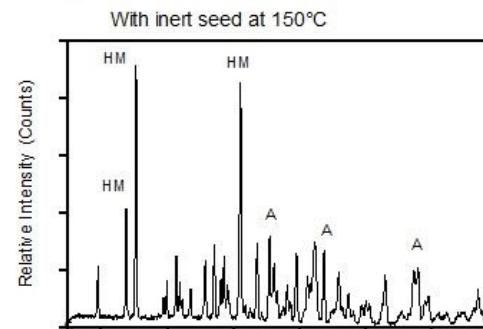
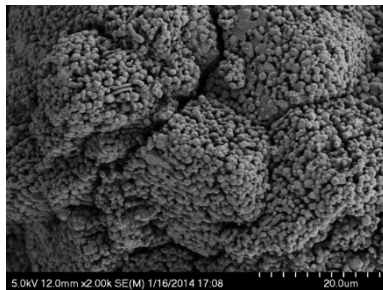
$\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$



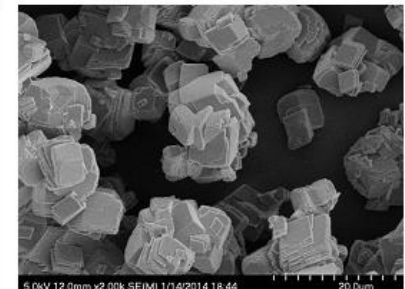
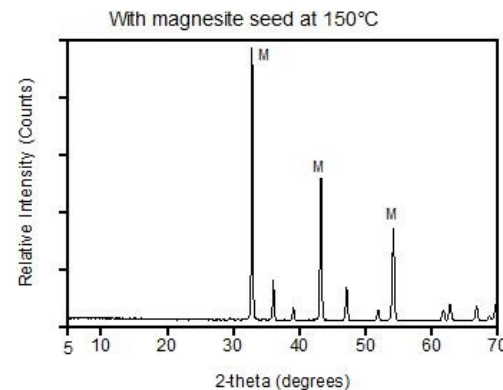
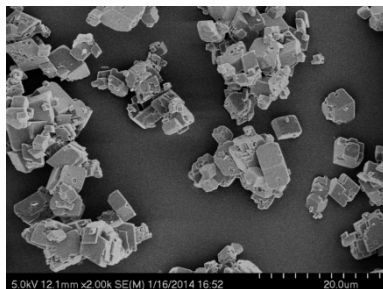
Carbonation at
150 °C for 120 min



Al_2O_3



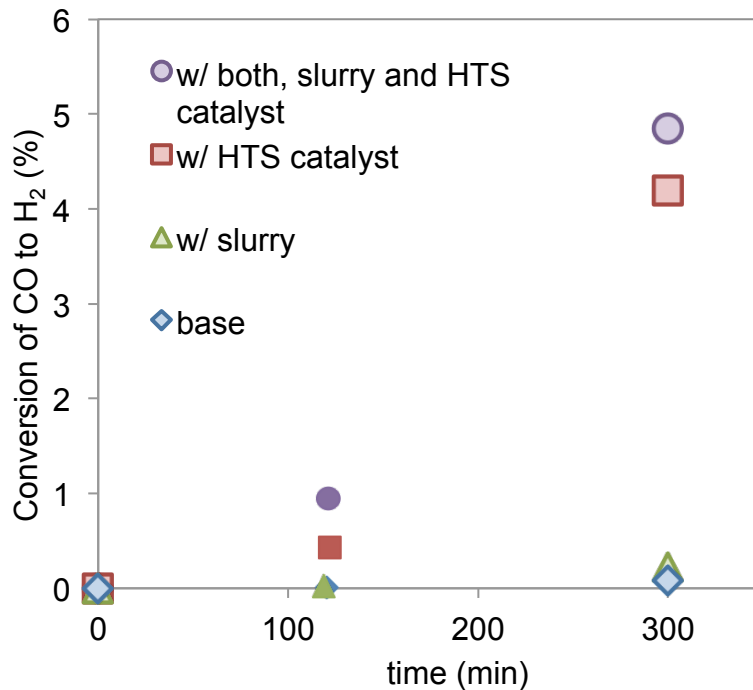
MgCO_3



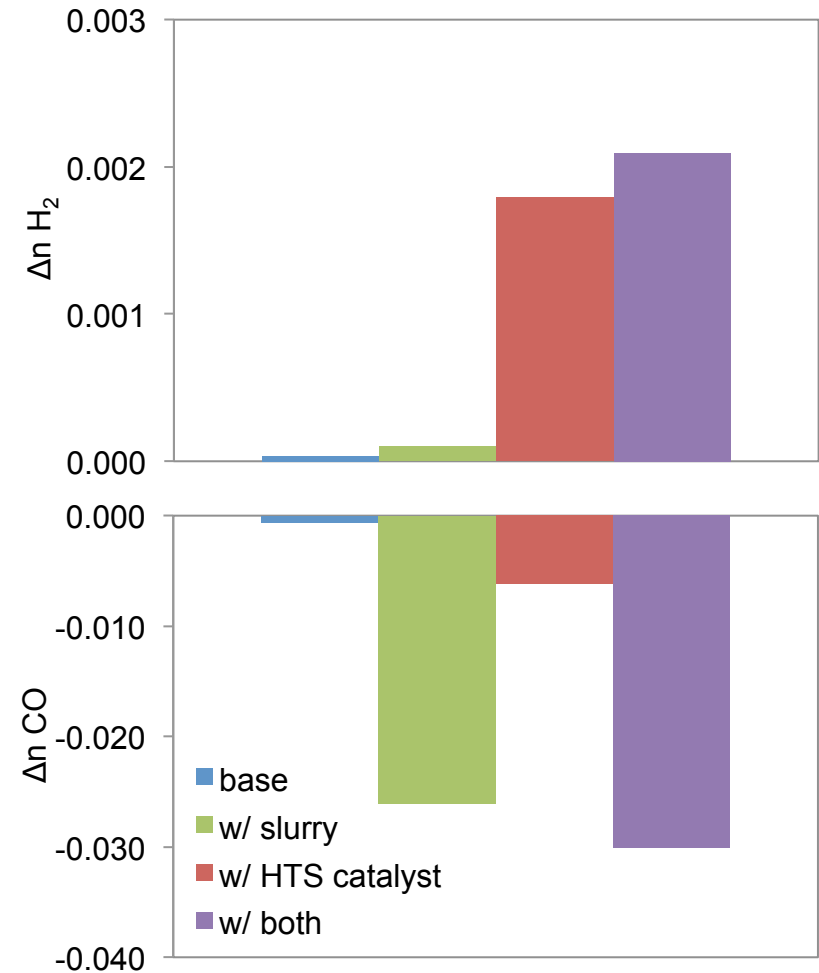
Starting materials

Effect of in-situ $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ Slurry Carbonation on WGS

Max conversion possible
calculated using $K_{eq}(T)$



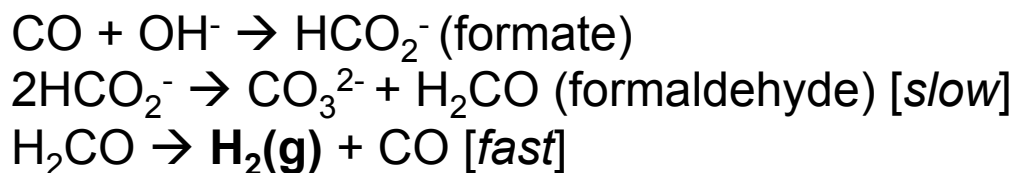
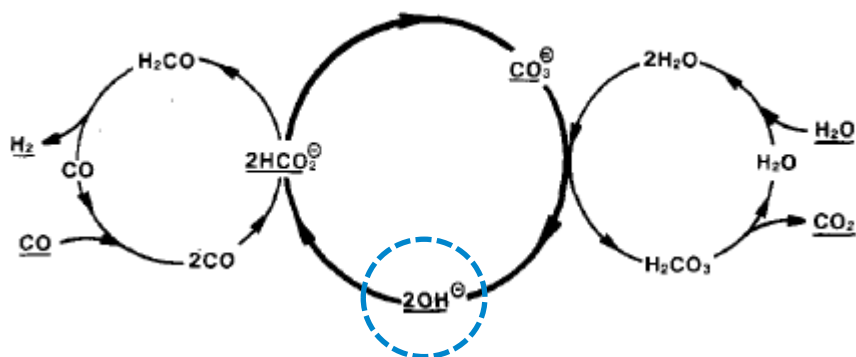
Relatively low conversion of
 CO to H_2



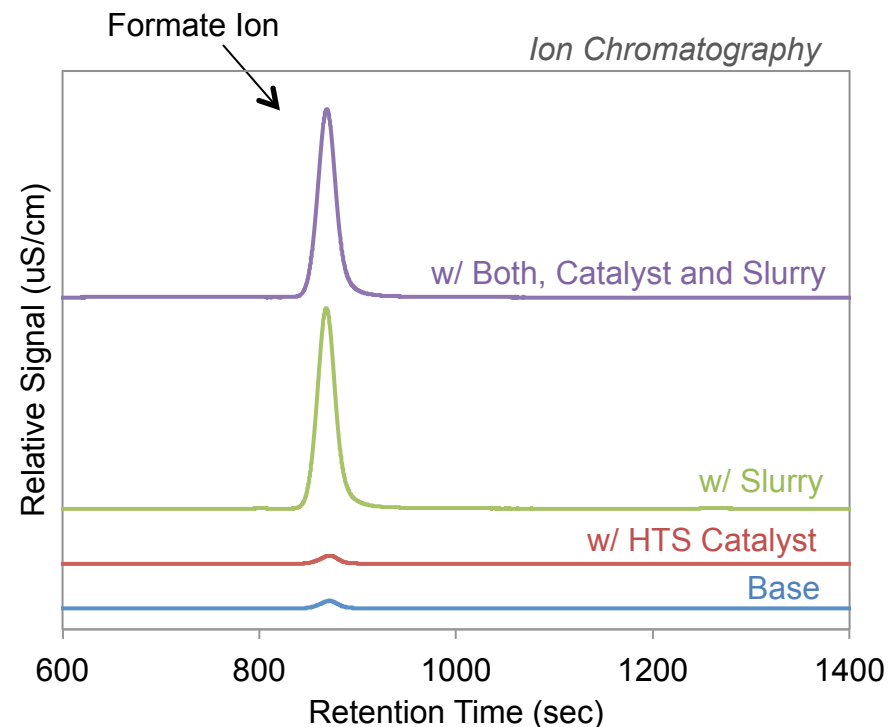
Mole imbalance, reaction is 1 to 1

Investigating the Molar Imbalance

Elliott et al. (1983) found OH^- producers (specifically alkali and alkaline carbonates) to catalyze a high pressure aqueous WGS System



$\text{Mg}(\text{COOH})_2$ (aq) formation
Is holding up CO conversion to H_2

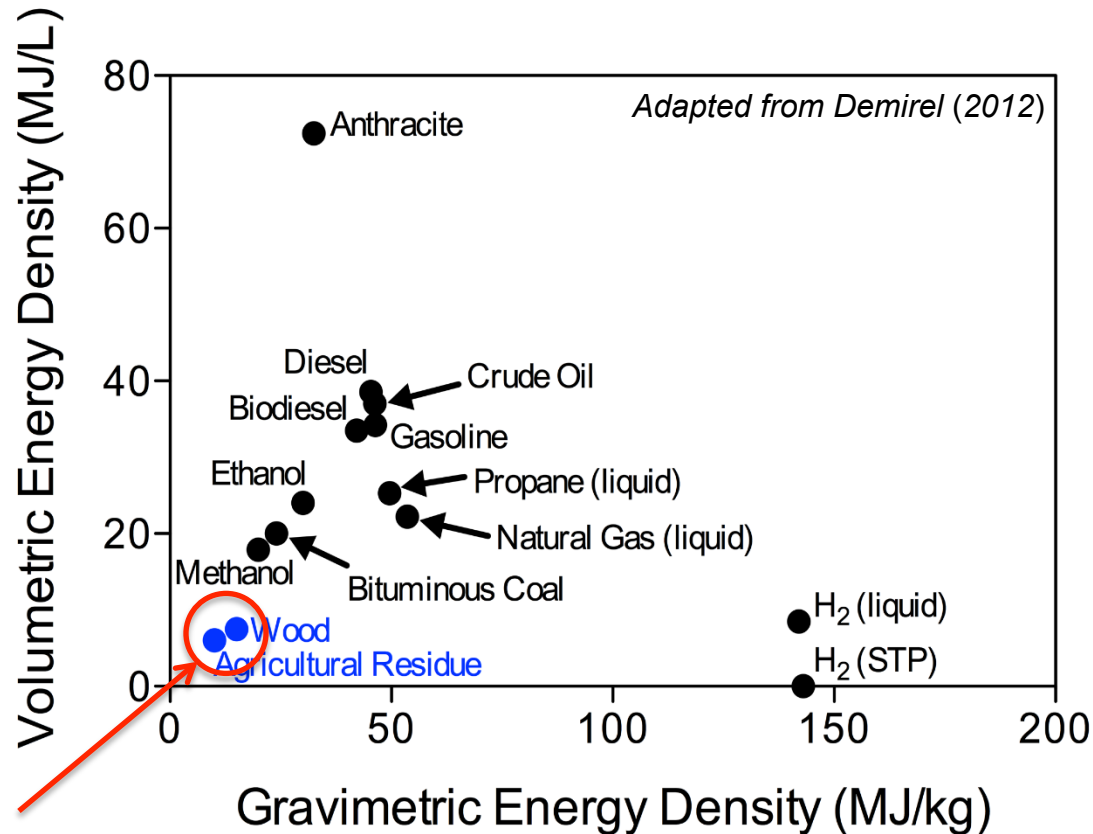


Generally, slurry samples contained ~22x the concentration of COOH^- as those with a water bulk phase



Biogenic Wastes-to-Hydrogen with integrated CCS

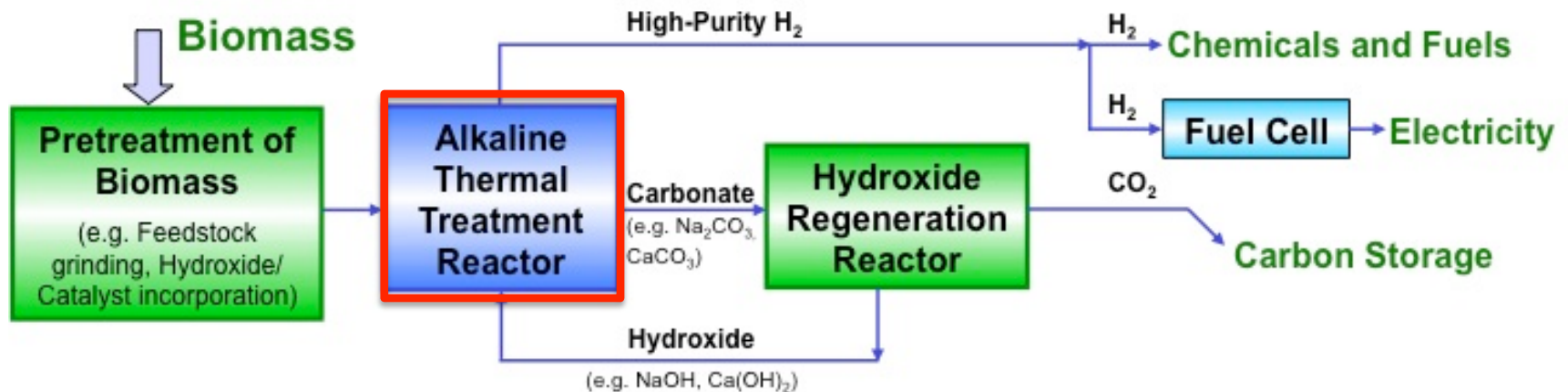
Biomass as an Energy Feedstock



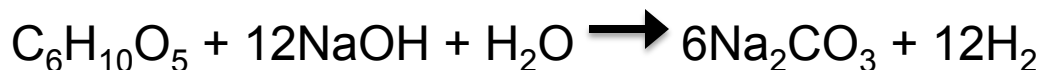
**Low Energy
Density Feedstock**

To sustainably utilize biomass as an energy source, energy densification or on-site generation schemes are necessary.

Alkaline Thermal Treatment (ATT) Fuel Pathway



➤ ATT Reaction for Cellulose



➤ Conditions

- Low temperature (523 – 573 K)
- Atmospheric pressure
- Low to zero CO_x emission

Scalable reactor
Unskilled operators

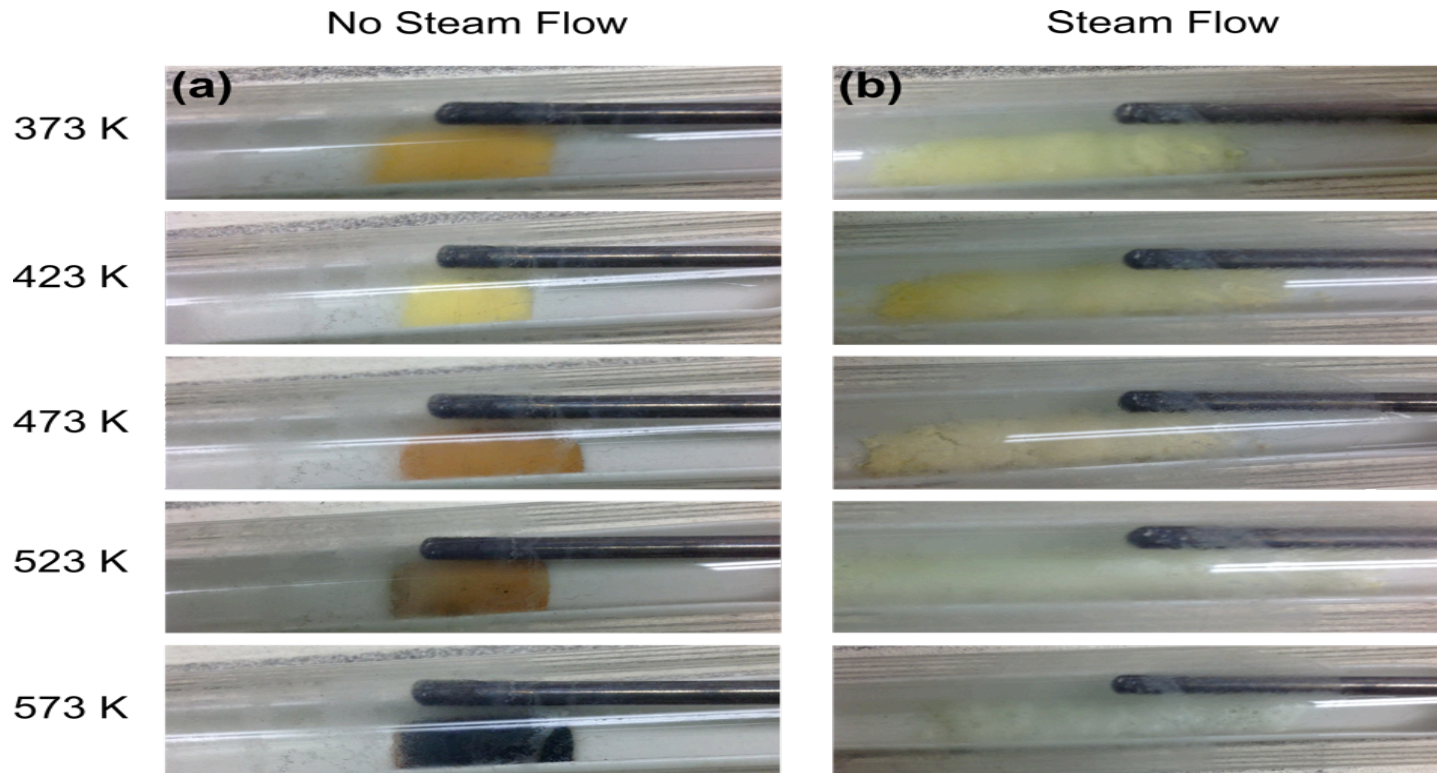
➤ Feedstocks

- Sugars, lignocellulosic biomass
- Wet and dry feedstocks

➤ Potential Applications

- Energy generation
- Fuel and chemical production
- Well-suited for distributed applications

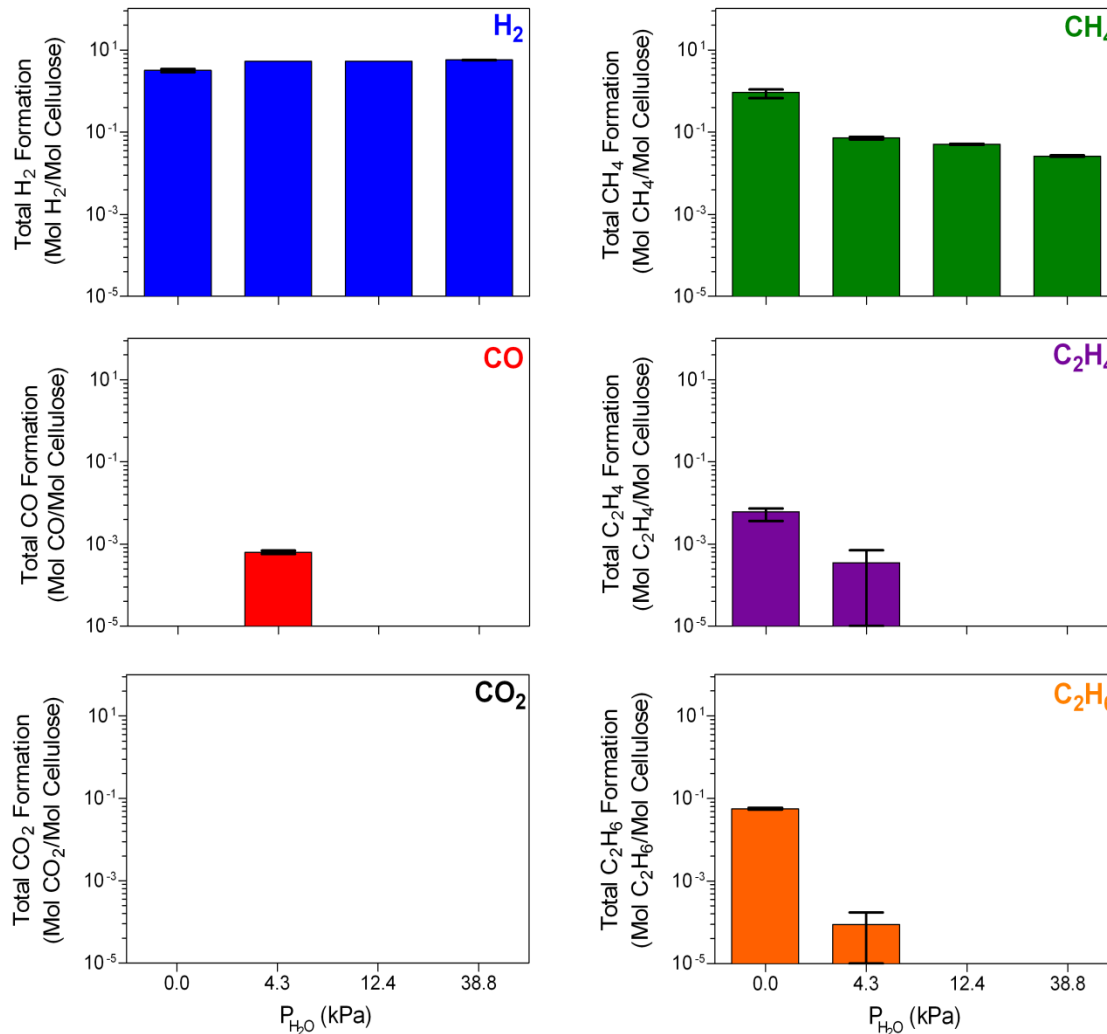
ATT of Cellulose with and without Steam Flow



- Steam flow caused a melt to be formed around temperature of peak H_2 formation rate (518 K)
- Improved transfer with melt may be additional reason more H_2 formed under steam flow

Effect of Steam on Cellulose ATT

Stoichiometric, 12:1 NaOH:Cellulose



- As H₂ increases, CH₄ and C₂ hydrocarbons decrease
- CO level right on the border of the instruments' detection limit, so quite low overall at 4.3 kPa, but perhaps indicates a minor role that steam plays in decarbonylating cellulose.
- CH₄ fell order of magnitude with addition of steam
- C₂H₄ and C₂H₆ fell ~17 times and ~600 times, respectively, with addition of steam, and were not detected beyond 4.3 kPa H₂O partial pressure.

Summary and Future Direction

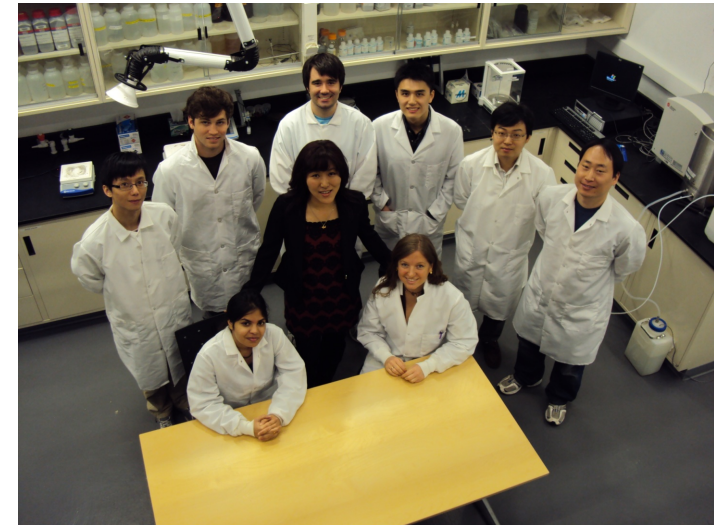
- ❑ Use of municipal solid wastes and industrial wastes (e.g., stainless steel slags, scrap metals), Urban mining → **energy, water and atom efficiencies**
- ❑ Development of multifunctional smart CO₂ capture media → Combined CO₂ capture and conversion
- ❑ Integrated systems (e.g., chemical looping, enhanced WGS using mineral carbonation) for **process intensification and flexibility** (production of heat, electricity, chemicals and fuels in any combination)
- ❑ Carbon Capture, **Utilization** and Storage
- ❑ Integration of renewable energy into various CCUS schemes
- ❑ Need for international and trans-disciplinary collaborations

EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL
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CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & PARTICLE TECHNOLOGY LAB
INTEGRATED CARBON CAPTURE, USE AND STORAGE (CCUS) RESEARCH



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National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



Sponsors (Current & Past)

- National Science Foundation (CAREER, CBET, SEES-RCN)**
- Department of Energy (CCS1, CCS2, MVA, ARPA-E)
- King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST-Cornell Center)
- ORICA Mining Services Ltd.**
- POSCO (Fluidization, Biomass-to-H₂)**
- KIGAM**
- CLIMAX GLOBAL ENERGY**
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation (NYSTAR)
- Columbia University (Diversity Initiative, Earth and Engineering Center)**
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency STAR fellowship**



NSF RCN-SEES: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)

PI: Ah-Hyung Alissa Park

(09/2012 – 08/2016, NSF Program Director: Bruce Hamilton)

Project Management LCSE - Columbia University

PI: A.-H. Alissa Park

Columbia PMs: **Taylor** and **Lall** & AIChE team: **Schuster**

Steering Committee

Thrust POC: **Park**

Members: Park, Lackner, Schlosser, Kelemen & Mutter (Columbia), Fan (OSU), Fritt & Socolow (Princeton), Jones (Georgia Tech), Keairns (AIChE), Mazzotti (ETH-Zurich), Rubin (CMU), Sageman (Northwestern), Smit (Berkeley), Snurr (Northwestern) and Song (PennState)

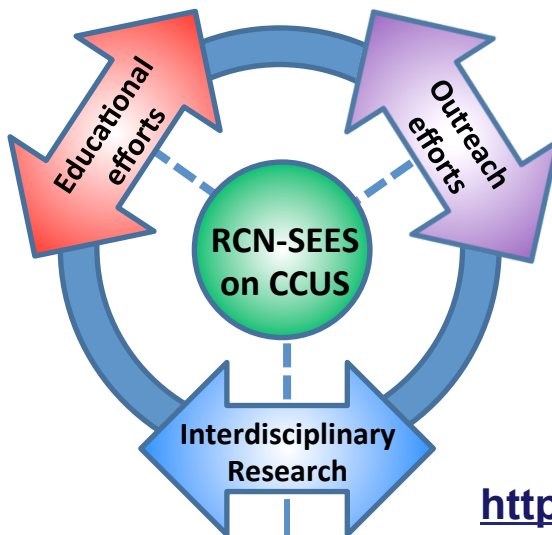
Educational Thrust

Thrust POC: **Schuster & Pfirman**

- K-12: K-12 teachers (Buck and Miller)
- Young Professional (TBA)
- MCM at Columbia (Lackner)
- Research Experience in C Sequestration (Tomski)
- Women in Science and Engineering (Gadikota)
- Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD, TBA)

* Columbia participants unless noted

* International participants are in blue



PE Society Thrust

Thrust POC: **Keairns & Nguyen** (AIChE)

AIChE (TBA), AIME (TBA), ASCE (TBA), ASME (TBA), IEEE (TBA), **Fox** (IMECHE)

Industrial Thrust

Thrust POC: **Gupta** (RTI) & **Chan** (AIChE)

B&W (Vargas), GE (Perry), RTI (Gupta), SK Energy (Park), **ARAMCO** (Katikaneni), **ORICA Ltd.** (Brent), **POSCO** (Jung), and others to be invited and confirmed

<http://www.aiche.org/ccus-network>

CO₂ Capture & Conversion Thrust

Thrust leader: **Petit & West**

Aines (LLNL), Panagiotopoulos & Bocarsly (Princeton), Chen, **Coppens** (UCL), **Lee** (SKU), Farrauto, Liu & Heldebrant (PNNL), Li (NCST), **Wang** (Zhejiang), **Park**, Reimer (Berkeley), Snurr (Northwestern), Song (PSU), Wilcox (Stanford), Yegulalp, **Zhang & Zhang** (CAS-IPE), etc

CO₂ Transportation, Storage & EOR Thrust

Thrust leader: **Matter** (USH) & **Brady** (SNL)

Bacocchi (UR-TV), Bonneville (PNNL), **Blunt** (Imperial), Bryant (UT Austin), **Dipple** (UBC), **Dlugogorski** (UNewcastle), Goldberg, **Lee** (KAIST), Park, Peters & Fritt (Princeton), Sageman & Husson (Northwestern), Wang (Yale), Zhu (Indiana), etc

CO₂ MVA & Risk Analysis Thrust

Thrust leader: **Stute & Venkat**

Bonneville (PNNL), Goldberg, Lackner, Meinrenken, Park, Peters (Princeton), Romanak (BEG Texas), Zhu (Indiana), etc

Policy, Business & Law Thrust

Thrust leader: **Barrett & Gerrard**

Coppens (UCL), **Fox** (IMECHE), Lackner, Marcotullio, Shindell, Urpelainen, van Ryzin, Weber, Welton, **van der Zwaan** (ECN), etc