

# *Purposing Irish Sustainable Carbon: Fuel, Fiber or Food ?*



2,4

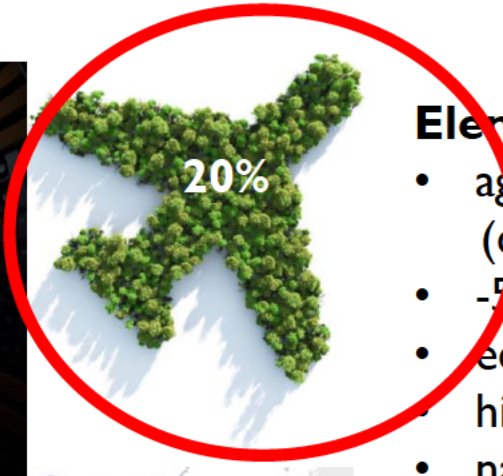
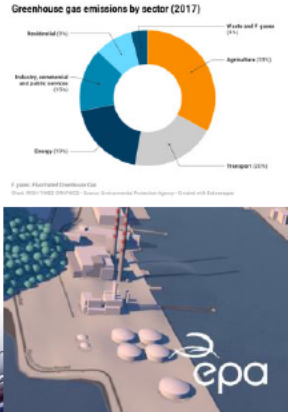
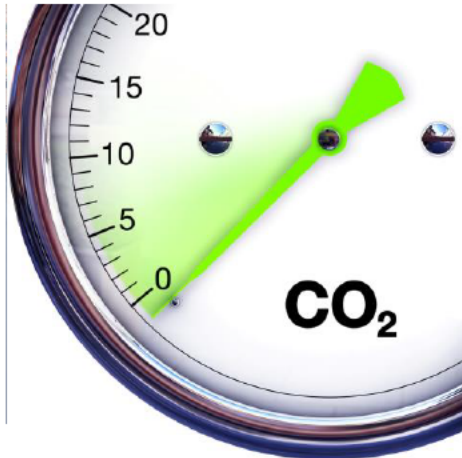
UNIVERSITY OF  
**LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

Bernal<sup>1</sup>  
Institute

All Island Bioeconomy Summit, Tullamore IRL | 20221012

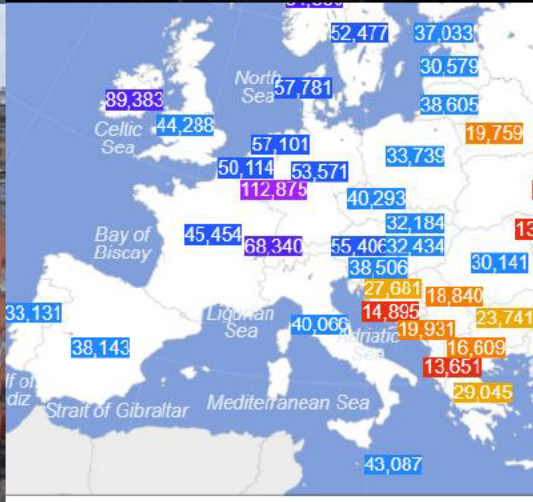


# Current pillars under Irish economy emit carbon, yet some require carbon.



## Elements

- aggressive carbon reduction (construction, food, transport)
- -55% EU target/mandates
- economic diversification
- high quality job creation
- nature & biodiversity



“... national biogenic CH4 emissions would need to be reduced by 30–79% for Ireland” \*

GDP/capita (2021) IRL \$83 800 USA \$69 734  
 NL \$58 252 UK \$41 811

<https://www.epa.ie/climate/communicatingclimatescience/whatisclimatechange/visualisingirelandsgreenhousegasemissions/>

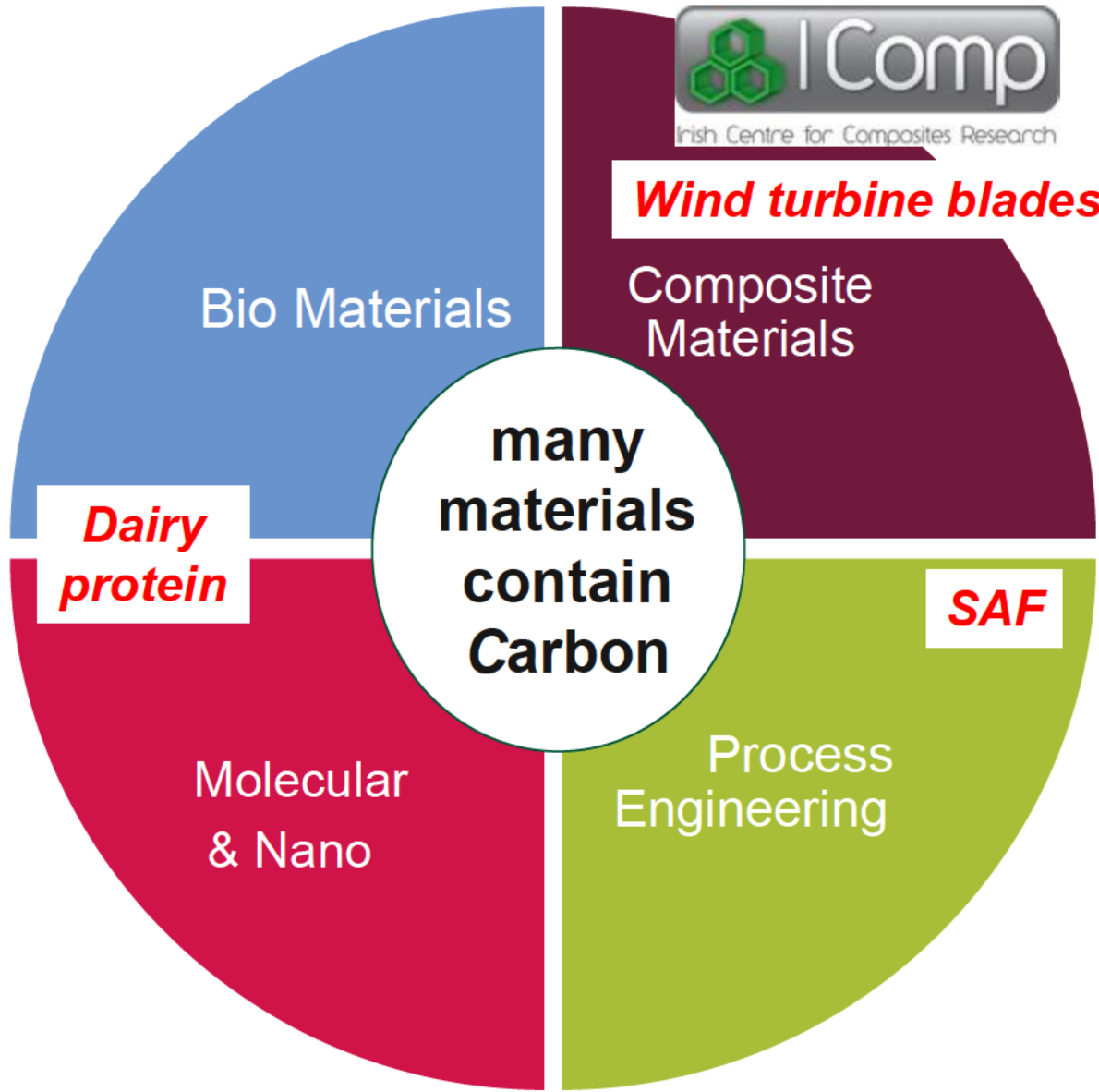
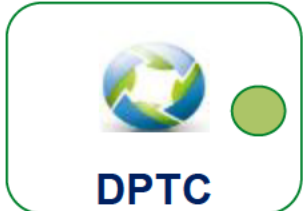
\* Remi Prudhomme. Cathal O'Donoghue, Mary Ryan, David Styles. *J Environ Management* 295 (2021) 113058.



# Bernal : structured materials research



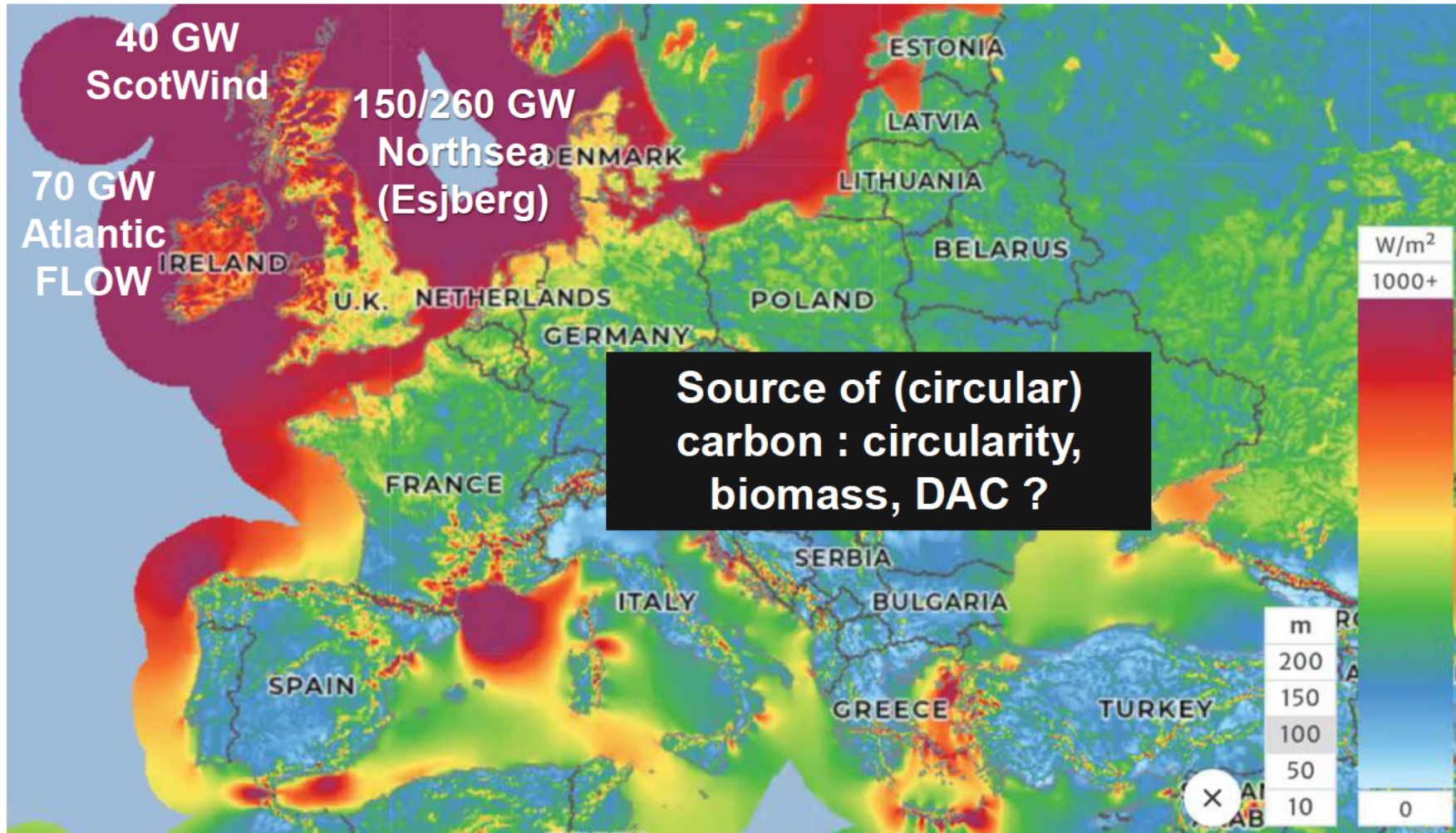
## Hosted Centres and associated clusters



## Membership Centres



# Renewable Wind Energy transforms NW Europe





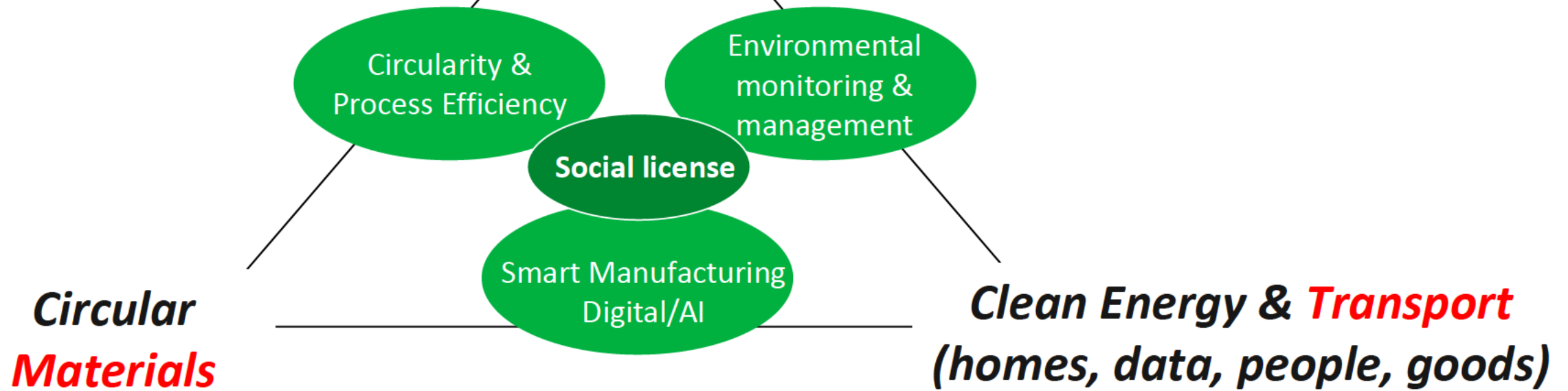
# Think Ireland 2050: driven by decarbonised wind renewable energy

Can we double (or more) future economic impact of carbon requiring sectors ?

**Low Carbon  
Ag/*Food*s**

**Simplified future **carbon** needs**

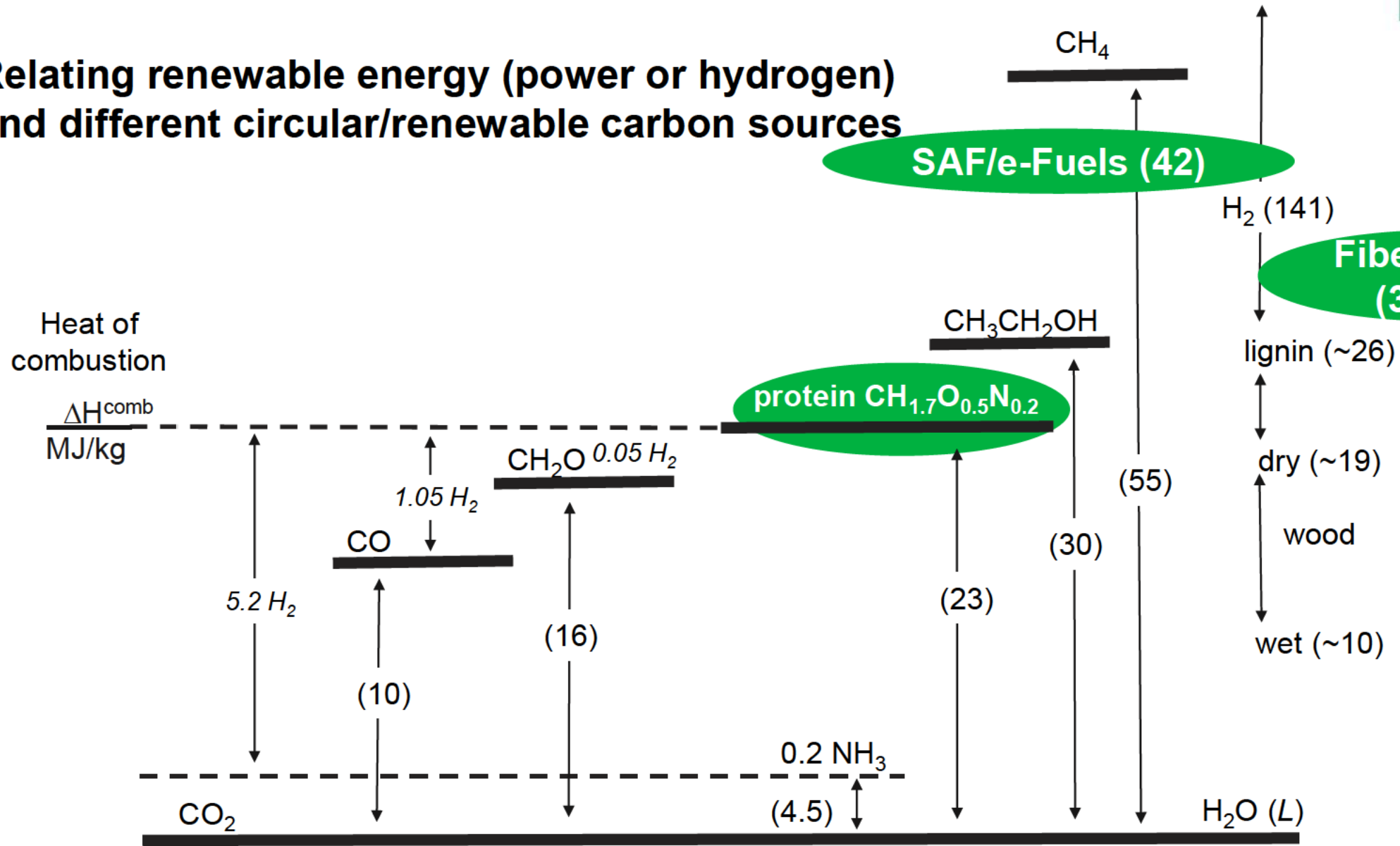
1. Food – alt proteins & cult meat
2. Fuel – Sust Aviation Fuels
3. Fiber – Atlantic turbine fleet







# Relating renewable energy (power or hydrogen) and different circular/renewable carbon sources



$$\text{NH}_3 = 22.5 \text{ MJ/kg}$$

# Future carbon sources in Ireland

source	Amount (kta - kton/yr)	Technology	Price (€/ton)
Atmospheric (CO <sub>2</sub> )	Infinite at low concentration	DAC	500-1000
Combustion (CO <sub>2</sub> )	<b>X</b> (none or mobile)	Carbon capture amine/PSA	
Cement (CO <sub>2</sub> )	6 000 (70% lime stone, 30% current fuels), 30% conc.	Direct use or gas separation	0 ..... 100
Biomass (CH <sub>2</sub> O)	forestry, sawdust, energy crops 498..2180 ktoe (1162-5087 kton)	Collect, depolymerise, hydrolyse or gasify	100-200 transport (400 as sugars)
Biomethane (*CH <sub>4</sub> , CO <sub>2</sub> )	Distributed digesters per farm or cooperation, MSW around cities 305..952 ktoe (230-720 kton)	Direct use or gas separation (or fatty acids after acidification)	Emerging market 400-660/2 *
Plastics / rubber (-CH <sub>2</sub> -)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 – packaging / diverse</li> <li>• <b>140</b> - end-of-life wind turbines (75 GW FLOW)</li> </ul>	Collect, decompose, depolymerise (polyesters) or gasify (polyolefins).	100 (syngas) .... 1500 (chem building blocks)

\* anaerobic digesters produce equivalent amounts of CH<sub>4</sub>+ CO<sub>2</sub>  
<https://www.seai.ie/publications/Bioenergy-Supply-in-Ireland-2015-2035.pdf>

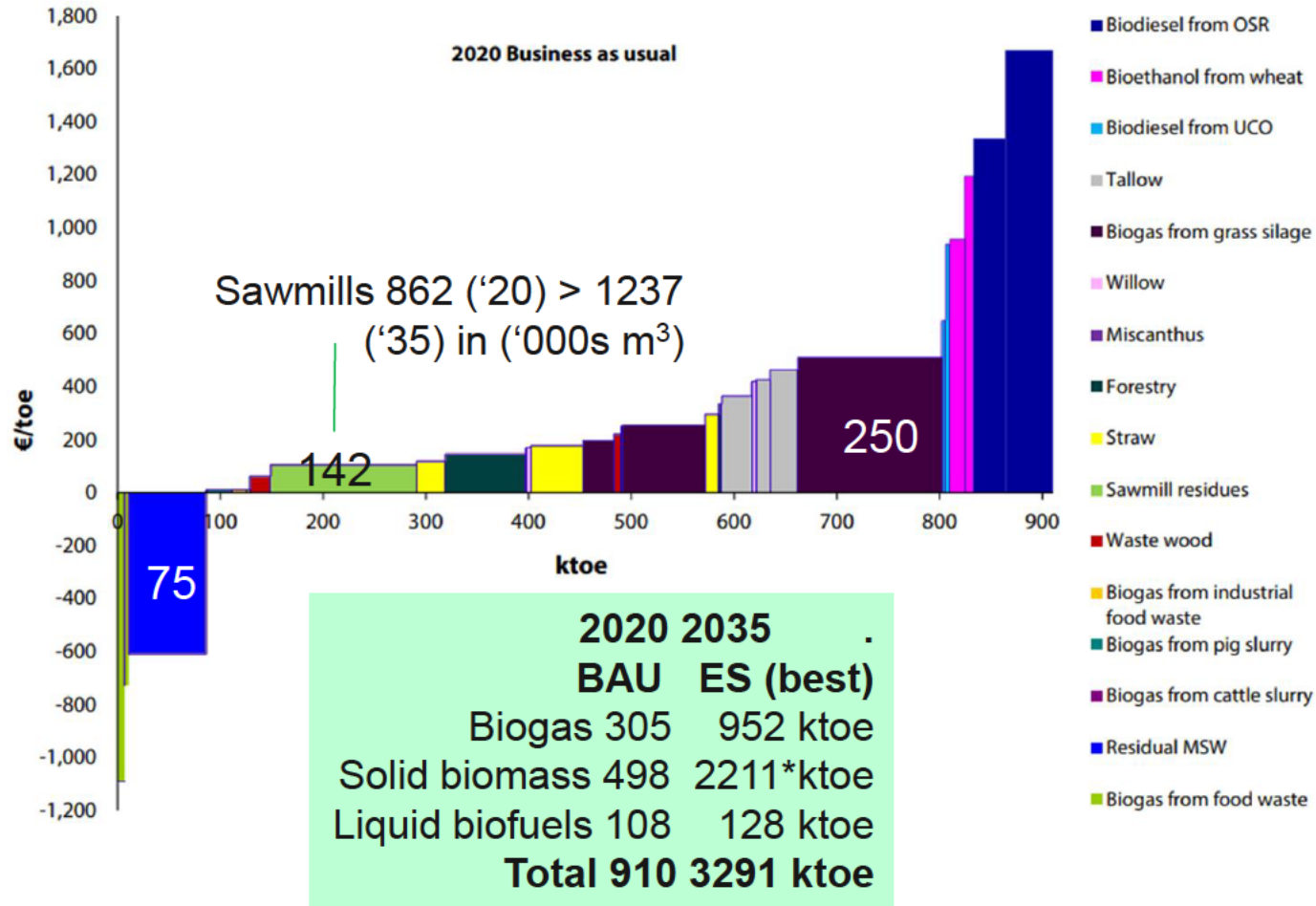


# Biogenic carbon availability in IRL (2020)



Resource	2020	2035
Biodiesel from OSR	0	0
Bioethanol from wheat	0	0
Biodiesel from UCO	0	0
Tallow	0	0
Biogas from grass silage	0	0
Willow	0	0
Miscanthus	0	0
Forestry	0	0
Straw	0	0
Sawmill residues	0	0
Waste wood	0	0
Biogas from industrial food waste	0	0
Biogas from pig slurry	0	0
Biogas from cattle slurry	0	0
Residual MSW	0	0
Biogas from food waste	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>3291</b>

Figure 1.4: Supply curves for all resources in 2020 BAU scenario



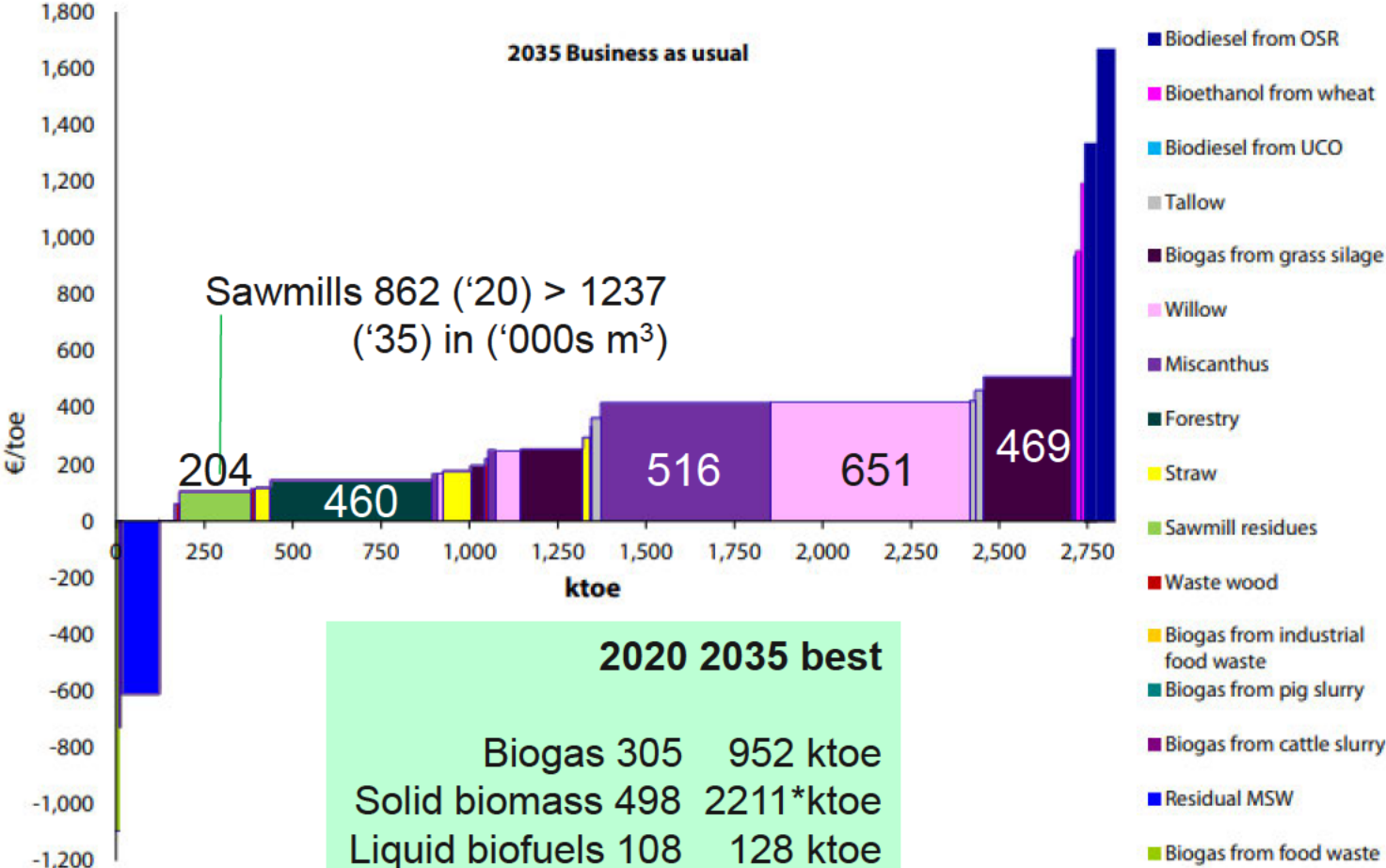
toe ~ 42 GJ = 11.630 MWh

@ 18 GJ /ton wood

\* Increase due to projected Forestry, Energy crops (willow, miscanthus) and grass silage

<https://www.seai.ie/publications/Bioenergy-Supply-in-Ireland-2015-2035.pdf>

# Biogenic carbon availability in IRL (2035)



**2020 2035 best**

Biogas 305 952 ktOE

Solid biomass 498 2211\*ktOE

Liquid biofuels 108 128 ktOE

**Total 910 3291 ktOE**

toe ~ 42 GJ = 11.630 MWh

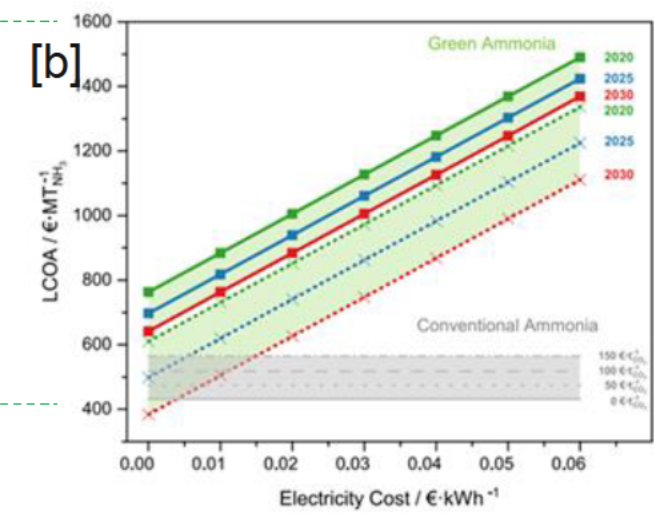
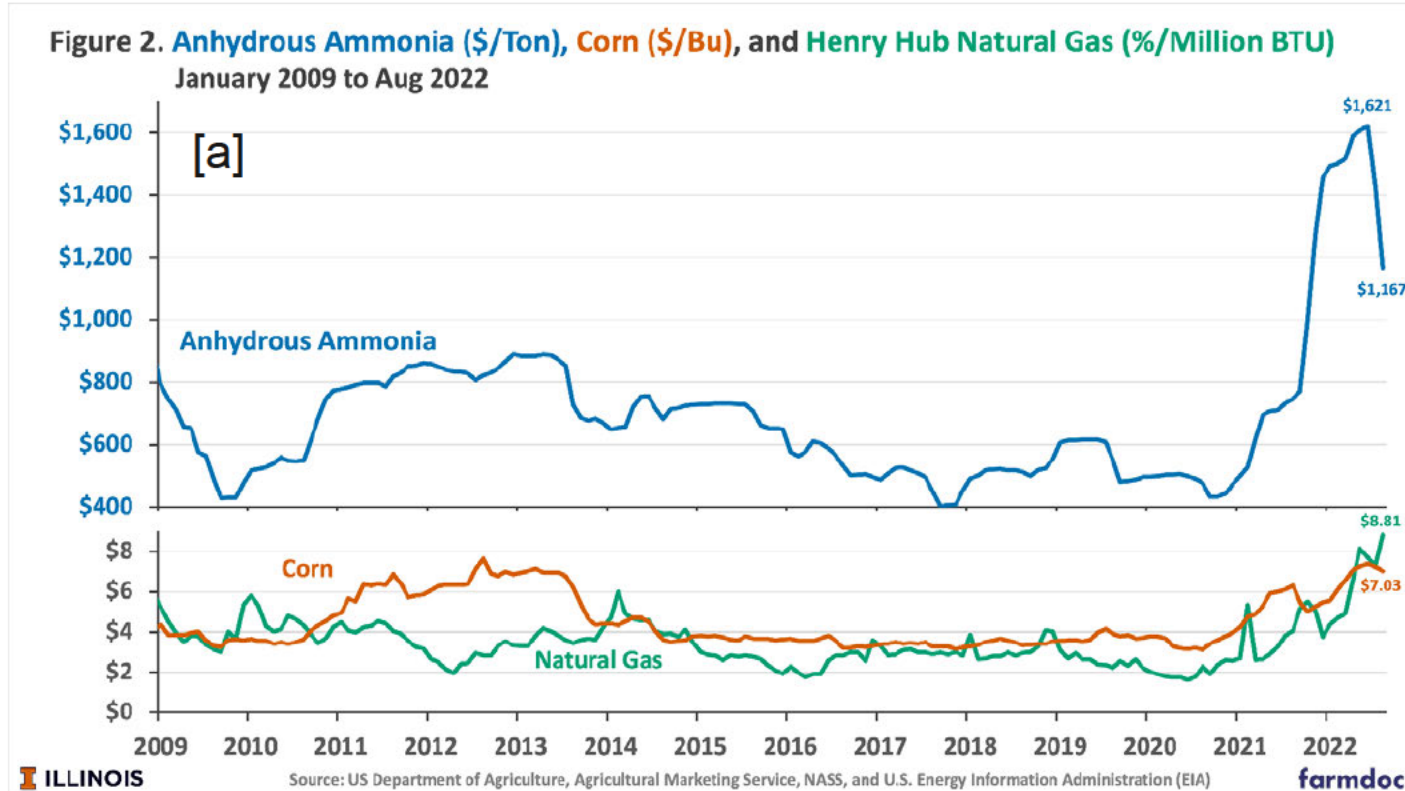
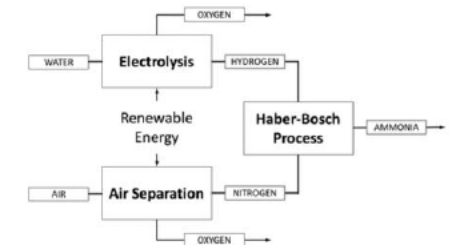
@ 18 GJ /ton wood

\* Increase due to projected Forestry, Energy crops (willow, miscanthus) and grass silage



# Historic/fossil and Electrolytic Ammonia prices

Pre-war: e-NH<sub>3</sub> 'by CF's estimates, green ammonia will cost about \$500 per metric ton to make, about three times as much as conventional ammonia'. ([CE&N 3/'21](#))



Green hydrogen 2 .. 5 .. 8 €/kg

[a] Schnitkey, G., N. Paulson, C. Zulauf, K. Swanson and J. Baltz. "Fertilizer Prices, Rates, and Costs for 2023." farmdoc daily (12):148, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, September 27, 2022.

[b] Joana Sousa, Wendelin Waiblinger, and Kaspar Andreas Friedrich. Techno-economic Study of an Electrolysis-Based Green Ammonia Production Plant. Industrial & Engineering Chemistry Research 2022 61 (39), 14515-14530 (DOI: 10.1021/acs.iecr.2c00383)

# Dairy prot-economics

Republic of Ireland	protein kta	price €/kg
Population of 5m needs		
Protein @ 23 kg pp/yr (veg. & animal)	116	
Milk production (8750 kta @ 3.5% protein)	306	
Exports cheese (250 kta ~ € 1 bn )	100	10
Exports specialties (550 kta ~ € 3 bn)	165	18
Exports butter (270 kta ~ € 1 bn )	-	-
<b>Milk : 9.5 kg CO<sub>2</sub> / kg protein</b>		

Protein in cheese 40%, butter 0%,  
milk powders & specialties 27...35%

Can dairy export potential be doubled (or more) at constant (today's) footprint ?

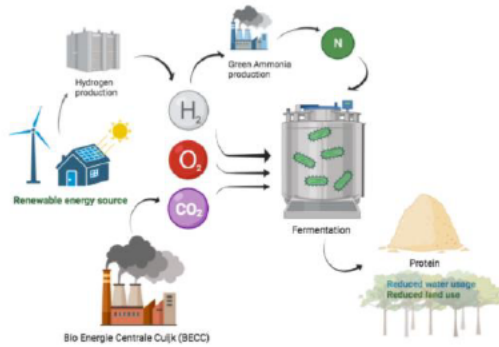
- Role for power & CO<sub>2</sub> to protein (or microalgal/cyano bacterial) concepts ?  
(gas fermentations converting **3.3 ton CO<sub>2</sub> into 1 ton** microbial protein)
- Sufficient sustainable carbon at point source (or distributed) ?

## 5 Year Growth of Irish Dairy Exports

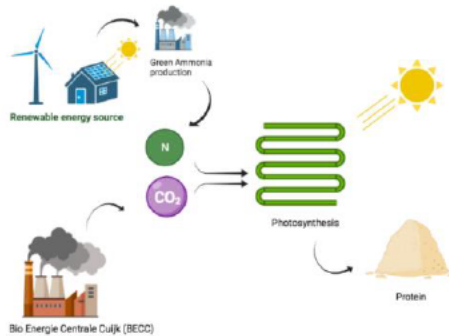


\* <https://www.bordbia.ie/industry/irish-sector-profiles/dairy-sector-profile/>

# alternative protein plant bolted on CO<sub>2</sub> point source



microbial gas fermentation



cyanobacteria/microalgal solar bioreactors

K Wattel, L Smulders, S. Sikrishnan, M Teke, A. Lazopoulou, D Goedhuis, J van Breugel, M Palmeros, LAM van der Wielen. H2Protein – 75 kta alternative protein plant based on Bioenergy Centrale Cuijk. Design Report TU Delft-BECC july 2022

See also <https://www.tudelft.nl/en/2022/tnw/national-growth-fund-finances-cellular-agriculture>



Pilot scale production of single cell proteins using the power-to-protein concept

Frank Oosterholt<sup>1</sup>, Silvio Matassa<sup>2</sup>, Luc Palmen<sup>1</sup>, Kees Ross<sup>1</sup>, Willy Verstaete<sup>3</sup>

1. KWR Watercycle Research Institute, P.O. Box 1072, 3430 BB Nieuwegein, the Netherlands.
2. Center for Microbial Ecology and Technology (CMET), Ghent University, Coupure Links 653, 9000 Gent, Belgium
3. Avecom NV, Industrieweg 122P, 9032 Wondelgem, Belgium

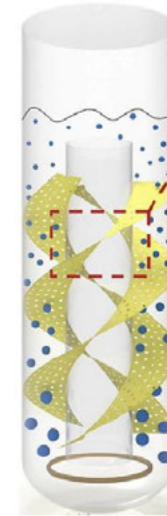


Bernal Institute

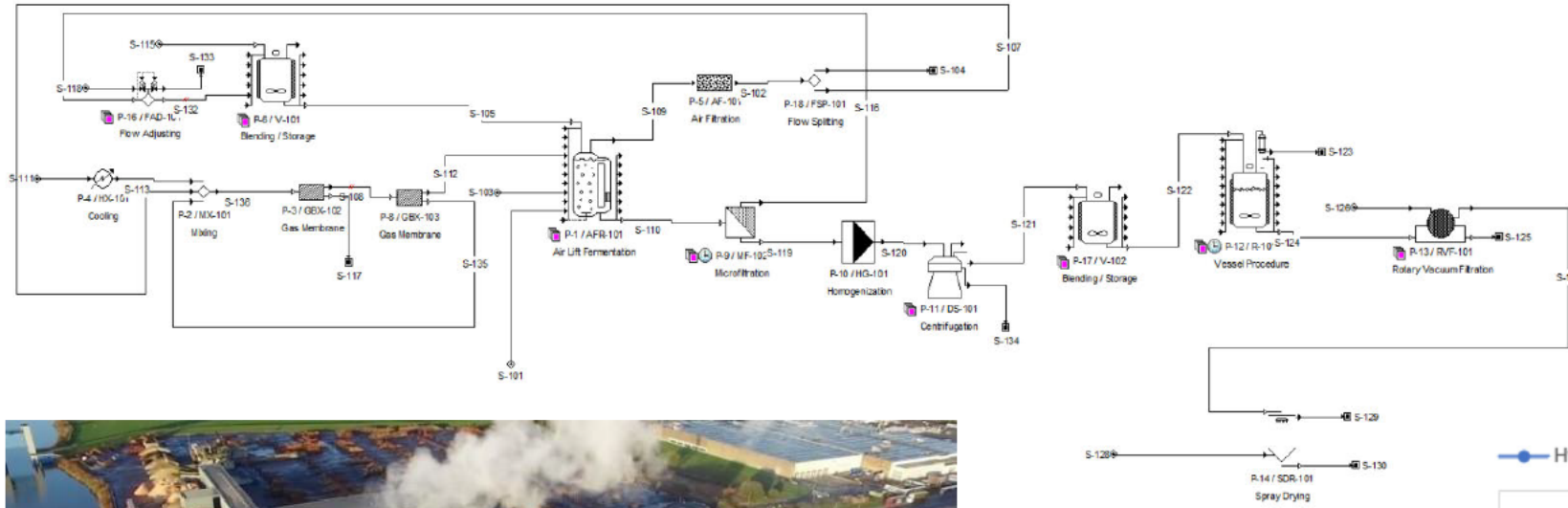




# 75 kta alternative protein plant bolted on BECC 20 MWe/20 MWth thermoelectric plant

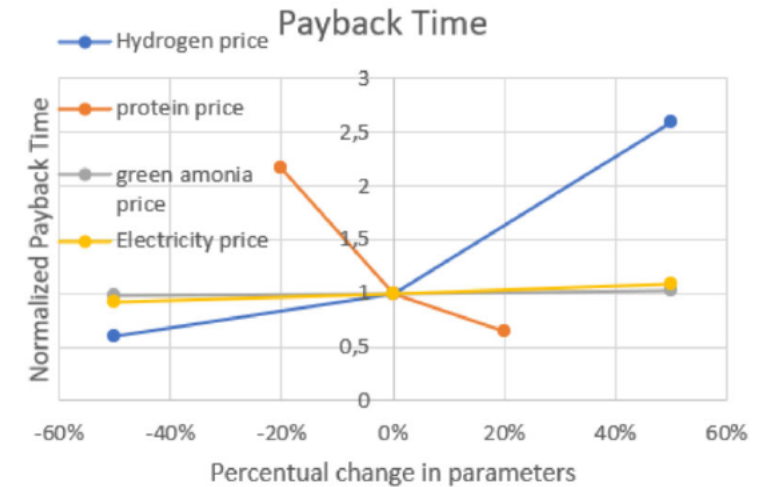


doi: 10.1016/J.CEJ.2018.01.039.



K Wattel, L Smulders, S. Sikrishnan, M Teke, A. Lazopoulou, D. Goedhart, J van Breugel, M Palmeros, LAM van der Wielen. H2Protein – 75 kta alternative protein plant based on Bioenergy Centrale Cuijk. Design Report TU Delft-BECC july 2022

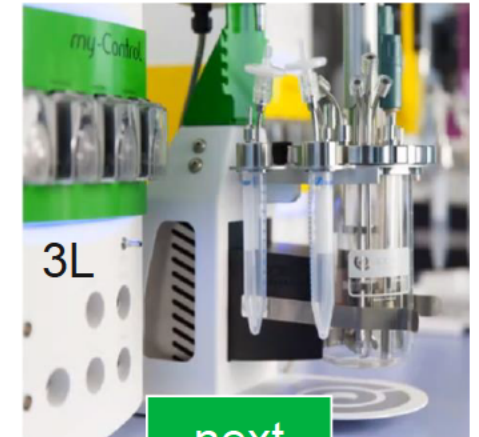
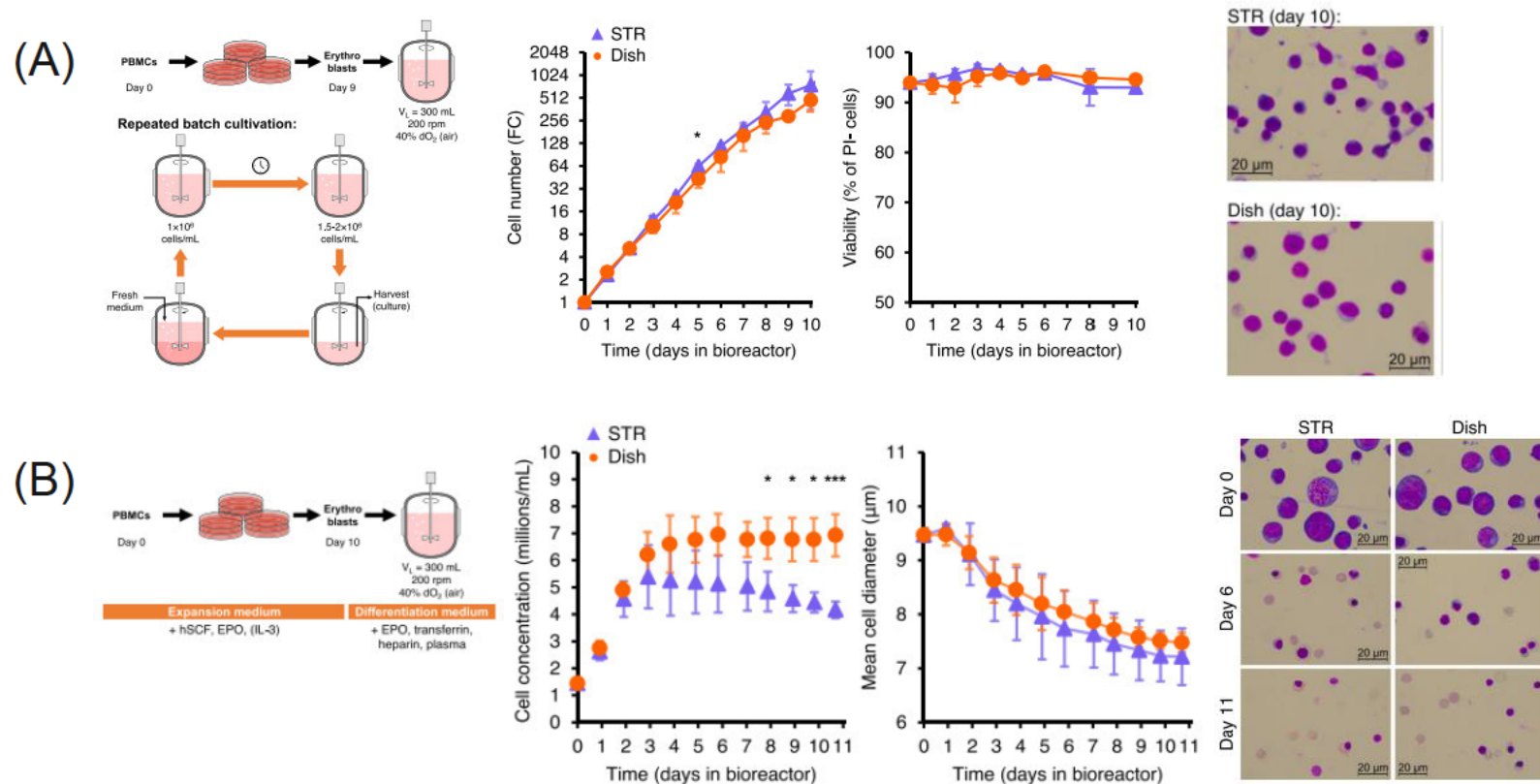
Also alternative cases: RWE/DSM/TU Delft.



Investable payback time with several cost reduction options  
 RE 14ct/kWh; hydrogen € 5/kg; ammonia €600 /ton CO<sub>2</sub> – flue capture (€ -0.35/kg); protein selling price € 10/kg

# Towards cultured meat & donor-free cell therapy

Successful scale-up (1000x) of (A) manufacturing of erythroblasts ('red blood cell stem cells') and (B) differentiation to mature erythrocytes ('red blood cells') from mL to standard 3L bioreactors.



Joan Gallego, Giulia Iacono, Luuk A. M. van der Wielen, Emile van den Akker, Marieke von Lindern, Aljoscha Wahl Expansion and differentiation of ex vivo cultured erythroblasts in scalable stirred bioreactors. *Biotechnol Bioeng.* 2022;1–21. DOI: 10.1002/bit.28193





# 75 GW Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind FLOW enables Plastics Circularity Economic Opportunity



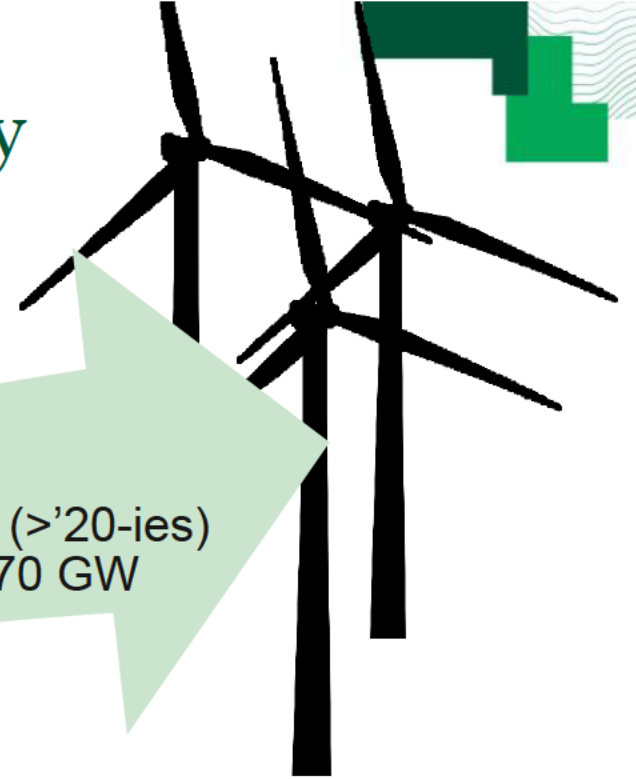
27 MW (<1920s)  
Pre-SNN 1.0

86 MW (1920s)  
SNN 1.0

ESB 5 GW (1920-  
2020s)

ESB 2020 Green  
Atlantic 1.4 GW

SNN 2.0 (>'20-ies)  
FLOW (30—70 GW)



## Wind Energy Ireland's vision for 2050 \*

75GW = 37500 turbines of 2 MW, 3 x 25 ton blades, 15 yr lifetime;  
2.8 m tons composite materials, €90 bn turbine invest  
140 ktons/yr blade recycling @ € 4..10 000/ton  
€ 750 m/yr plastics circularity opportunity replacement materials  
requires € 1.4 bn decomposition/recycling plant as key part in  
*Note: impact of materials/manufacturing innovation & turbine scale-up (2>20MW)*

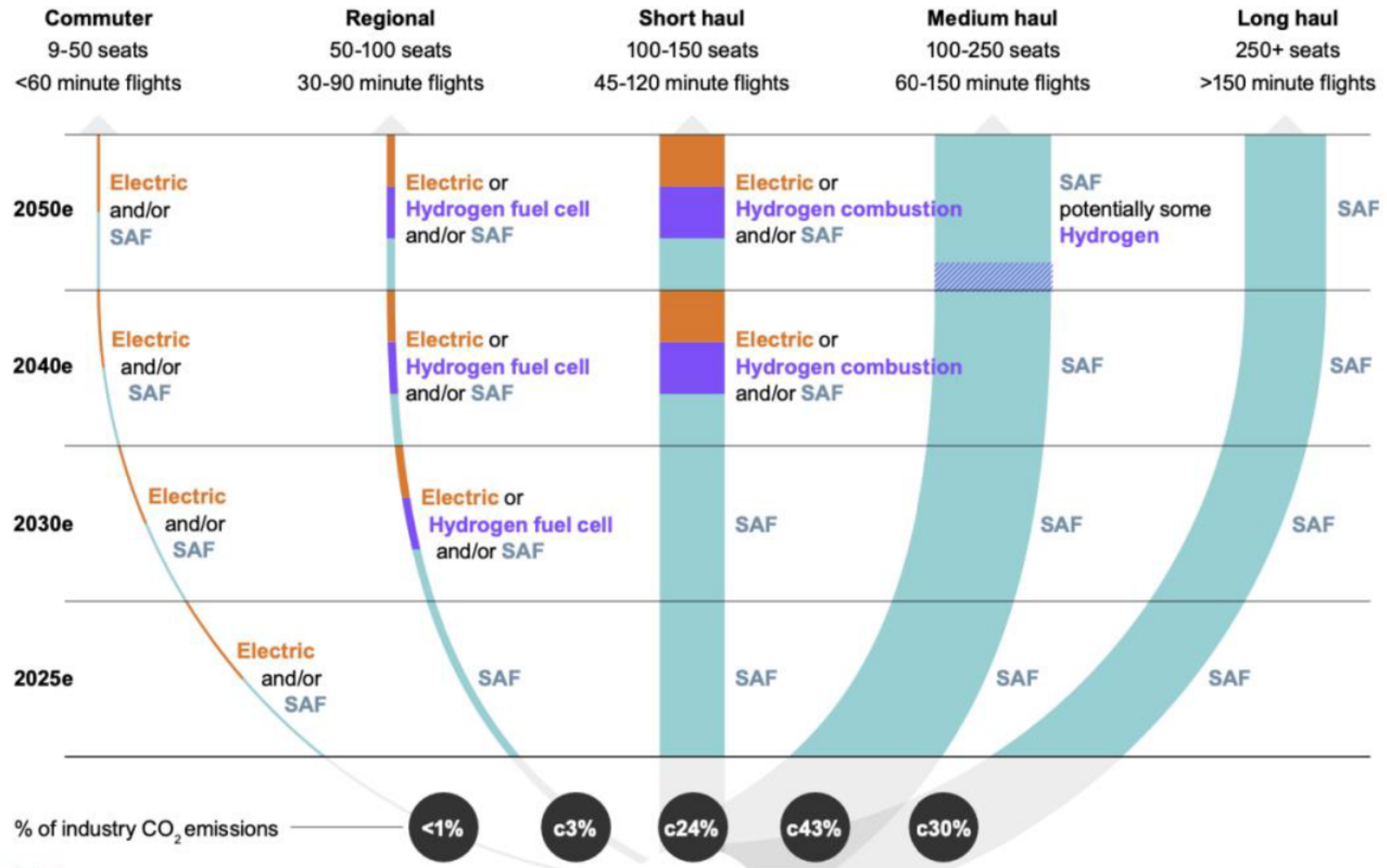
\* WEI (July'21) *Revolution: A vision for Irish floating wind energy*  
download - <https://windenergyireland.com/policy/reports-position-papers>



# Example

- Electric
- Hydrogen
- Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)

# Where it's going- Future Fuels:



**Medium and Long haul** aviation will depend on SAF for the foreseeable future.

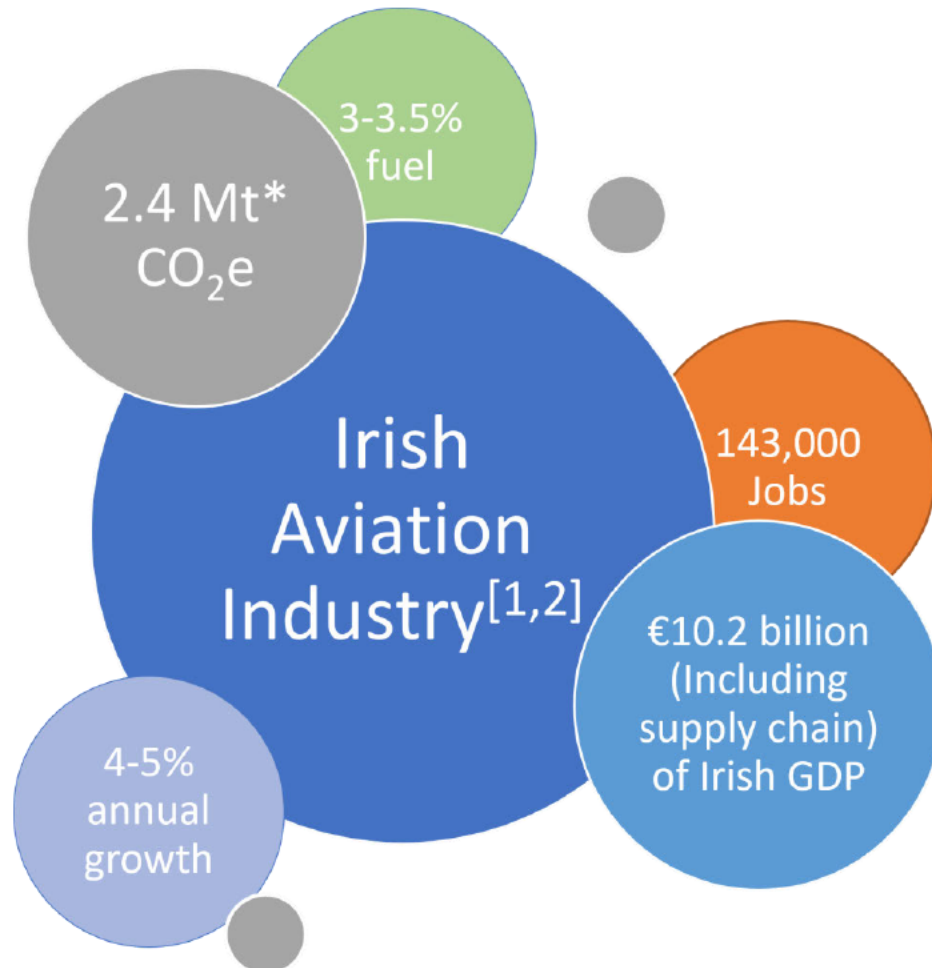
**Regional** will only see the introduction of alternatives from mid-late 2030

Source: HSBC Global Research & ATAG ("Waypoint 2050" report)

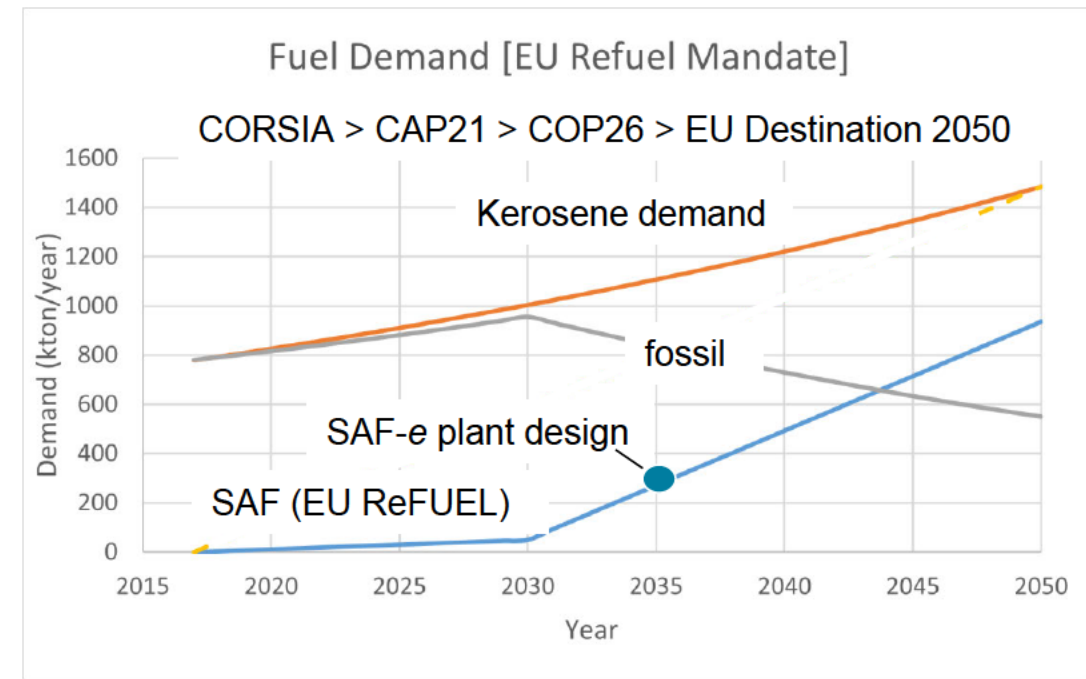
Piloting a pathway to Net Zero...



# SAF-e project



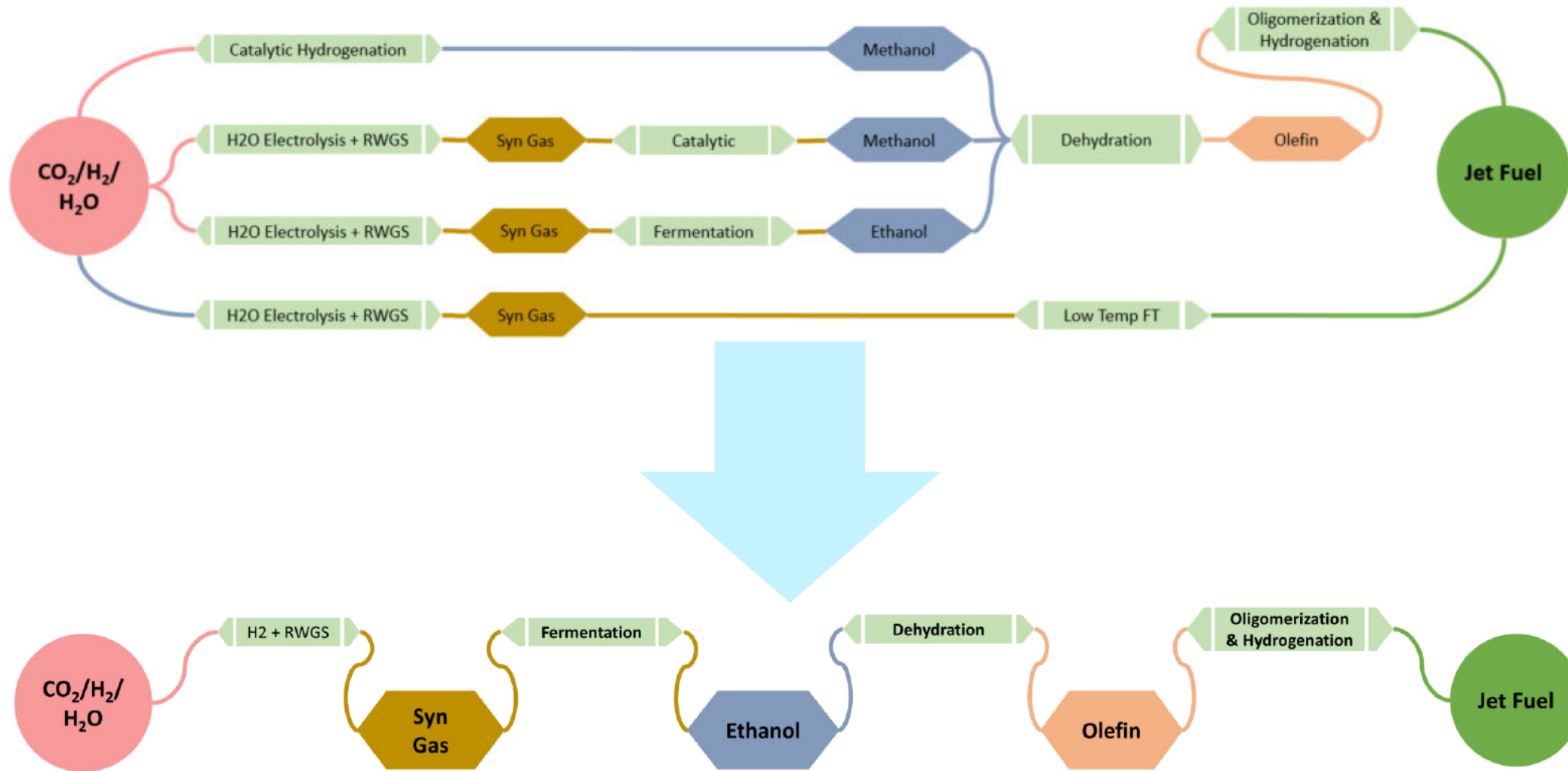
\* Estimated from fuel consumption in 2017



Plant Location	Near CO <sub>2</sub>
Plant Capacity*	350 kta SAF-e
Plant Production rate incl byproducts	490 kta
Operational hours	8000 hrs
Operation mode	Continuous

Capacity is based on 1750 kta CO<sub>2</sub> Supply

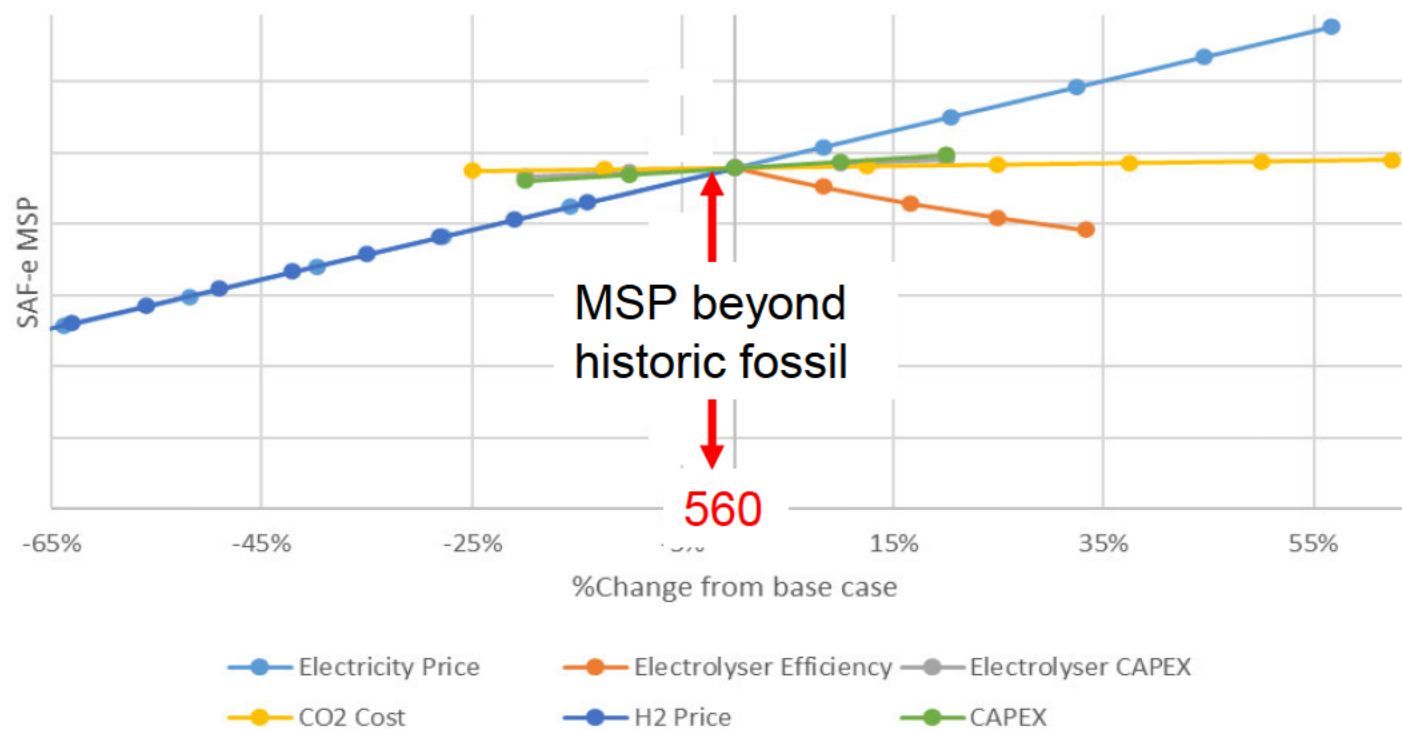
# Process Inventory and Selection



- Project Background
- Project Objectives
- Basis of Design
- Process Design
- Heat & Mass Balance
- TEE
- LCA
- Scenario Analysis
- Scale Up Aspects
- Conclusion
- Recommendations



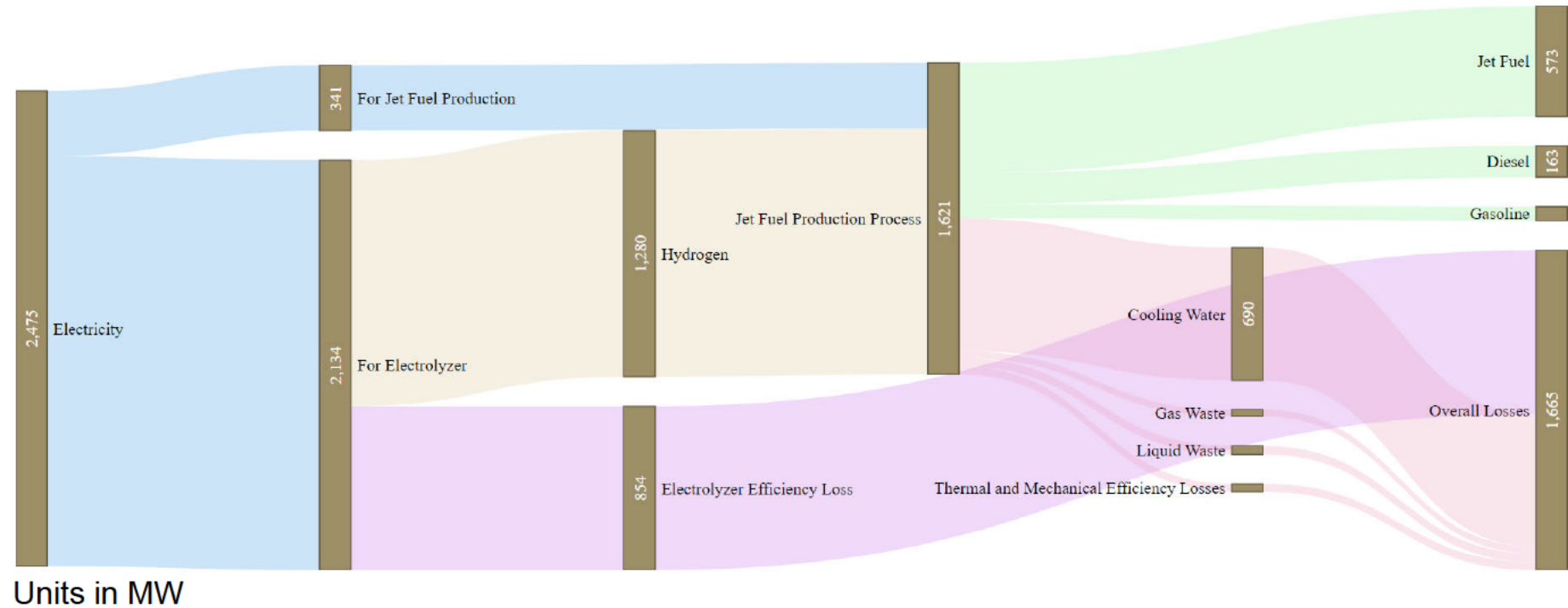
# Minimum selling price



**H<sub>2</sub> (manufacturing)  
main cost driver.**

- Project Background
- Project Objectives
- Basis of Design
- Process Design
- Heat & Mass Balance
- TEE
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# Scenarios: Energy Optimization



Significant cost and GHG reduction opportunities by further process integration.

- Project Background
- Project Objectives
- Basis of Design
- Process Design
- Heat & Mass Balance
- TEE
- LCA
- Scenario Analysis
- Scale Up Aspects
- Conclusion
- Recommendations

# Biogenic carbon use in 2050-ies Ireland

## Low Carbon Ag/**Foods**

### Future **carbon** needs

1. Food – alt proteins & cult meat
2. Fuel – Sust Aviation Fuels
3. Fiber – Atlantic turbine fleet

### economics

√√√√  
~√  
√√

### environment

√√√√  
√√  
√√√

### scale

100s-1000s kta  
1000s kta  
100s kta

**Circular  
Materials**

**Clean Energy & *Transport***  
*(homes, data, people, goods)*