

# Center for BioEnergy Sustainability

#### Sustainable Bioenergy from Production to Use in a series of <u>Three Slides in Five Minutes</u>

- Modeling Biodiversity in the Arkansas-White-Red River Basin
- Biomass Preprocessing as a Supply Chain Component
- Sustainable Energy Production Using Biological Fuel Cells
- Observations on Corn Ethanol Production and Distribution Infrastructure
- Hydrological and Geochemical Transformation of Nitrogen and Organic C in the Subsurface beneath Agricultural and Forested Ecosystems
- Logistics for a Biomass Economy



# Aquatic Biodiversity in the Arkansas-White-Red River Basin

Henriette Jager (PI, ESD), Latha Baskaran (ESD), Craig Brandt (BSD) and Peter Schweizer (ESD, ORISE)



# Landscapes with dedicated energy crops

#### POLYSYS

- Land change projections
  - % area agriculture replaced by switchgrass

### SWAT

- Integrates land change
  - Projects water quality
  - Stream discharge
  - Nutrient levels



# Project biodiversity under future bioenergy landscape

Water quality parameter from SWAT Integrates land cover changes

Poisson regression and information theoretic approach for model selection

Best-fit model r = 0.92 in validation subset candidate set performed similarly well



#### Applications

Project species richness in future energy crop landscape(s)

N-Species projected for energy crop landscape

- N-Species in present landscape
- = anticipated changes in biodiversity





# **Evolution and Optimization of the Biofuel Supply Chain**

Michael Hilliard, Ingrid Busch, Randy Curlee, Mike Schultze, Rebecca Hartman-Baker, Neil Thomas, Ike Patterson





for the U.S. Department of Energy

5200-Evolution and Optimization of the Biofuel Supply Chai

# **PreProcessing as a Supply Chain Step**



Wet Herbaceous Residues and Energy Crops Dr

Dry Herbaceous Residues and Energy Crops

#### Uniform-Format Solid Feedstock Supply System: A Commodity-Scale Design to Produce an Infrastructure-Compatible Bulk Solid from Lignocellulosic Biomass. April 2009

### **Supply Chain Model**

- Two new types of locations/processes
- Transportation cost structures for biomass in multiple forms
- Refinery costs and economies of scale using pre-processed vs. "raw" biomass
- "Solutions" have unique configurations



# A Potential High-performance Computing Approach to Analysis



Raw biomass transport Cost

- Solutions are configurations not single numbers
- Goal: Insight, identification of critical factors
- Run multiple to provide a 3-D (or higher) environment for visualizing relationships
- Identify change points in the parameter space



Sustainable Energy Production Using Biological Fuel Cells

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# **Biological fuel cells**

- Microbial fuel/electrolysis cells
- Electricity or hydrogen production
- Sustainability
  - Fuel resource: organic waste, biomass
  - Catalyst: Microbes, enzymes (no Pt, metal), regenerable
  - Electrodes : Graphitebased (plentiful)
  - Product: CO<sub>2</sub> (C neutral), water



<sup>1</sup> Borole, et.al., 2009, **J. Power Sciences**., Integrating Engineering Design Improvements with Exoelectrogen Enrichment Process to Increase Power Output from Microbial Fuel Cells, 191, p520.

#### **MFC/MEC** Technology

Increase in power density from 1 to 2000 mW/m<sup>2</sup> in 5 years.

- Discovery of biological nanowires and concept of direct electron transfer.
- Deployment of MFCs for harvesting power from sea-floor *First application*.
- Current interest
  - Improving power densities (at larger scale) and energy conversion efficiency
  - Conversion of complex organic matter, e.g., wastewater
  - Understanding direct electron transfer mechanism and microbeelectrode interactions
  - Diversification into multiple areas of 'bioelectrochemical systems', e.g. Electro-fuels production.
- Work at ORNL
  - Biocatalyst and engineering optimization

Integration of MFC engineering design parameters and biological enrichment process:

Power density > 5000 mW/m<sup>2</sup> (0.5 kW/m<sup>3</sup>)

<sup>2</sup> Borole, et.al., 2009, **Biochem. Engg**. J., Improving power production from acetatefed microbial fuel cells via enrichment of exoelectrogenic organisms in continuous flow systems, 48, 71-80.







# **Biorefineries**

Need significant volume of water (Water: EtOH = 10:1)

- Impact of MFCs on ability to reuse water, specifically for high solids loading (> 20% solids) cellulosic biochemical conversion process.
- Results:
  - Demonstrated removal of furfural, HMP, phenolics, acetate, and residual sugars to enable water recycle.
  - Estimated amount of electricity production = 2.5 MW (70 million gallon plant)<sup>3</sup>.
  - Improving energy recovery from biomass and conversion efficiency.
- 650 biorefinery plants by 2022 DOE mandate
- 21 billion gallons of biofuels

#### Other applications:

- Energy production from organic waste, e.g., food industry wastewater Produced water treatment
- Bioelectrochemical power with simultaneous environmental remediation.

<sup>3</sup> Borole, et.al., 2009, **Biotechnol for Biofuels**., Controlling accumulation of fermentation inhibitors in biorefinery process water using Microbial Fuel Cells, April 2009, on line.





Acknowledgements: ORNL LDRD Program for funding.

Treated recycle water

## Observations on Corn Ethanol Production and Distribution Infrastructure

### **Steven Peterson**

Geographic Information Sciences and Technology Group





# **Infrastructure Interface**

# Geographic Information Science and Technology= Transload Terminals 0 Ethanol Plants Active Refined Product Pipeline **DAK**



# **The Problem**

Geographic Information Science and Technology



- For biofuels/bioenergy, distribution and transportation systems are critical
- For distribution and transportation systems, biofuels/bioenergy are not critical
  - Energy is critical for transportation systems
    - As fuel for diesel-electric locomotives, maritime vessels, barges and trucks
    - As cargo
      - Oil is often transported by pipelines and then on/off-loaded to/from ships
      - Coal provides the largest source of tonnage shipped by railroads and accounts for 25-30% of revenue for the largest (Class I) railroads
      - Project cargo for wind energy production often moves by rail
      - Power plant equipment, especially nuclear, often moves by rail and barge
      - Ethanol is a small component (less than 1% of volume) but was the fastest growing business segment – either as agricultural product, energy, or chemical



14 Managed by UT-Battelle for the U.S. Department of Energy

# **Data Gaps and Analytical Needs**

Geographic Information Science and Technology

- Network routing analysis
- Specific, validated geolocations of distribution infrastructure elements
  - Connections between rail/barge systems and the pipeline system
- Determination of
  - Spatial patterns of production and distribution
  - Market linkages
  - Infrastructure and potential critical vulnerabilities



# Hydrological and geochemical transformation of nitrogen and organic C in the subsurface beneath agricultural and forested ecosystems

# Melanie Mayes Oak Ridge National Laboratory

# **Regional Scale Assessment of Passive Soil Potential**

#### Sorption of Dissolved Organic C (DOC)

Root

respiration

Passive

> 100 yr

10-50%

Mineral-

stabilized

carbon

CO<sub>2</sub>

Microbial Biomass (months)

Intermediate

years - decades

40-80%

Refractory

components of litter,

easilv decomposed components of litter

mg/kg

Additional DOC

1000

800 sorbed 600

400

200

**Areal Coverage of Soil Database Great Groups** 



#### Soil Properties relate to DOC Sorption Capacity

100



Trumbore, 1997 weakly sorbed C

Katherine Heal me Craig Brandt





# **Soil Water Quality beneath Switchgrass**





SCIENCE





1/1/2008 5/1/2008 9/1/2008 1/1/2009 5/1/2009 9/1/2009 1/1/201

# **DOC Mobility in Forested Ecosystem**

# Long-term Monitoring of Instrumented Pedons at Walker Branch and Melton Branch, ORNL



#### **Urea Fertilizer**





Jana Phillips Jonathan Reagan



### Logistics for a Biomass Economy

#### **Examples of our projects:**



Inbound Travel Mapping Cellulosic Sites North America Outbound Markets



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### **Logistics for a Biomass Economy**

#### Ideas for the future:



#### Strategic SRWC

#### Closed-loop Systems

#### Electrified Short-Line Rail



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### **Logistics for a Biomass Economy**

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