



NextSTEPS Sustainable Transportation Energy Pathways

Biofuel development and commercialization

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED

14-IEP-1B

TN 72916

APR 11 2014

April 10, 2014

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)

UCDAVIS

www.steps.ucdavis.edu

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) (demo/comm.)	# Plants
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

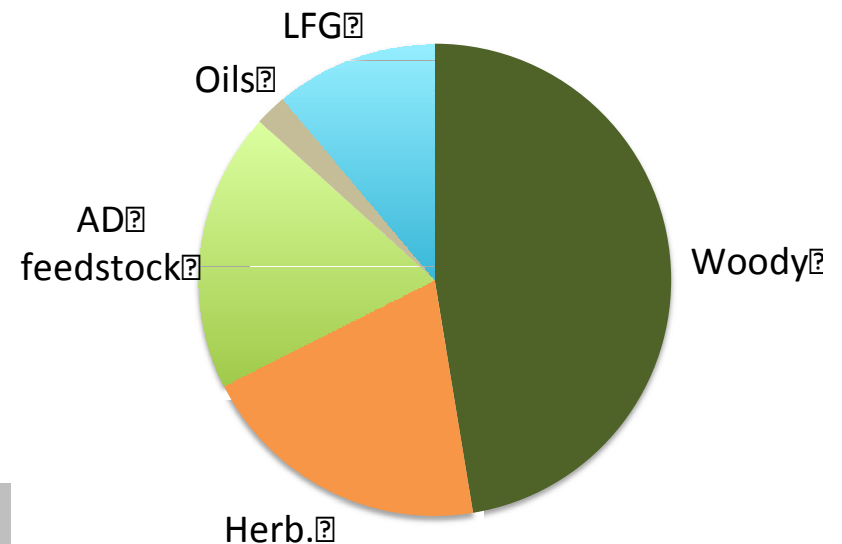
*Other includes biochemicals, biobutanol, or multiple products

**Planned production (Canergy in 2016)

***Planned production (AltAir in 2014; Alipha Jet, no date specified)

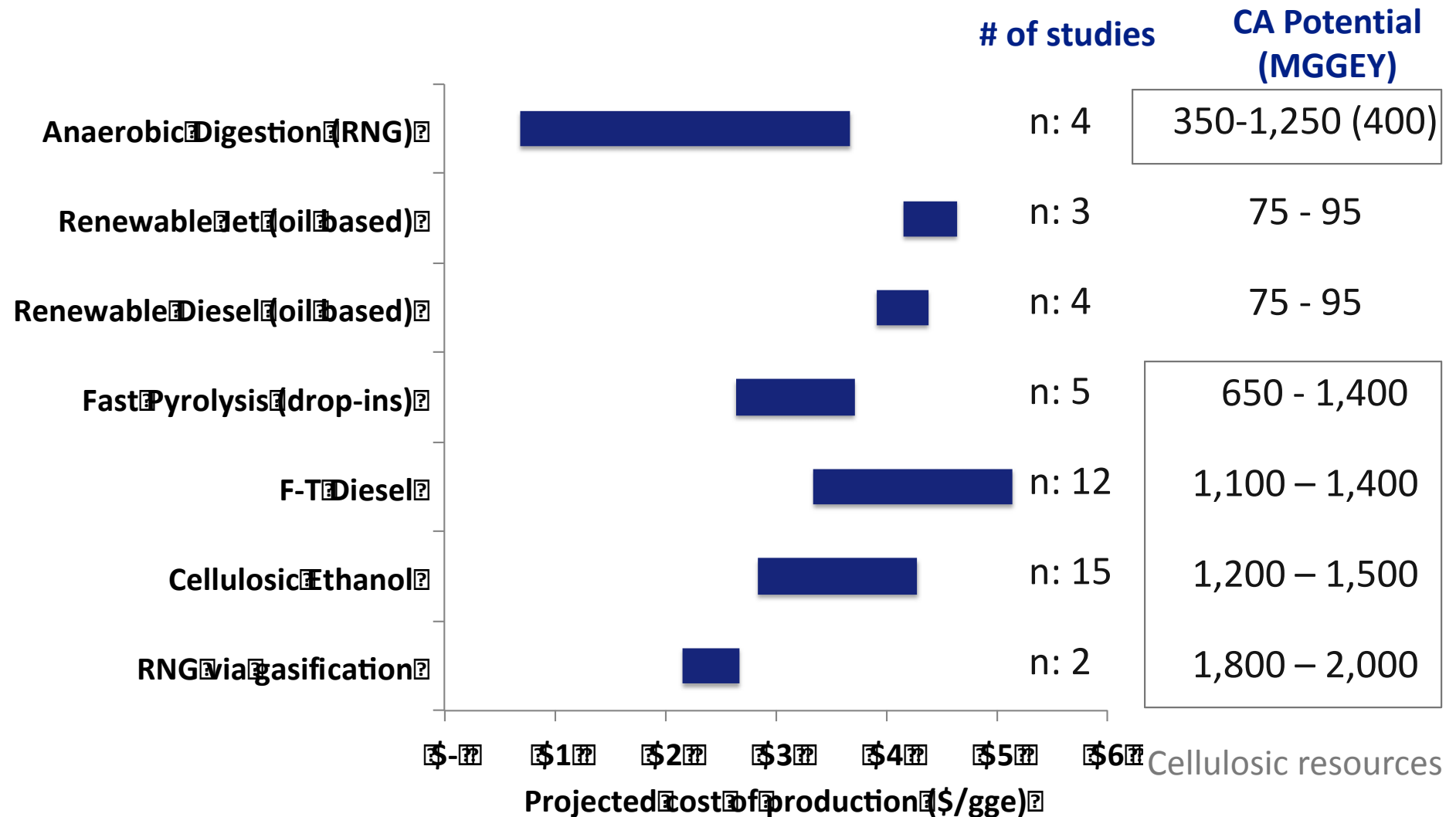
****US Biofuel production ~15 BGY/year (mostly ethanol)

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 (nth Plant)

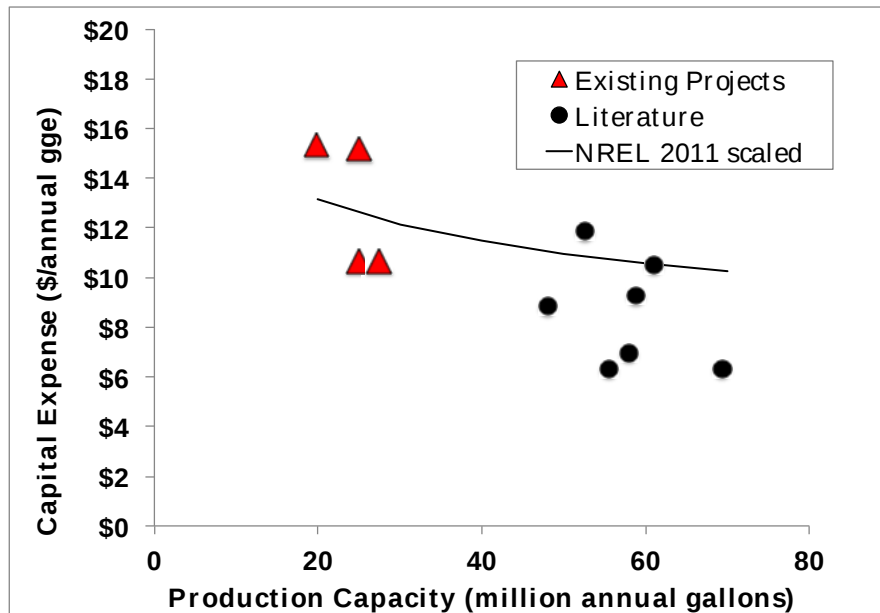


Cellulosic technologies face large capital costs and risk

Research Design

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

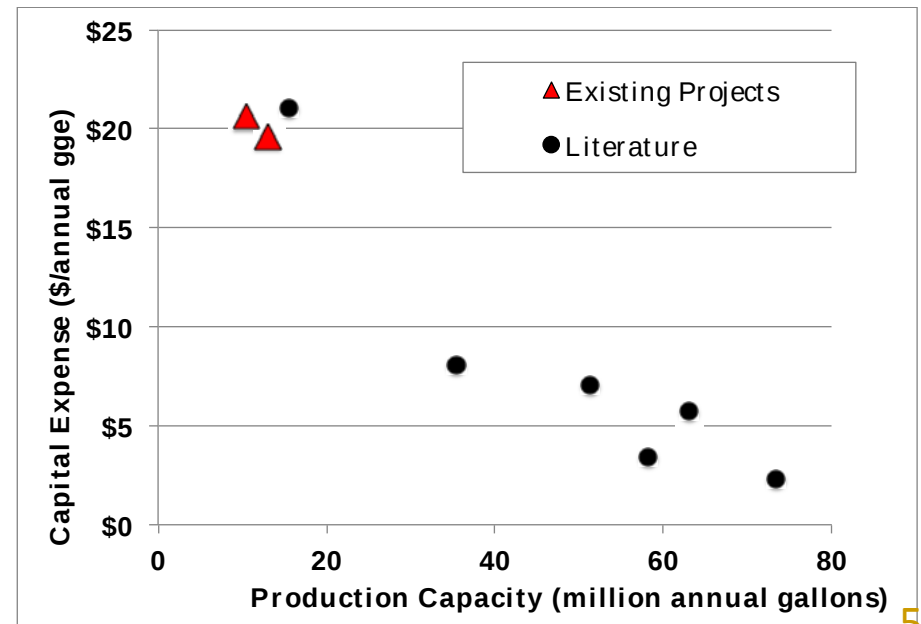
Capital Expenditure for Cellulosic Ethanol



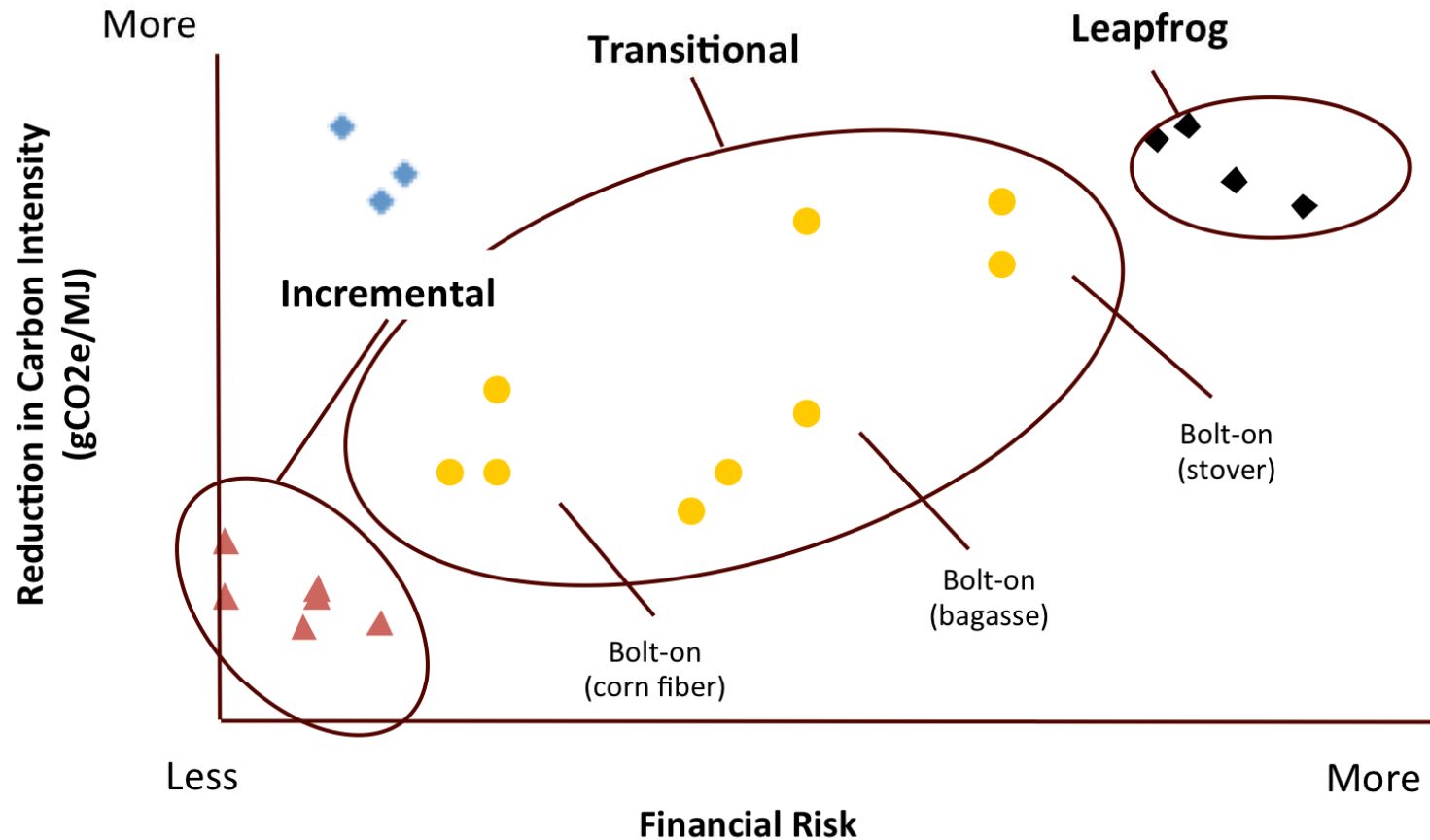
Take home messages

- 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 Pyrolysis-based Drop-in Biofuels

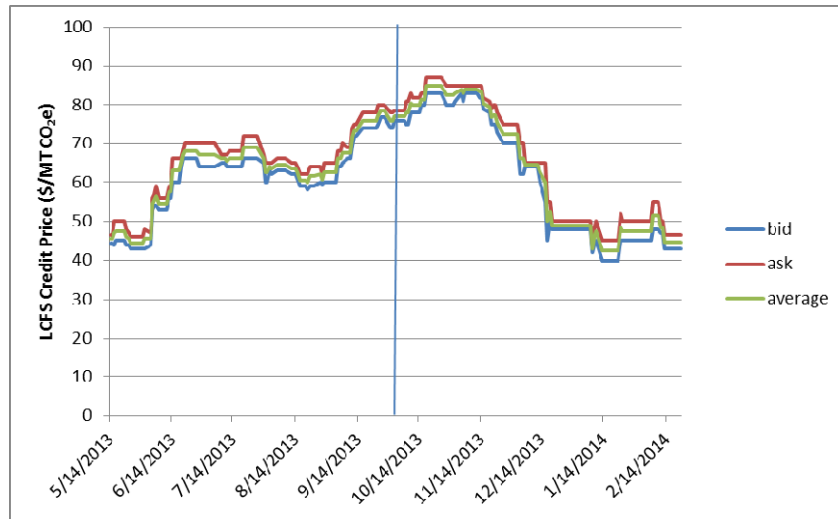


Is there a path with lower risk at each step that leads to the large resources?

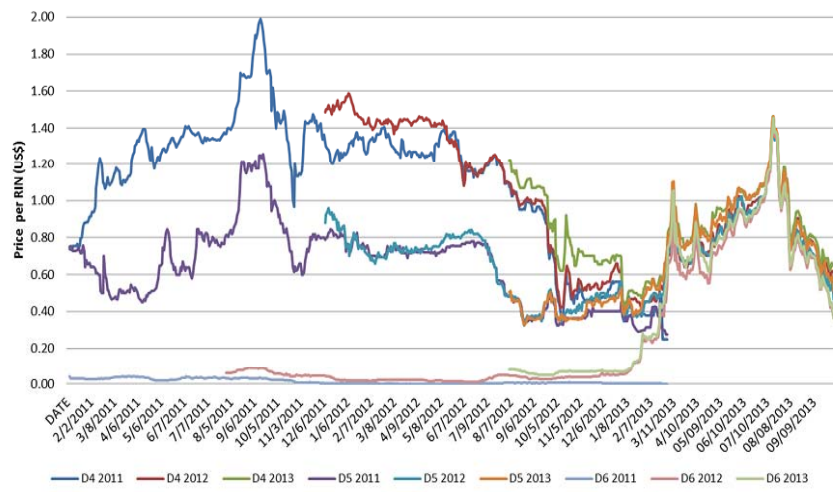


LCFS v. RFS Price Volatility Means Shifting Incentives

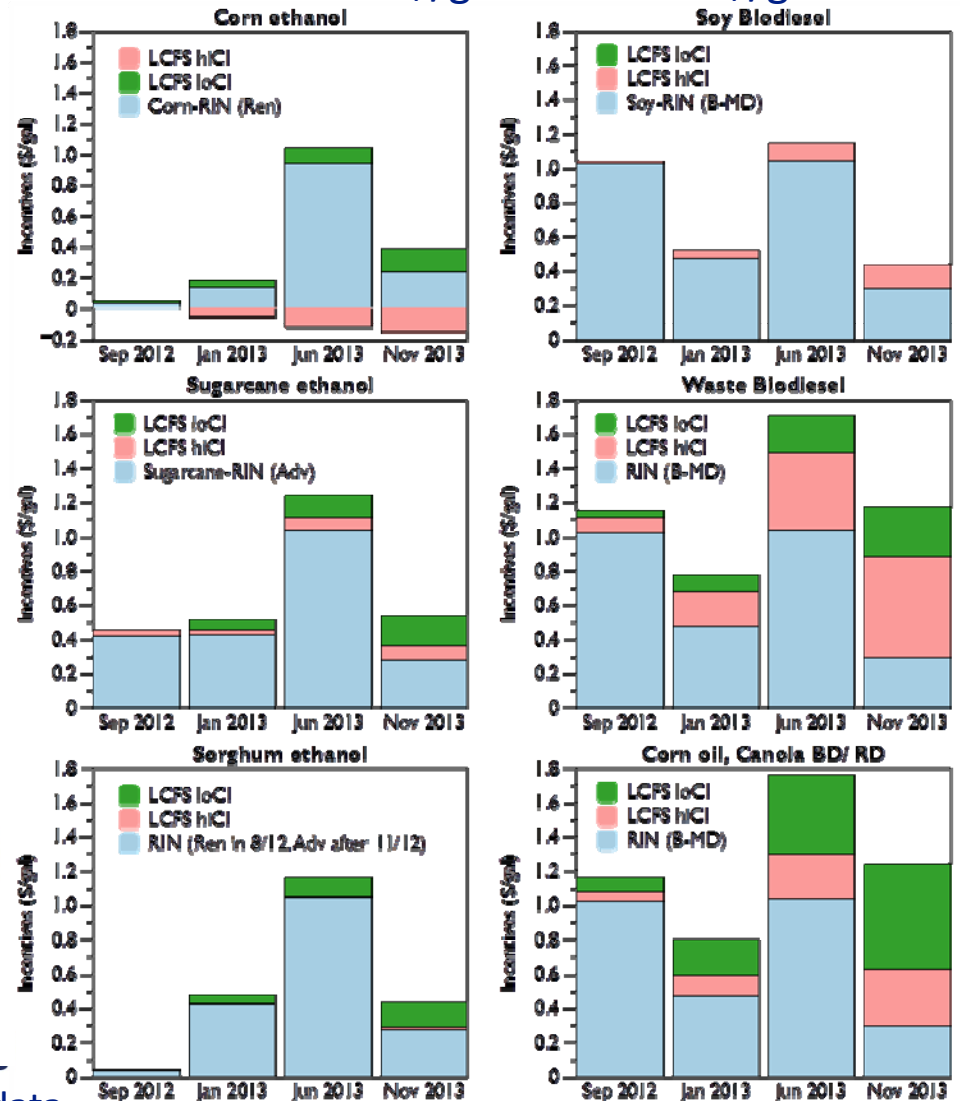
LCFS Credit Price Trends



OPIS AVERAGE RINS PRICES 2011 - 2013



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