

RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES ON THE HORIZON

Moderator:

Commissioner Maria Bocanegra, Illinois

Panelists:

Jason Feldman, Co-founder, Green Era Sustainability

Cristina Negri, Director Of The Environmental Science (EVS) Division At Argonne National Labs

Dr. Ufuk Erdal, Senior Vice President, Water Reuse National Technology Director at ARCADIS, Director at the Water Research Foundation

WHAT IS NARUC

- The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1889.
- Our Members are the state regulatory Commissioners in all 50 states & the territories. FERC & FCC Commissioners are also members. NARUC has Associate Members in over 20 other countries.
- NARUC member agencies regulate electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and water utilities.





WHAT IS NARUC'S CENTER FOR PARTNERSHIPS AND INNOVATION?

- Grant-funded team dedicated to providing technical assistance to members.
- CPI identifies emerging challenges and connects state commissions with expertise and strategies.
- CPI builds relationships, develops resources, and delivers trainings.

NARUC CPI Topical Areas

Energy Infrastructure & Technology Modernization

Electricity System Transition

Critical Infrastructure, Cybersecurity, Resilience

Emerging Issues

www.NARUC.org/CPI-1



WEBINAR LOGISTICS

- We're recording the webinar. It will be posted on the CPI webpage
- Because of the large number of participants, everyone is in *listen* mode only.
- Please use the questions box to send us your questions and comments any time during the webinar. You may want to direct your question to a specific panelist.
- The panelists will respond to questions typed in the chat box during moderated Q&A, following each presentation and at the end.







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PANEL 1

Jason Feldman Co-Founder Green Era Sustainability

Jumpstarting

a GreenEra

How we will transform waste into energy, jobs, food, & healthy neighborhoods.

NARUC - Renewable Energy Technologies on the Horizon Webinar

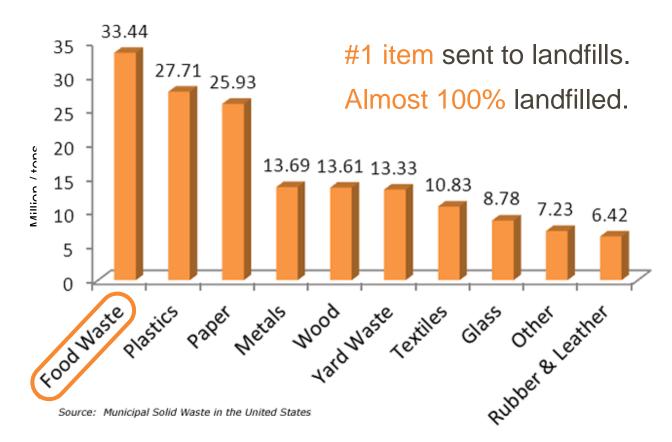
August 20, 2020

We created



to change: How we think of waste How we grow food How we create energy

Problem: Food Waste



Our Solution: Anaerobic Digestion

A safe and proven technology with the power to transform local food systems. Food Anaerobic Waste Digestion

10,000+ facilites in EU 300+ facilities in US

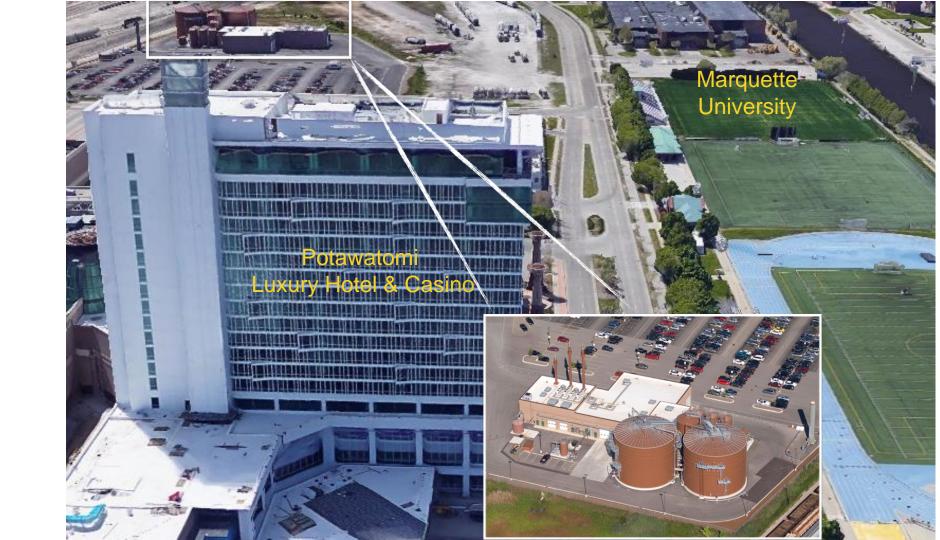
Fertilizer & Compost

Renewable

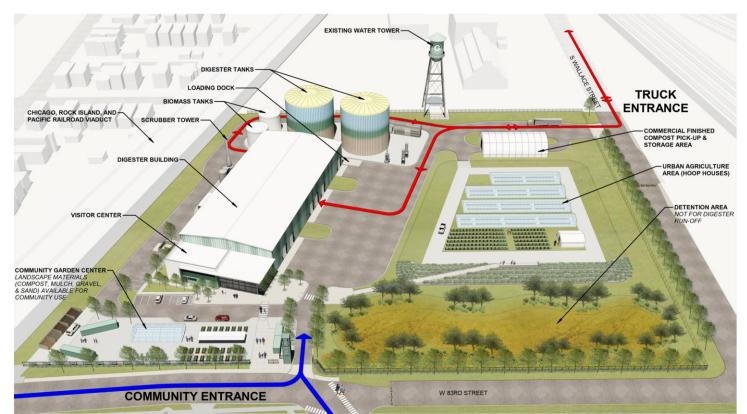
Natural

Gas





Green ERA Renewable Energy & Urban Farming Campus



Green Era Project

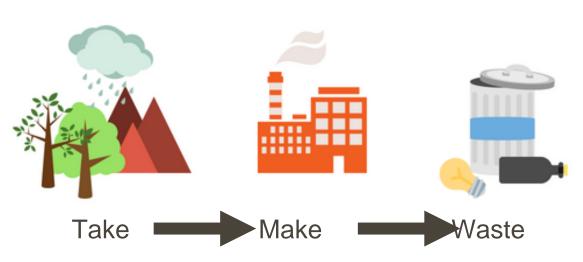




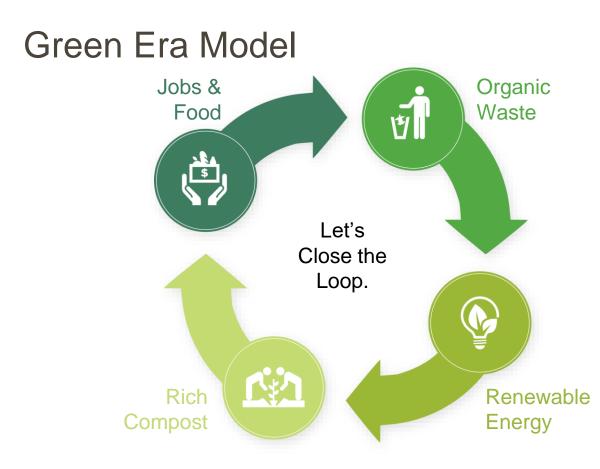
Linear Economy UNSUSTAINABLE

resource

waste



Decoupling economic activity from the consumption of finite resources.



Creating an Urban Circular Economy!

Urban Growers Collective Farms



8 urban farms on 11 acres located predominately in Chicago's South Side. urbangrowerscollective.org

Green Era's compost provides catalytic input to expand local food production & economic development.





Renewable Natural Gas WHAT IS RNG?



- Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) is natural gas that is produced from the decomposition of organic waste material.
- After treatment to remove CO2 and trace constituents to meet pipeline quality specifications, RNG is mostly methane (~95%).
- RNG is a low-carbon to carbon-negative alternative to fossil-derived conventional natural gas.

Renewable Natural Gas RNG vs. NATURAL GAS



- RNG is produced from inevitable, organic waste streams that emit methane during decomposition.
- Natural Gas is collected from limited fossil resources that would otherwise remain sequestered within the earth.
- Utilizing waste methane as RNG reduces GHG emissions from both waste generation and fossil fuel consumption.

Renewable Natural Gas WHERE IS RNG USED?



- RNG uses existing gas infrastructure for transportation, dispensing and consumption.
- Most commonly used in heating applications, to generate electricity, and as a transportation fuel.
- Interchangeable with conventional natural gas, providing pathway to decarbonization wherever energy demand exists.

Renewable Natural Gas RNG ECONOMIC BENEFITS



- The RNG industry has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years.
- 129+ operational RNG facilities in N. America
- Additional 110 RNG facilities under construction or in substantial development.
- RNG has the potential to create millions in capital investment per project and thousands of jobs.

RNG PRODUCTION FACILITIES IN NORTH AMERICA



RNG Demand GROWING DEMAND



160 119 M >\$1 B	RNG use as a transportation fuel has increased		404.4
	Concerning and Concerning and Concerning and Concerning		5.3
	291% over the	300,000,000 242.6 209.2	277.0
RNG production DGE of facilities will have been in-state RNG invested in California will be operational will be available to build the RNG supply infrastructure	last five years, displacing close to		
in California (77% being private investment)	7.5 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e).		
*as of January 2024		2015 2016 2017 2018	8 2019

UPS commits to largest purchase of 'renewable natural

gas' ever in U.S.

May 22, 2019, 10:13am EDT



L'Oréal USA to Achieve Carbon Neutrality by Purchasing RNG





Close to Carbon Neutrality Middlebu College

RNG Plant Will Bring



SoCalGas seeks to offer RNG to customers



Could Renewable Natural Gas Be the Next Big Thing in Green Energy?

For decades, small-scale biogas systems have collected methane from landfills, sewage plants, and farms. Now, in Europe and the U.S., the growth of this renewable form of natural gas is taking off as businesses capture large amounts of methane from manure, food waste, and other sources.

BY JONATHAN MINGLE · JULY 25, 2019

Renewable Natural Gas RNG - PART OF THE SOLUTION



We need a diverse portfolio of solutions to address environmental challenges like decarbonization

RNG is one important part of the solution

- Provide local and renewable supply of gas
- Enhance system flexibility
- Embrace environmental sustainability
- Allows customers to make an impact
- All without new pipeline

Coronavirus Impact NOW MORE THAN EVER



Pandemic impacting global food system

Spotlighting need to expand local food system and upgrade infrastructure.

The project will directly help by:

- Expanding local food production
- Improving food security and nutrition
- Reducing climate change impacts
- Creating jobs in underserved communities

Exciting News \$10M CHICAGO PRIZE RECIPIENT!!



Exciting News GOV PRITZKER ANNOUNCEMENT

State Kicks in \$2M to Transform South Side Brownfield Into Hub for Green Innovation

Patty Wetli | August 7, 2020 3:49 pm



A \$2 million investment from the state pushed funding for an urban farming campus over the top, paving the way for Friday's groundbreaking. (Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity / Twitter)







PANEL 2

Cristina Negri Director Environmental Science (EVS) Division Argonne National Labs



THE MULTIPLE VALUES OF BIOENERGY CROPS IN THE MIDWEST

Renewable Energy Technologies on the Horizon

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Webinar August 20, 2020

Cristina Negri*, John Quinn, Jules Cacho, Colleen Zumpf, Shruti Khadka Mishra Argonne National Laboratory

*<u>negri@anl.gov</u>





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ARGONNE IS A VITAL PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL LABORATORY SYSTEM







ARGONNE'S ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE DIVISION

COMPUTING, ENVIRONMENT AND LIFE SCIENCES DIRECTORATE



We advocate Earth systems science and climate science, and we improve our understanding of climate risk and resiliency and better understand the effects of climate risks on natural and managed systems, energy availability, human livelihood, and biodiversity.

We understand and predict the interactions between energy systems and other human activities and ecosystems. We also provide science-based solutions to mitigate unwanted impacts.



We drive new discoveries and use of natural resources toward responsible outcomes. We embed our scientific knowledge of environmental systems into the design of new materials and processes to preempt unwanted impacts on the environment and to improve our natural capital.



ASKING DIFFERENT KINDS OF QUESTIONS

Responsible innovation: "taking care of the future through collective stewardship of science and innovation in the present"*

Don't ask what the impacts will be, but design <u>from the start</u> for the enhancement of our natural capital and human wellbeing.

*Stilgoe, Owen, and MacNaghten. https://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/at-work/innovation/what-does-responsible-innovation-mean



CHALLENGES TO THE EXISTING AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE

- Corn prices are fluctuating so is rural livelihood
- What will happen when cars will be all electric??
 - New markets for corn and ethanol from corn?
- Environmental problems
 - Exporting trouble to the Gulf of Mexico, and impairing our water
- The dichotomy between economics and environment need not be



RETHINKING THE AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPE TO ENHANCE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



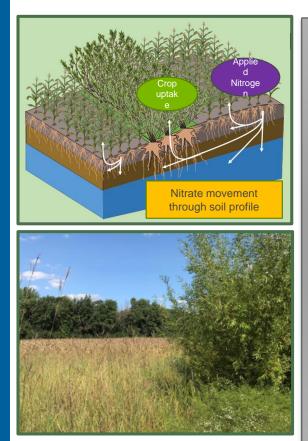
Current landscape focused on providing:

- One *provisioning* service: yields, profit.
- Regulating services not factored in the economics, called externalities
- Conceptual focus is how to mitigate the impacts retroactively
- Non diversified business models concentrates risk

Landscape Design focused on providing:

- Provisioning services optimize yields of food, feed, fiber, bioenergy, bioproducts
- Regulating services: water quality, habitat, C sequestration, GHG reduction, flood control, etc. are part of the design
- Economic models accounts for both
- Conceptual model focuses beyond mitigating impacts, on "how to design"
- Diversified business model distributes risk

LANDSCAPE DESIGN APPROACH



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- Designing landscapes <u>from</u> <u>the start</u> to enhance natural capital and human wellbeing
- Taking a wholistic approach to landscape management
 ✓ Production + Conservation
- How can we sustainably intensify productivity of current working agricultural lands?
- One approach:
 - ✓ Targeting marginal lands
 - Using perennial bioenergy crops
 - ✓ Strategic placement to increase benefits



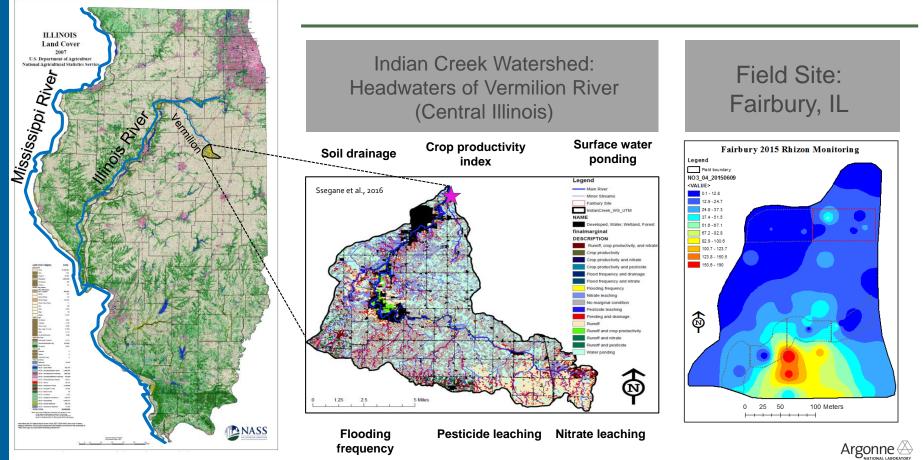
PERENNIAL BIOENERGY CROPS

- 1. Greater tolerance to environmental stressors than annual grain (row) crops
 - \checkmark Wet, dry, high salinity, low fertility, etc.
- 2. Lower nutrient and management requirements
 - Less fertilizer, chemicals, tillage
 - Rely on internal/local nutrient cycling
- 3. Provide ecosystem services
 - Water quality; GHGs; Biodiversity; Soil health; Carbon sequestration
 - Perennial (deep root systems, soil coverage, nutrient cycling)
 - ✓ Provide habitat heterogeneity
- 4. Provide benefits disproportionally greater than land area they occupy
 - Reduce impact on commodity crop production

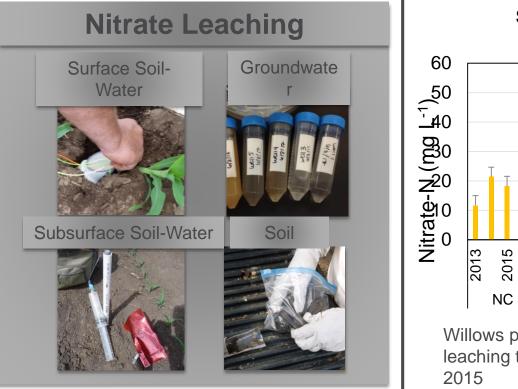




TARGETING MARGINAL LANDS



WILLOWS REDUCED THE NITRATE-



Seasonal Nitrate-N Concentration in Subsurface Water (150cm) Fertile Marginal 95% 71% reduction reduction 2017 2019 2016 2018 2013 2015 2019 2016 2018 2014 2017 2014 NC Grain NC Willow SE Grain SE Willow

Grain

Willow

Argonne

Willows plots had significantly lower nitrate leaching than neighboring grain plots by 2015

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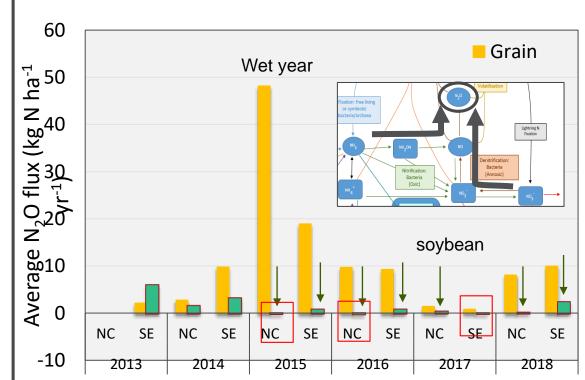
WILLOWS REDUCED NITROUS OXIDE EMISSIONS

Soil Respiration

- Lower nitrate-N in the soil and soil water under willow also resulted in reductions in nitrous oxide emissions
- Negative flux means N₂O consumption (reduced to N₂)



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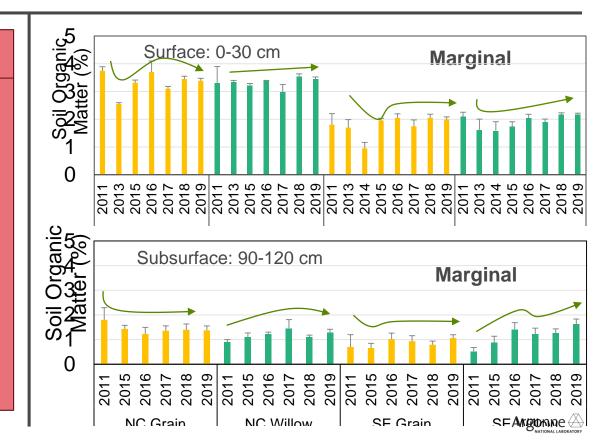


Argonne

WILLOWS INCREASED SOIL ORGANIC MATTER

Soil Nutrients

- SE willow plots show increasing trend in soil organic matter
- Leaf litter is estimated to return about 35 kg N ha⁻¹ per season
- Fine root biomass is estimated to return around 2.7-3.6 Mg C ha⁻¹ and 0.07 Mg N ha⁻¹
 - The lower C/N ratio of willow roots in the SE plots may explain the greater SOM build



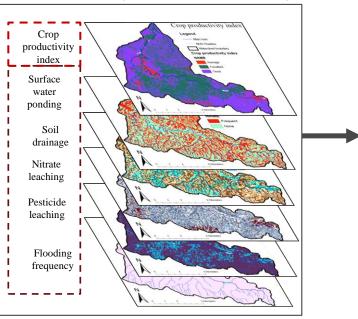
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MARGINAL LAND DEFINITION AND CLASSIFICATION

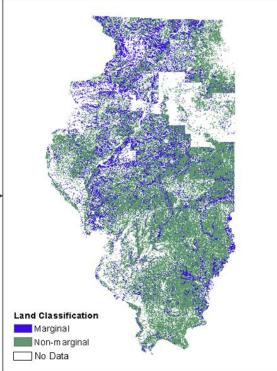
Marginality = *f*(*economic*, *environmental*)

Sustainability metric	Classification	Marginality ^[a]
	 Excellent; CPI ≥ 133 	0
Crop productivity index	2. Good; CPI = 117 - 132	0
	 Average; CPI = 100 - 116 	1
	4. Fair: CPI < 100	1
	1. Very limited	0
Nitrate leaching	2. Somewhat limited	0
	3. Limited	0
	4. Moderate	1
	5. High	1
Pesticide leaching	1. Very limited	0
	2. Somewhat limited	0
	3. Limited	0
	4. Moderate	1
	5. High	1
	1. Poorly drained	1
	2. Well drained	0
Soil drainage	3. Somewhat poorly drained	1
Soii drainage	4. Moderately well drained	0
	5. No data	NoData ^[c]
	6. Very poorly drained	1
Frequency of water ponding	1. Rare	0
	2. Frequent	1
	1. Rare	0
requency of flooding	2. Frequent	1
	1. None	0
Accelerated erosion	2. Class 1	0
	3. Class 2	0
	4. No data	NoData [c]
	5. Class 3	1
	1. Negligible	0
	2. Low	0
	3. Medium	0
Surface runoff	4. High	1
	5. No data	NoData ^[c]
	6. Very low	0
	7 Very high	1

- GIS-based multi-criteria decision analysis
- Data sources:
 - USDA-NRCS: Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) database
 - USGS National Elevation Dataset
 - · Peer-reviewed publications and technical reports

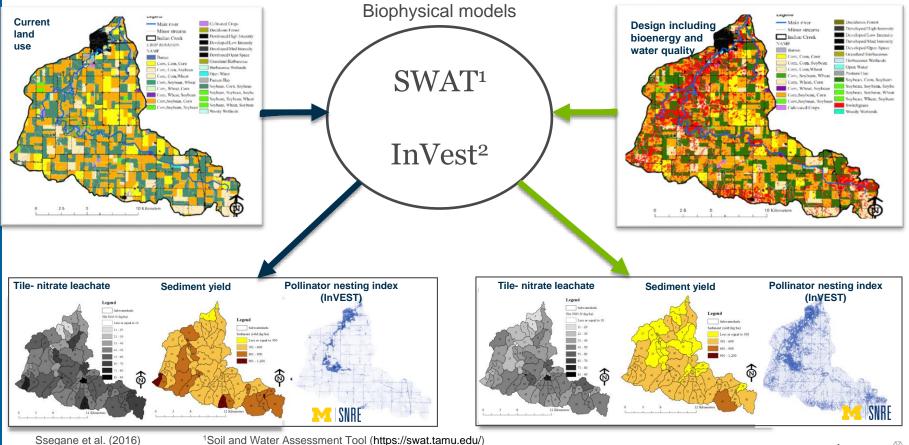


Illinois, USA Marginal Land Map





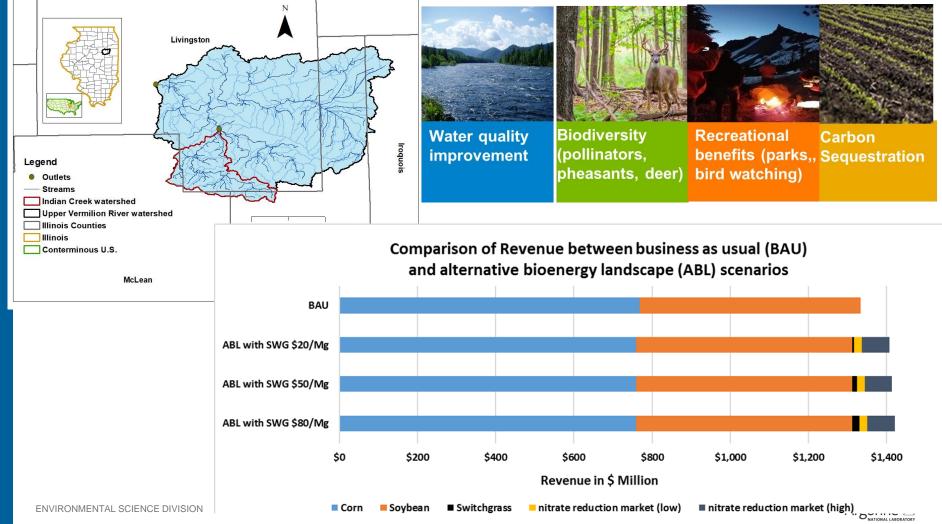
WATERSHED DESIGN INCREASES ES IN MARGINAL LAND



Ssegane et al. (2016) ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE DIVISION

²Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Tradeoffs (https://naturalcapitalproject.stanford.edu/software/invest)



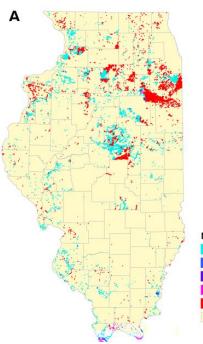


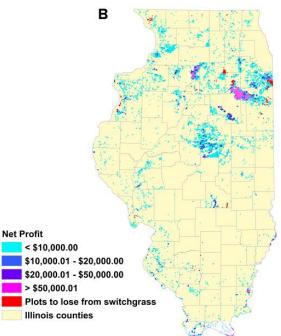
CARBON ECONOMICS OF BIOENERGY CROPS IN ILLINOIS

- Total marginal land in the state of Illinois 2 million ha.
- Out of 1.3 million ha of marginal land >10 ha plots, corn or soy is grown in 0.7 million ha.
- Replacing the corn and soy by switchgrass can produce a total of 9 million metric tons (MT) of biomass.
- The quantity of production and distribution across the state ranges from less than 100 MT per plot of marginal land to 20,000 MT per plots.

By converting the row crops in marginal land to switchgrass,

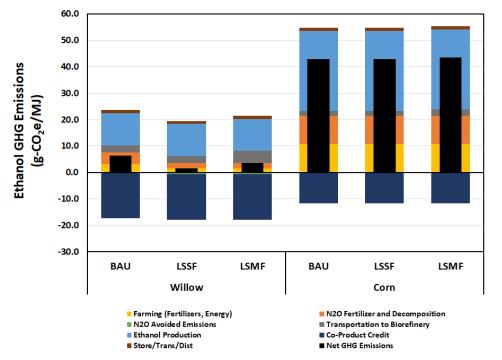
- 1. Carbon can be sequestered at a range of 15 to 30 Mg/ha.
- 2. Potential for total carbon sequestration is estimated at 18 million Mg in marginal lands of Illinois.



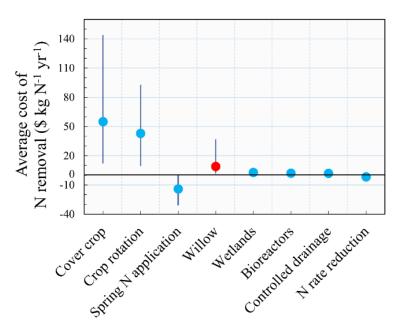




LIFECYCLE ANALYSIS, COST OF N REMOVAL



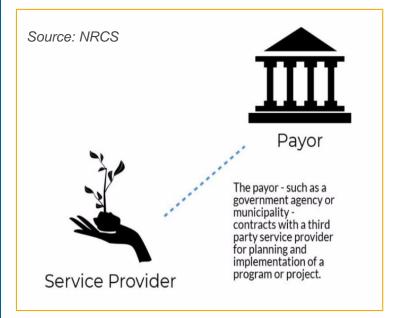
Net GHG emissions from producing willow on marginal land were much less than those from producing corn on that land. Most of the benefit is due to less fertilizer, energy, agrichemicals in willow plots.



Average cost of nitrogen removal by willow (shortrotation woody crop) is comparable to other conservation methods.



ANY CHANCES IT COULD HAPPEN? PRIVATE- PUBLIC MECHANISMS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PAYMENT



NRCS - Pay for Success

- i2 Capital's project, with The Nature Conservancy, Quantified Ventures, and other partners in the Brandywine-Christina watershed (Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania).
- American Rivers in partnership with Environmental Defense Fund and other non-profits, agencies, and utilities created the Central Valley Habitat Exchange.
- Ohio River Basin Interstate Water Quality Trading Project (funded by EPRI)
- Fox River Valley Phosphorus Trading Program Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, Brown County, Outagamie County Land Conservation Department, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Great Lakes Commission, and the USDA NRCS.

http://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=769a0ef44b1b4d7b85d6e02c0ba7630d



IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL ECONOMIES

- How to leverage this work to attract biorefineries?
 - Easing costs for biomass
- Enabling farmers to be energy and environmental entrepreneurs
 - Recognizing a value and a service
- Linking to the need to deliver for Gulf Hypoxia task force
- Setting up trading systems will be important
 - Carbon (power utilities?)
 - Nutrients (water reclamation utilities?)
 - Other ecosystem services



PROJECT WEBSITE

Showcase of past project work products, updated with new material

https://web.evs.anl.gov/bioenergy/

FEATURED WORK



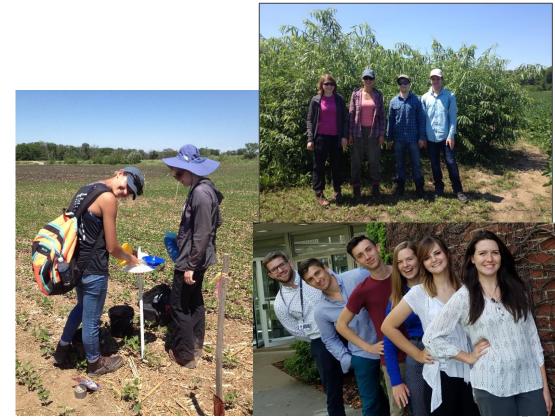


THANK YOU !

Acknowledgements

- Herbert Ssegane, Jules Cacho, Patty Campbell, Colleen Zumpf, John Quinn, Nora Grasse, Shruti Mishra, Yuki Hamada, Andy Ayers, Jim Kuiper, Lee Walston, Pam Richmond, Argonne National Laboratory
- The many students who help us every summer in the field
- John Graham and Joan Nassauer, University of Michigan
- Silvia Secchi and Justin Kozak, Southern Illinois University
- DK Lee, University of Illinois
- Kristen Johnson and Alicia Lindauer, DOE-BETO
- Paul Kilgus and Ray Popejoy, Fairbury IL
- The Livingston County IL SWCD and NRCS

This work was funded by the US DOE, EERE, Bioenergy Technologies Office.





QUESTIONS?



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PANEL 3

Ufuk Erdal Senior Vice President Water Reuse National Technology Director



DIRECT POTABLE REUSE

A New Approach to Water Management

August 20 ,2020



Outline

- 1 Why Water Reuse?
- 2 Water Reuse Types
- **3** Potable Reuse Definition and Types
- 4 Case for Direct Potable Reuse
- 5 Challenges and Implementation Considerations in Potable Reuse Projects
- 6 Final Remarks



- WATER IS A FINITE PRECIOUS RESOURCE Although 72% of the Earth's surface is covered with water, less than 2% of this water is suitable for human consumption
- GROWING POPULATION in urban areas is resulted in increased water demand by human consumption and industries
 - current supplies cannot meet future demand in most urban areas





WATER SHORTAGES and PROLONGED DROUGHTS have dramatically increased in recent decades

- Likely to become more frequent and more severe in the future.
- MORE FREQUENT AND PROLONGED RED TIDE AND ALGAE BLOOMS due to discharge of treated wastewater containing nutrients and increased water temperatures







DEPLETED GROUNDWATER DUE TO DROUGHT OR EXCESSIVE WITHDRAWN

- Seawater intrusion and water quality issues
- Land subsidence
- Reduction of water in streams and lakes



Land Subsidence in Central Valley, CA Picture Credits: Google.com



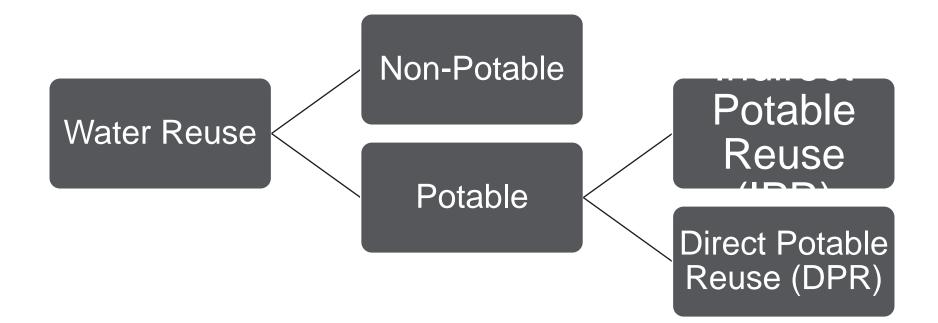
- Water reuse is an alternative water supply which is drought proof, locally controllable, sustainable and more affordable than conventional water sources
- Reduces or eliminates discharges to receiving bodies
- Reduces groundwater extraction
 - prevents seawater intrusion and land subsidence (groundwater recharge)
- Supports economy







Water Reuse Types – General Classification





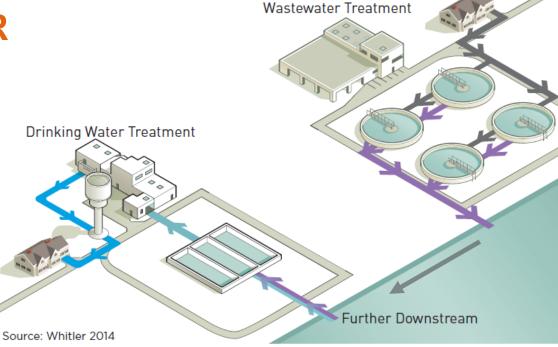
Potable Reuse Definition and Types

Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR)	Direct Potable Reuse (DPR)
Augmentation of a drinking water source (surface water or groundwater) with recycled water followed by an <u>environmental buffer</u> precedes drinking water treatment	Discharge of recycled water to a drinking water source of supply with the intended purpose of augmenting the potable supply <u>without an</u> <u>environmental buffer</u> that precedes drinking water treatment or <u>water</u> <u>distribution system</u>



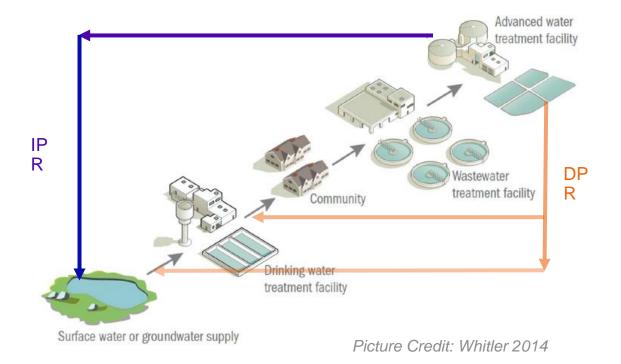
DE FACTO (UNPLANNED) IPR

- Has been a long practice
 - Many people do not recognize that their DW is supplied thru an unplanned IPR
- Large cities that draw their drinking water from rivers with numerous upstream wastewater discharges (e.g., Atlanta, Philadelphia, Houston, Cincinnati, New Orleans, etc.)





Planned IPR and DPR





Case for Potable Reuse









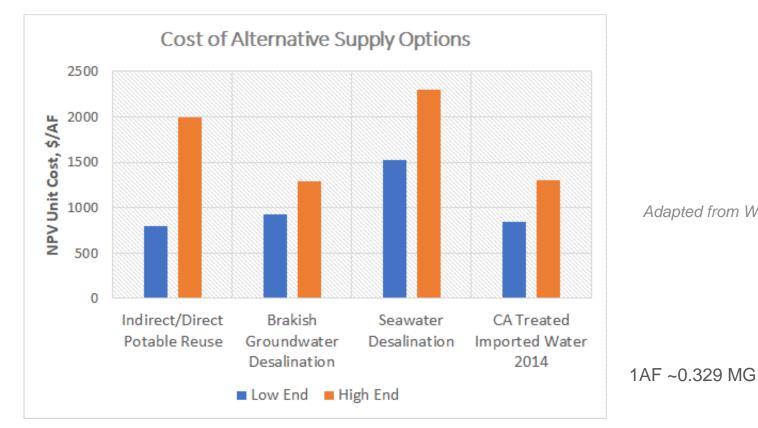


Potable Reuse Makes Sense

- Non potable reuse (NPR) demand is generally seasonal whereas potable reuse demand is year round
 - -NPR is less sustainable with reduced environmental benefits
- NPR demands often are geographically separated by large distances
 - Significantly increases pumping and conveyance costs
- Public acceptance historically favored NPR over potable reuse. But it is changing with effective public outreach and education



Potable Reuse vs. Alternative Supply Costs



Adapted from WRF, 2014



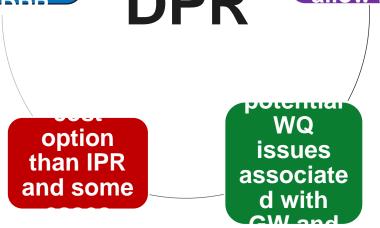
Energy Consumptions for Alternative Supply Sources

Technology/Water Source	Typical Energy Requirement, kWh/10 ³ gal	
Full Advanced Treatment (MF-RO-UVAOP) used in IPR and DPR (TDS=750-900 mg/L)	3.30	
Brackish Water Desalination (TDS=5,000 mg/L)	3.8	
Seawater Desalination (TDS=34,000-37,000 mg/L)	12.0	
Bringing State Project Water (Bay Delta) to So-CAL	9.2	
Bringing Colorado River Water to So-CAL	6.2	

Adapted from WRF 2012

DPR is Not a New Concept but Getting Traction in TX, FL, CA, AZ and Beyond





gies used

in IPR can

be used



DPR Project Examples and Benefits

Name	Year Completed	Cost	Benefits
Goreangab Treatment Plant City of Windhoek, Namibia	1968 1997 (Upgrade)	Unknown \$650-900/AF (projected)	Provides safe and reliable water for 200,000 people
Water Recycling System International Space Station	2000 2014 (Upgrade)	Not disclosed	Generates potable water for 7 astronauts, otherwise only 3 can serve at the station
Big Spring Raw Water Production Facility Colorado River Municipal Water District, TX	2013	\$750-850/AF	Provides safe and reliable supply to ease impact of the prolong drought
Emergency Direct Potable Reuse Facility Wichita Falls Water Utilities (TX)	2014	\$750-850/AF	Provides a safe and reliable backup system



International Space Station



On April 22, 2015 NASA astronaut Scott Kelly tweeted " Recycle Good to the last drop! Making pee potable and turning it into coffee on @space station

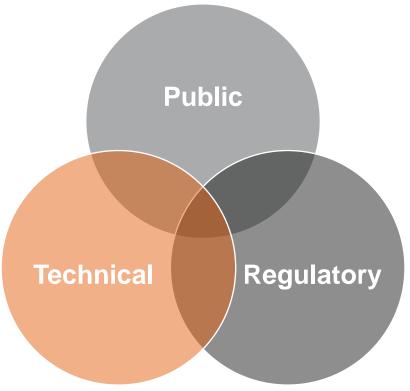




Picture Credits: NASA



Challenges and Implementation Considerations in Direct Potable Reuse Projects





1. Public Perceptions and Acceptance

"We want to challenge the perceptions of USA women's football and one day get full stadiums" – NY Times 2016



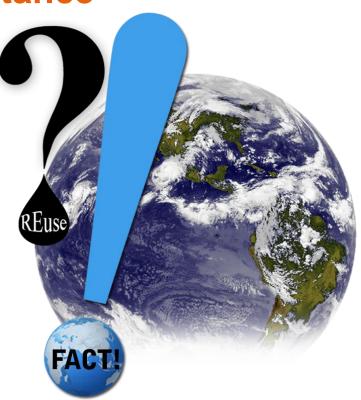
Picture Credit: The Guardian, 2018



Public Education and Acceptance

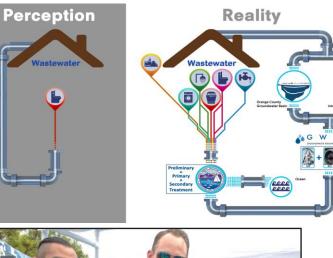
If people understand that they are already living downstream, might they be OK with a water solution that includes planned potable reuse?

Linda MacPherson 2012





OCWD and San Diego Did It







www.sandiegopurewater.com



2. Regulatory Concerns

Pathogenic Organisms (Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Virus, Bacteria

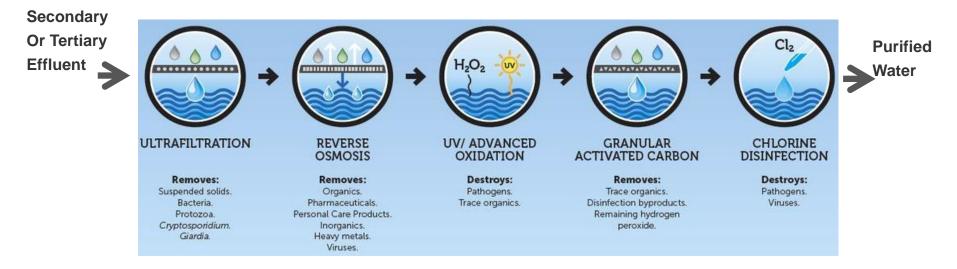
Acute Risk

Trace Organic Compounds or CECs (PFOA, PFOS, NDMA, 1,4 Dioxane, etc.)

Chronic Risk



Multi Barrier Approach Removes Pollutants and Address Regulatory and Public Concerns





3. Technical Issues

- Cost
- RO Concentrate Treatment and/or Disposal
- Failure Response Time
- Critical Control Points
- Source Control

We can address all those challenges



Final Thoughts

- Recycled water is drought proof, locally available and sustainable alternative supply source
- Potable reuse has advantages over non potable reuse (e.g. non seasonal, superior environmental benefits)
- DPR costs are compatible with conventional sources
- Biggest challenge with DPR is to overcome public perception
 - A sophisticated public outreach can overcome this hurdle
 - Effective source control and enhanced process control and monitoring improve reliability

© Arcadis 2020

REMEMBER:

- All water is used and reused again and again
- The water we drink has been around for million years

Linda MacPherson 2012



Thank you!



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QUESTIONS?

1. Use the Question box

2. Direct your question to Panelist by name



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