## Introduction to Bi@Fuels

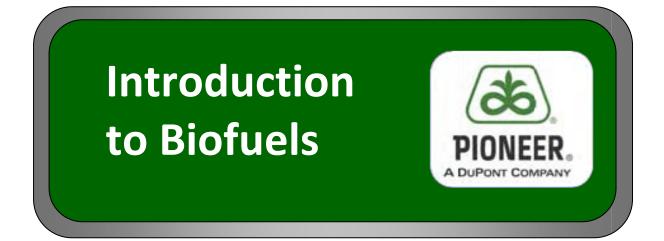




A College Course on Biofuels

# Agrow Knowledge

The National Resource Center for Agriscience & Technology Education



## An introduction to combustion fuel made from nonpetroleum sources

Authored by: Ross Spackman, Ph.D. for: AgrowKnowledge



#### Introduction

This introductory college level biofuels course focuses on combustion fuels made from nonpetroleum sources and introduces the sources, processing, and social impacts of biofuel utilization.

Major funding for the development this AgrowKnowledge course was made possible by funding from Pioneer®, and the National Science Foundation. AgrowKnowledge is the ONLY center supported by the National Science Foundation that focuses exclusively on agriculture education. This course was developed for AgrowKnowledge by Ross Spackman, Ph.D. who was selected through an RFP process.

Dr. Spackman is a professor of Water Resource Management in the Agriculture program at the College of Southern, in Twin Falls, ID since 1994. Dr. Spackman is an active participant in AgrowKnowledge and has taught educators attending AgrowKnowledge workshops and conferences. At the core his educational approach is that the teacher is not the absolute center of knowledge and power but rather an information director who teaches students the basic concepts and then lets them expand on that knowledge in a direction most beneficial to them. A person won't fully understand a concept until they are able to teach someone else that concept.

The intent of this curriculum is to provide educators with the content necessary to teach a 3 credit hour course. The materials are divided into units and each unit includes;

- An introduction to the unit with unit objectives
- Worksheets to engage students in their own learning
- Lab activities to provide hands-on experiences
- Quizzes to test students knowledge of the material covered
- 3 Exams to test understanding of multiple units,

#### Notes about this curriculum:

- 1. A lot of cost analysis information on the Internet showing economics of producing different biofuels, but if it is more than 6 months old, it is outdated because of unprecedented grain price fluctuations.
- Limited information is included about federal policy influencing biofuel development. A
  new president is certain to rearrange existing policies and the desire is to keep to the
  content of these materials as relevant as possible. Therefore, the author has stayed
  focused on the science. New technological developments will necessitate updating
  content.
- 3. The pictures and graphics include: photographs taken by the author, Microsoft clip art, and government material in the public domain. Other images are copyright the perspective owners.

#### COURSE SYLLABUS BIOFUELS 3 credits (2 hours lecture, 2 hours lab weekly)

Semester/year: Office Location: E-Mail Address: Instructor: Office Hours: Office Phone:

- 1. **Course Description:** This is an introductory course focusing on the scope of combustion fuels made from nonpetroleum sources (biofuels). The source, processing, and social impacts of biofuel utilization will be covered.
- 2. **Pre-requisites:** General biology and chemistry background is helpful.
- 3. **Required Textbooks and Supplies:** AgrowKnowledge/Pioneer PowerPoint series and lab guide.
- 4. **List pre-requisite skills:** College-level English, math, and computer competency for Internet searches and report preparation.
- 5. **Course Objectives:** Students will be able to describe:
  - How petroleum and bio-based fuels affect the global carbon cycle
  - The attributes of biofuels that make them suitable as a fuel for a specific application
  - Limitations of biofuels
  - Global impacts of biofuels on food and energy supplies
  - Technological advances and challenges to be overcome for wide-scale biofuel adoption
- 6. **Outcomes Assessment:** Mastery of the subject matter will be evaluated through written exams, quizzes, homework assignments, and computation-based laboratory exercises. A grade of 70% indicates the student generally understands the concepts presented.

#### 7. Policies and Procedures:

- Exams will be closed book and incorporate a variety of testing techniques; essay, multiple choice, true/false, matching, and fill-in-the-blank questions.
- Quizzes will be closed book.
- Homework assignments will be due at the start of class on the day indicated on the syllabus.
- Cheating, dishonesty, and plagiarism will result in a penalty outlined in your college's student handbook or in the ethics statement.

#### 8. Grading Practices:

| Quizzes   | 8 x 10 pts. =  | 80  | Percentage | <u>Grade</u> |
|-----------|----------------|-----|------------|--------------|
| Exams     | 3 x 100 pts. = | 300 | 90-100%    | А            |
| Homework  | 5 @ 20 pts. =  | 100 | 80-89%     | В            |
| Lab Assn. | 14@20 pts. =   | 280 | 70-79%     | С            |
| TOTAL     |                | 760 | 60-69%     | D            |
|           |                |     | < 60%      | F            |

9. **Library and Internet:** You will be required to do reading and conduct Internet reviews outside of class.

| Topical Outline for the Course |  |                               |   |  |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Week                           | Classroom Lecture  | Lab                           | Due   |  |
| 1                              | Topic 1. Carbon in Our<br>Environment                                |                               |   |  |
|                                | Topic 2. Introduction to Biofuels                                    |                               |   |  |
|                                | LAB 1  | 1 Carbon Footprint            |   |  |
| 2                              | Topic 3. Combustion Engines<br>Part 1. Parts and Function            |                               | Quiz 1 Carbon and<br>Introduction to Biofuels         |  |
|                                | Topic 3. Combustion Engines<br>Part 2. Turbines and Fuel<br>Ratings  |                               | Worksheet 1 Chemistry of<br>Petroleum                 |  |
|                                | LAB 2  | 2 Combustion Engines          |   |  |
| 3                              | Topic 4. Alcohol Fuels<br>Part 1.Attributes and History              |                               | Quiz 2 Combustion Engines                             |  |
|                                | Topic 4. Alcohol Fuels<br>Part 2. Characteristics                    |                               |   |  |
|                                | LAB 3  | 3 Energy Value of Fuels       |   |  |
| 4                              | Topic 4. Alcohol Fuels<br>Part 3. Ethanol Production                 |                               | Quiz 3 Alcohol Fuel Attributes<br>and Characteristics |  |
|                                | Topic 4. Alcohol Fuels<br>Part 4. Cellulosic Ethanol and<br>Methanol |                               |   |  |
|                                | LAB 4  | 4 Yeast Respiration           |   |  |
| 5                              | Topic 4. Alcohol Fuels<br>Part 5. Butanol                            |                               | Quiz 4 Production and<br>Cellulose                    |  |
|                                | Topic 4. Alcohol fuels<br>Part 6. Reports and Discussion             |                               | Worksheet 2 Ethanol Ethics<br>Reports and Discussion  |  |
|                                | LAB 5  | 5 Enzymes and<br>Fermentation |   |  |
| 6                              | Exam 1   |                               | Introduction, Carbon, Engines<br>and Alcohol          |  |
|                                | Topic 5. Biodiesel<br>Part 1.Petrodiesel                             |                               |   |  |
|                                | LAB 6  | 6 Proof and Distillation      |   |  |

| 7  | Topic 5. Biodiesel   |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
|    | Part 2. Terms and Properties   |  |  |
|    | Topic 5. Biodiesel<br>Part 3. Making Biodiesel                           |  | Quiz 5 Petrodiesel. and Terms                    |
|    | LAB 7  | 7 Making Biodiesel in the<br>Lab with New Oil    |  |
| 8  | Topic 5. Biodiesel<br>Part 4. Oil Sources                                |  | Worksheet 3 Food and Fuel                        |
|    | Topic 5. Biodiesel<br>Part 5. Straight Vegetable Oil<br>(SVO)            |  | Quiz 6 Making Biodiesel<br>and SVO               |
|    | LAB 8  | 8 Making Biodiesel with<br>Alternative Recipes I |  |
| 9  | Topic 5. Biodiesel<br>Part 6. Co-uses for Oilseed                        |  |  |
|    | Topic 5. Biodiesel<br>Part 6.Second day                                  |  |  |
|    | LAB 9  | 9 Building an Oilseed Press                      |  |
| 10 | Exam 2   |  | Biodiesel  |
|    | Topic 6. Gasification<br>Part 1. Biomass                                 |  | Worksheet 4 Biodiesel and<br>Ethanol Comparisons |
|    | LAB 10   | 10 Biomass Measurement                           |  |
| 11 | Topic 6. Gasification<br>Part 2. Producer Gas                            |  |  |
|    | Topic 7. Biogas<br>Part 1. Biology                                       |  | Quiz 7 Gasification                              |
|    | LAB 11   | 11 Biogas  |  |
| 12 | Topic 7. Biogas<br>Part 2. Feed Selection                                |  |  |
|    | Topic 7. Biogas<br>Part 3. Fuel Value and<br>Properties                  |  |  |
|    | LAB 12   | 12 Livestock Waste<br>Management                 |  |
| 13 | Topic 7. Biogas<br>Part 4 Uses   |  | Quiz 8 Biogas                                    |
|    | Topic 8. Mariculture<br>Part 1. Algae Propagation                        |  | Worksheet 5 Biogas                               |
|    | LAB 13   | 13 Aquatic Vegetation                            |  |
| 14 | Topic 8. Mariculture<br>Part 2. Fuel Conversion and<br>Future Technology |  |  |
|    | Semester Review  |  |  |
|    | LAB 14   | 14 Poster Presentation                           |  |
| 15 | Exam 3   |  | Gasification, Biogas,<br>Mariculture, Fuel Cells |



## An introduction to combustion fuels made from nonpetroleum sources



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#### Carbon in our Environment

Grade Level: 100/200 level college course

#### Subject(s):

Biofuels/renewable energy/agricultural production

Duration: One 50-minute session

**Description:** Students learn about the carbon cycle and its importance.

**Goals:** To learn why the carbon cycle influences research and development of biofuels and how it shapes public perceptions relating to climate change.

#### **Objectives:**

Students will be able to-

- 1. Describe long and short carbon pathways.
- 2. Explain how the carbon cycle works.
- 3. Identify segments of the carbon cycle that may affect climate change and explain how to alter those segments.
- 4. Understand how the U.S. economy can be strengthened through increased biofuel research and use

#### Materials:

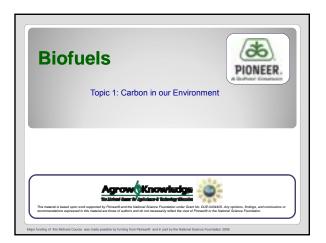
- 1. PowerPoint lecture Topic 1. Carbon in Our Environment <u>Lectures</u> <u>PowerPoints - Lecture 1 Carbon in our Environment.ppt</u>
- 2. Internet searches

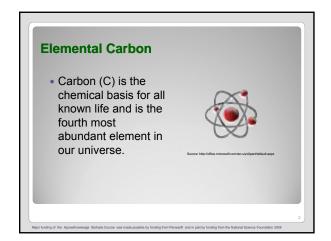
#### **Procedure:**

Follow the PowerPoint slide sequence

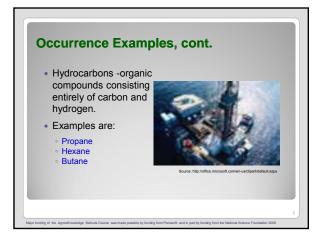
**Assessment:** Discussion on the implications of climate change and the possible solutions highlighted in the lesson can lead to good dialogue.

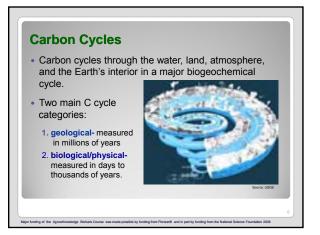
**Special Comments:** Notes beneath some of the slides will help the teacher explain some of the terms in the lesson.

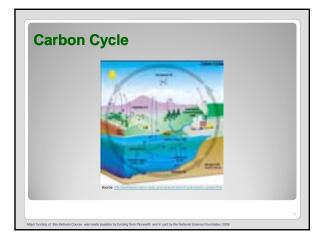


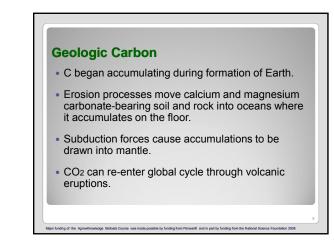












#### Last Ice Age about 20,000 years ago

 Geologic sediment samples predating life on Earth indicate atmospheric CO2 levels were about 100 times above present levels but ice core samples indicate the levels to have been about half as great during the last ice age as now.

# ago

### C has accumulated throughout

- c has accumulated throughout history when photosynthesis has exceeded respiration and biomass accumulated to form oil and coal.
- This has removed C from the active global cycle.
- It is reintroduced during fossil fuel combustion.



#### Short term C cycling

- Annually, photosynthesis and respiration move 1,000 times more C through the cycle compared to geological cycling.
- · Several factors influence short term cycling.
  - Warm ocean water releases CO<sub>2</sub> while cold water causes accumulation.
  - Deforestation liberates biologically stored C.

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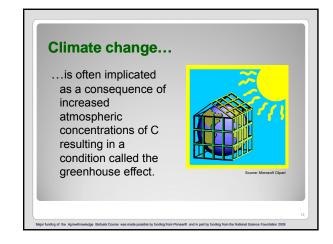
### Anthropogenic (human) activities influence the C cycle

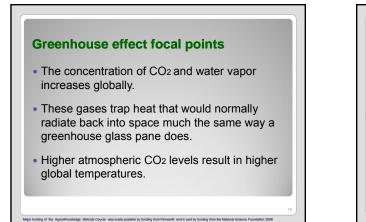
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- Combustion of long cycle storage fossil fuels liberates C once held in storage.
- Deforestation and restoration practices change biomass diversity and density.
- Carbon banking initiatives promote C sequestration (intentional storage through prescribed agronomic or industrial practices).

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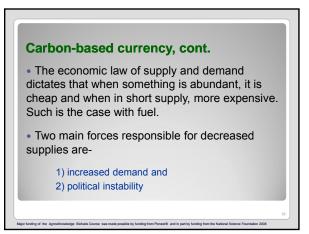


- Natural factors, such as changes in the sun's intensity or slow changes in the Earth's orbit around the sun.
- Natural processes within the climate system
  - e.g. changes in ocean circulation
- Human activities that change the atmosphere's composition and the land surface
   e.g. through burning fossil fuels
  - e.g. deforestation, reforestation, urbanization, desertification, etc.

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#### **Increased Demand**

 World demand for fossil fuels has decreased supplies and prices have risen to all time highs for crude oil.



• China's dependence on oil is rapidly gaining on that of the U.S.



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#### What can be done?

 Are there solutions for human influenced climate change, shrinking supplies of hydrocarbon fuels, and politically volatile energy markets?

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#### • YES!!!!

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 Answer- Conservation of present energy supplies, education, research & development of renewable BIOFUELS.

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#### **Solutions**

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- **Conservation of energy** is the cheapest and easiest short-term solution to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the need for more fuel.
- Educating students in math and science will enable us to: develop more efficient short-cycle fuels from plants (biofuels) and minimize further liberation of C from fossil fuels.

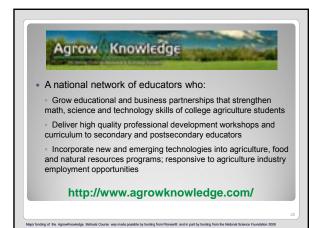
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#### Solutions, cont.

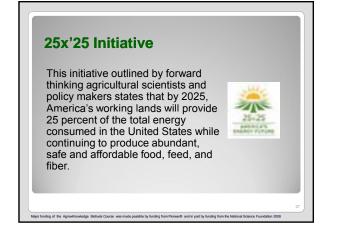
- Biofuel **research and development** techniques allow use of C already in global circulation.
- Biofuel technology will lessen our dependence on foreign oil and reduce the pressure for development of oil reserves in environmentally sensitive areas.

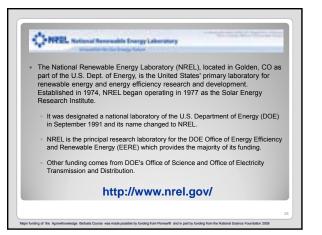
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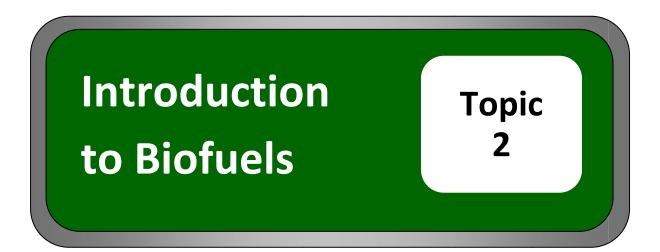








## **Description Attp://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Library/CarbonCycle/c** arbon\_cycle4.html **http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast\_Asia/FH11Ae** 02.htmlhttp://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast\_Asia/FH11Ae 11Ae02.html **www.25x'25.org www.nrel.gov**



## An introduction to combustion fuels made from nonpetroleum sources



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#### Lesson Plan #: 2

#### Introduction to Biofuels

Grade Level: 100/200 level college course

Subject(s): Biofuels/renewable energy/agricultural production

Duration: One 50-minute session

**Description:** It is helpful if students understand the similarities and differences between different fuel types and how to compare the energy values of different fuels.

Goals: To learn the chemical differences between petroleum and bio-based fuels.

#### **Objectives:**

Students will be able to-

- 1. Explain what crude oil is and its origin
- 2. Explain how fractional distillation works
- 3. Describe different types of biofuels
- 4. Understand the basic differences in chemical bonds that make fuels have differing energy characteristics.

#### Materials:

- 1. PowerPoint slides Topic 2. Introduction to Biofuels Lectures PowerPoints - Lecture 2 Introduction to Biofuels.ppt
- 2. Lab 1. Carbon Footprint LABS LAB 1 Carbon Footprint.pdf
- 3. Internet searches

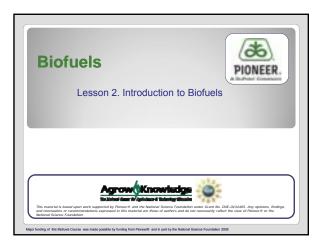
#### **Procedure:**

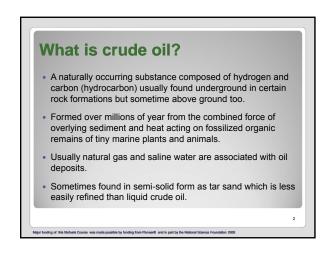
Follow PowerPoint slides.

#### Assessment:

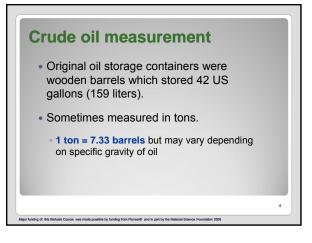
Students will take a short summary quiz at the end of class that will not be graded.

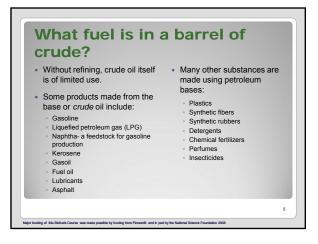
#### Special Comments: none

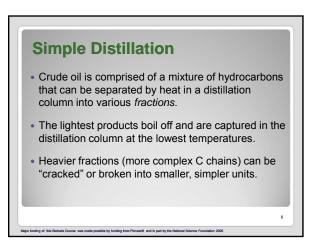


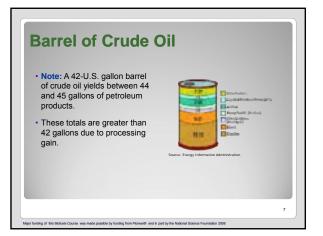


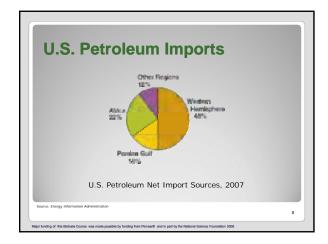


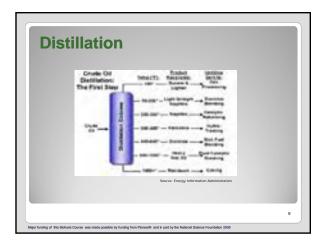


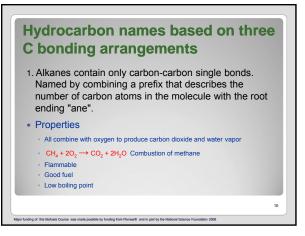


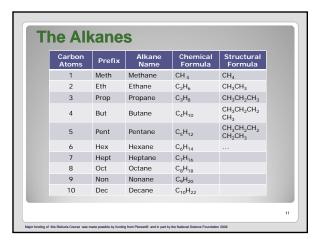


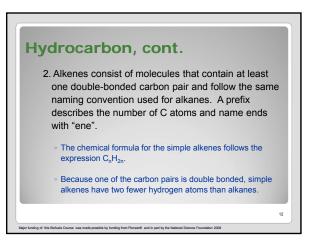




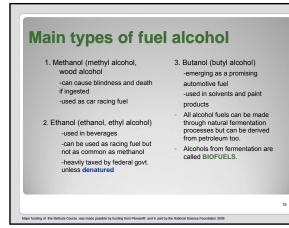


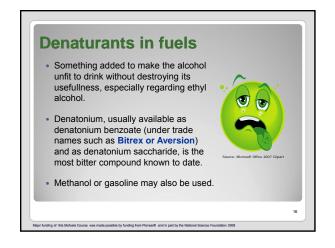












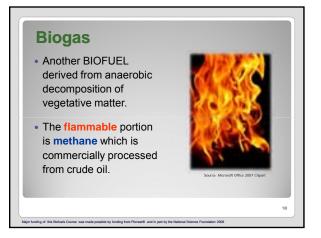
#### Diesel

- A petroleum derived fuel with a higher boiling point than gasoline or ethanol.
- It contains more energy per unit volume than gasoline (energy dense).
- · A standard fuel in trucking and heavy equipment use.
- When made from vegetable oil or animal fat, it is called biodiesel, another **BIOFUEL**.

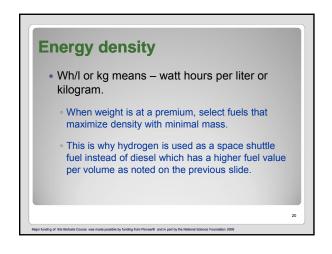
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• It can be a direct replacement for petroleum diesel in some applications.

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| Material                      | By Volume   | By Mass      |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Liquid Hydroger               | 2,600 Wh/I  | 39,000 Wh/kg |
| Propane                       | 6,600 Wh/I  | 13,900 Wh/kg |
| Butane                        | 7,800 Wh/I  | 13,600 Wh/kg |
| Heating Oil                   | 10,400 Wh/I | 12,800 Wh/kg |
| Diesel Fuel                   | 10,700 Wh/I | 12,700 Wh/kg |
| Gasoline                      | 9,700 Wh/I  | 12,200 Wh/kg |
| Liquid natural<br>gas(-160°C) | 7,216 Wh/I  | 12,100 Wh/kg |
| Ethanol                       | 6,100 Wh/I  | 7,850 Wh/kg  |
| Methanol                      | 4,600 Wh/I  | 6,400 Wh/kg  |



#### Other energy measurement units

- British Thermal Unit (BTU) is a unit of energy used in the power, steam generation, and heating and air conditioning industries.
  - The official metric equivalent is the joule (J).

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- Approximately-1 BTU is amount of heat required to raise one pound (one pint) of water 1 degree F.
- 5000 BTUs will boil 1/2 gallon water for 20 minutes.
- · See website at end of lesson for more energy factors.

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#### Resources

- Information about OPEC countries and how the organization operates:
   www.opec.org
- <u>http://www.sciencenetlinks.com</u>
- Review of basic atomic structure and theory:
   http://www.school.for.champions.com/science/atom.htm
- Government information on the petroleum industry: <u>http://www.eia.doe.gov/</u>
- <u>http://science.howstuffworks.com/oil-refining.htm</u>
- Basic organic chemistry:
   http://www.visionloorning.com/library/modulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wodulo\_visionloorning.com/library/wo
- Resource for energy values:
   <a href="http://bioenergy.ornl.gov/papers/misc/energy\_conv.html">http://bioenergy.ornl.gov/papers/misc/energy\_conv.html</a>

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#### BIOFUELS LABORATORY EXERCISE 1 CARBON FOOTPRINT

20 points possible 2 pts each question Name\_\_\_\_\_

#### Use this website to answer the questions.

http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\_calculator.html

- 1. What is your calculated waste emissions before recycling?
- 2. What is your calculated waste emissions after recycling?
- 3. Realistically, if you <u>committed</u> to additional recycling, how much would that reduce your emissions?
- 4. Using the *fuel economy website* link on this website then the *cars energy impact score* link, what is your car's carbon footprint score?\_\_\_\_\_ How many barrels of oil used annually?\_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Watch any two of the videos on the *fuel economy website* link. What surprised you the most from what you learned?
- 6. Does anyone in your family own a hybrid vehicle? Refer to the same fuel economy website link and select a hybrid you would like to own. What features make it desirable?

- 7. How much would this vehicle cost new or used?\_\_\_\_\_ cite your reference
- 8. How many incandescent light bulbs could you replace in your residence with Energy Star bulbs? \_\_\_\_\_ How many pounds CO<sub>2</sub> would this avoid? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Do you have an Energy Star refrigerator? \_\_\_\_\_\_. If not, how many pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> would a replacement save? \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 10. What area of your carbon footprint can you reduce to the greatest degree?

#### BIOFUELS Quiz 1 Carbon and Introduction to Biofuels

| 10 points   |  | Name                                   |                    |  |
|---|--|--|--------------------|--|
| <ol> <li>What element is the fourth most abundant in our universe?</li> <li>a) nitrogen</li> <li>b) carbon</li> <li>c) hydrogen</li> <li>d) helium</li> </ol> |  |  |                    |  |
| <ol> <li>Hydrocarbons contain r</li> <li>a) hydrogen and carbon</li> <li>d) nitrogen and zinc</li> </ol>  | nainly-<br>b) hydrogen and oxygen                | c) water and oxyge                     | n                  |  |
| 3. Combustion of fossil fuels results in release ofcycle carbon into the  |  |  |                    |  |
| atmosphere.<br>a) long  | b) short   | c) medium                              | d) motor           |  |
| <ol> <li> is often implicated as a consequence of increased atmospheric concentrations of C resulting in a condition called the greenhouse effect.</li> </ol> |  |  |                    |  |
| a) globalization<br>cooling   | b) climate change                                | c) geysers                             | d) global          |  |
| 5 is the cheapest and easiest short-term solution to reducing $CO_2$ emissions and the need for more fuel.  |  |  |                    |  |
| <ul><li>a) building nuclear power</li><li>d) conservation of energy</li></ul>   | plants b) drilling oil wells                     | c) buying new cars                     |                    |  |
| <ol> <li>Usually natural gas and<br/>a) saline water</li> </ol>   | lare associate v<br>b) gold                      | vith crude oil deposit<br>c) plutonium | s.<br>d) methoxide |  |
| 7. One barrel of oil is equi<br>a) 35   | valent to about how many L<br>b) 42              | JS gallons?<br>c) 50                   | d) 68              |  |
|   | separate the various fractio<br>b) refractometer |  |                    |  |
| 9is use<br>a) ethanol   | ed to make ethyl alcohol unf<br>b) fructose      | it to drink.<br>c) yeast               | d) denaturant      |  |
| 10. Which fuel is the most a) gasoline  | energy dense by mass?<br>b) liquid hydrogen      | c) propane                             | d) butane          |  |

#### BIOFUELS Quiz 1 Carbon and Introduction to Biofuels

| 10 points   |                                |                          | Name KEY      |  |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--|
| 1. What element is the fourth mo<br>a) nitrogen <b>b) carbon</b>  |                                |                          |               |  |
| <ul> <li>2. Hydrocarbons contain mainly-</li> <li>a) hydrogen and carbon b) hy</li> <li>d) nitrogen and zinc</li> </ul>   |                                | en c) water and          | oxygen        |  |
| 3. Combustion of fossil fuels results in release ofcycle carbon into the atmosphere.  |                                |                          |               |  |
| a) long b) short  | c) medium                      | d) motor                 |               |  |
| 4 is often impliced concentrations of C resulting in a a) globalization b) climate c  | a condition called             | the greenhouse e         | effect.       |  |
| <ul> <li>5 is the cheapest and easiest short-term solution to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the need for more fuel.</li> <li>a) building nuclear power plants b) drilling oil wells c) buying new cars d) conservation of energy</li> </ul> |                                |                          |               |  |
| 6. Usually natural gas andare associate with crude oil deposits.a) saline waterb) goldb) goldc) plutoniumd) methoxide   |                                |                          |               |  |
| 7. One barrel of oil is equivalent<br>a) 35 <b>b) 42</b>  |                                | ny US gallons?<br>50     | d) 68         |  |
| 8. Ais used to separa<br>a) distillation column b) ref  |                                |                          |               |  |
| 9is used to m<br>a) ethanol b) fru  | ake ethyl alcohol<br>ictose c) | unfit to drink.<br>yeast | d) denaturant |  |
| 10. Which fuel is the most energ<br>a) gasoline <b>b) liquid hy</b>   |                                |                          | d) butane     |  |



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