Opportunities and Challenges for Alternative Fuels

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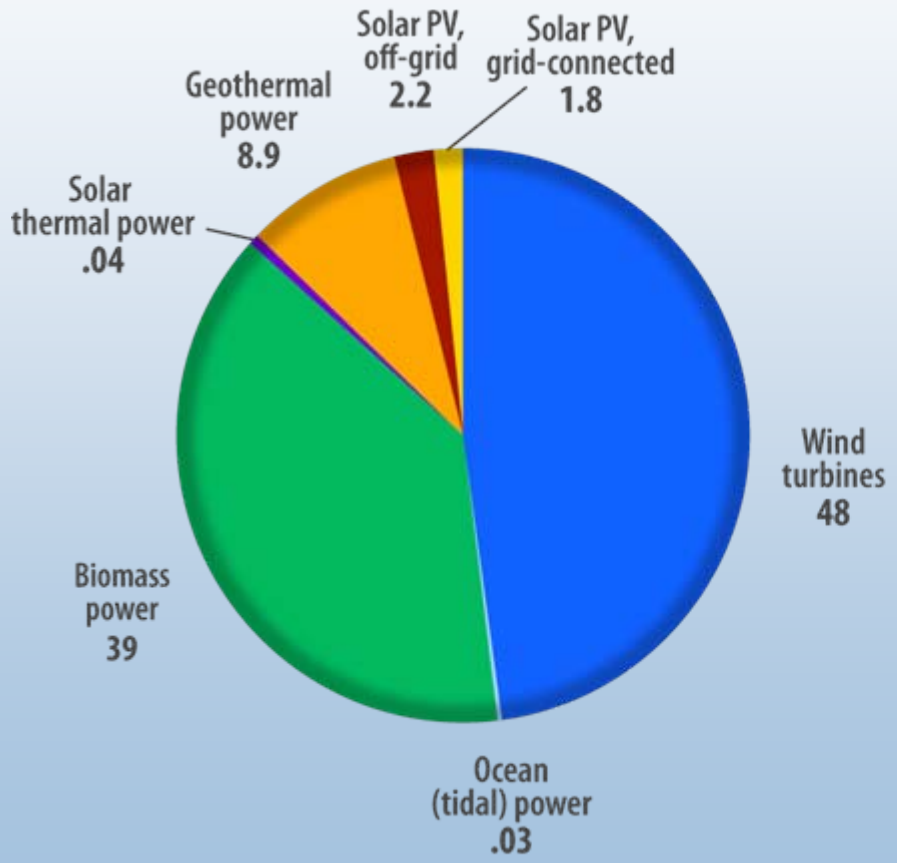
Renewable Energy Indicators

As of Year End 2004

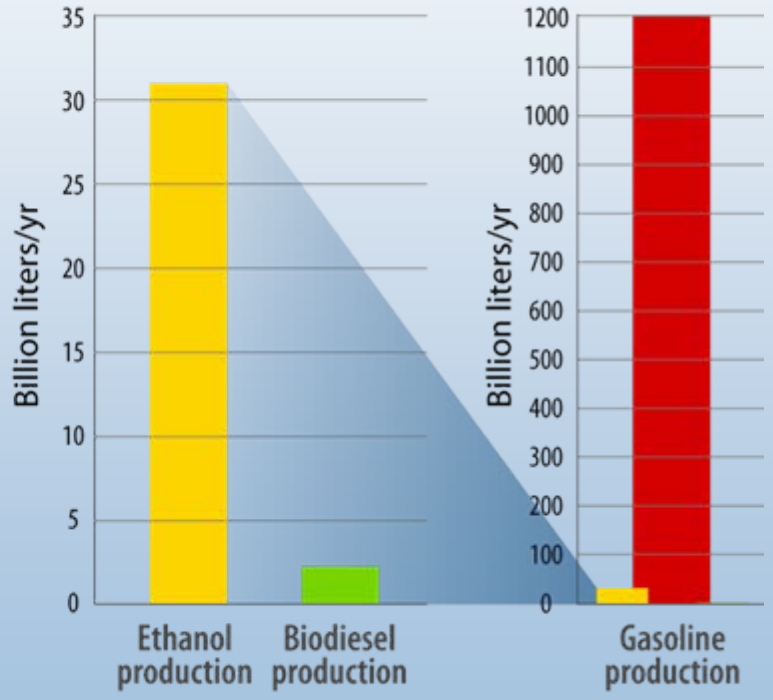
Power Generation

Existing Capacity* – GW



Transport Fuels

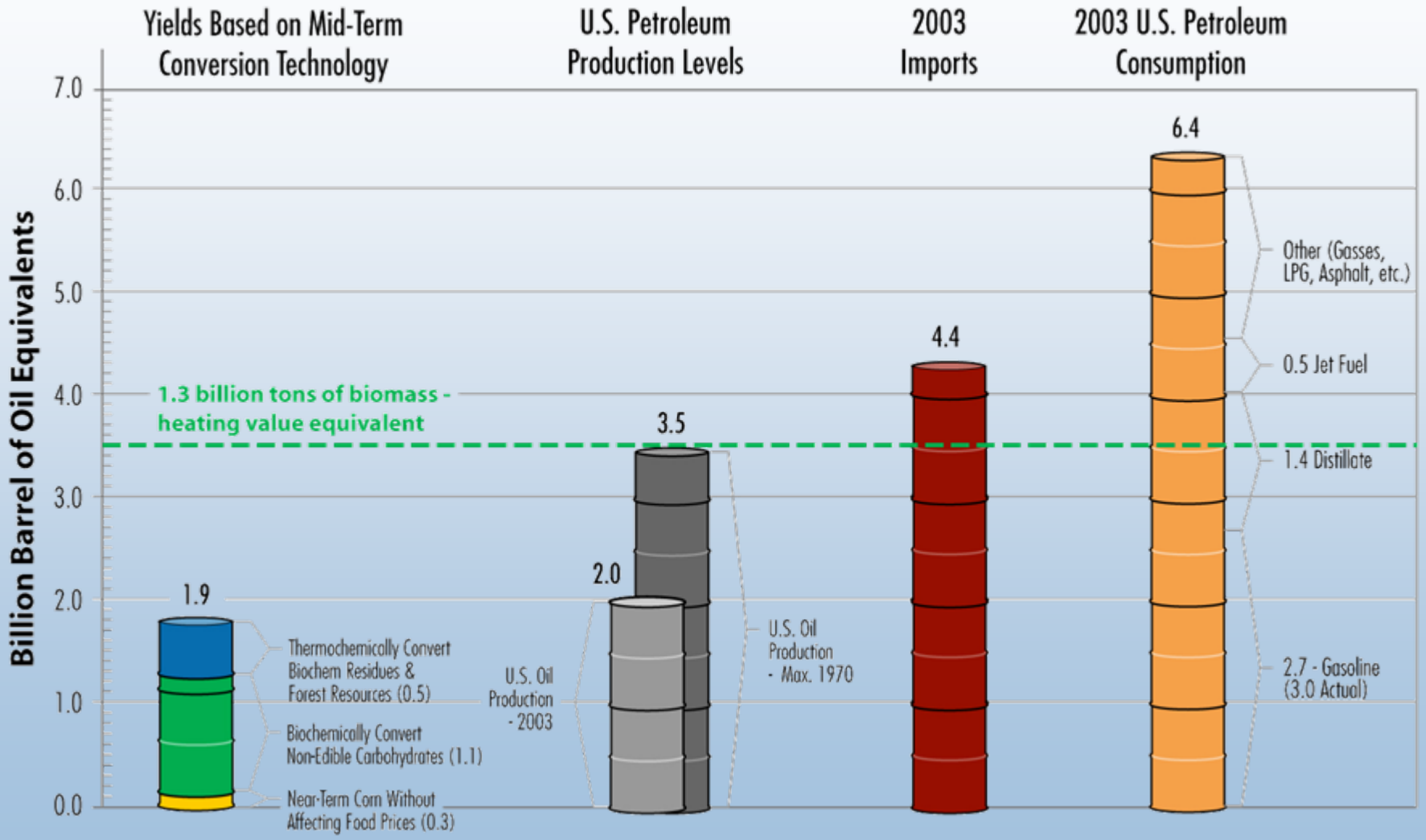
Billion liters/year



*Does not include hydropower

Source: REN21 Renewables 2005 Status Report,

Significance of the 1.3 Billion Ton Biomass Scenario



Based on ORNL & USDA Resource Assessment Study by Perlach et.al. (April 2005)
http://www.eere.energy.gov/biomass/pdfs/final_billionton_vision_report2.pdf

Biofuels

Biofuels status

- Biodiesel – 75 million gallons (2005)
- Corn ethanol
  - 81 commercial plants
  - 3.9 billion gallons (2005)
  - Today's cost ~$1.35/gallon of gasoline equivalent (gge)
- Cellulosic ethanol
  - Projected commercial cost ~$3.00/gge

Potential

- 2012 goal – cellulosic ethanol ~$1.42/gge
- 2030 goal – all ethanol = 30% of transportation fuels

NREL Research Thrusts

- The Biorefinery
- Solutions to under-utilized waste residues
- Energy crops

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, National Biodiesel Board, Renewable Fuels Association

Building the Supply Chain

Biomass Feedstock Supply

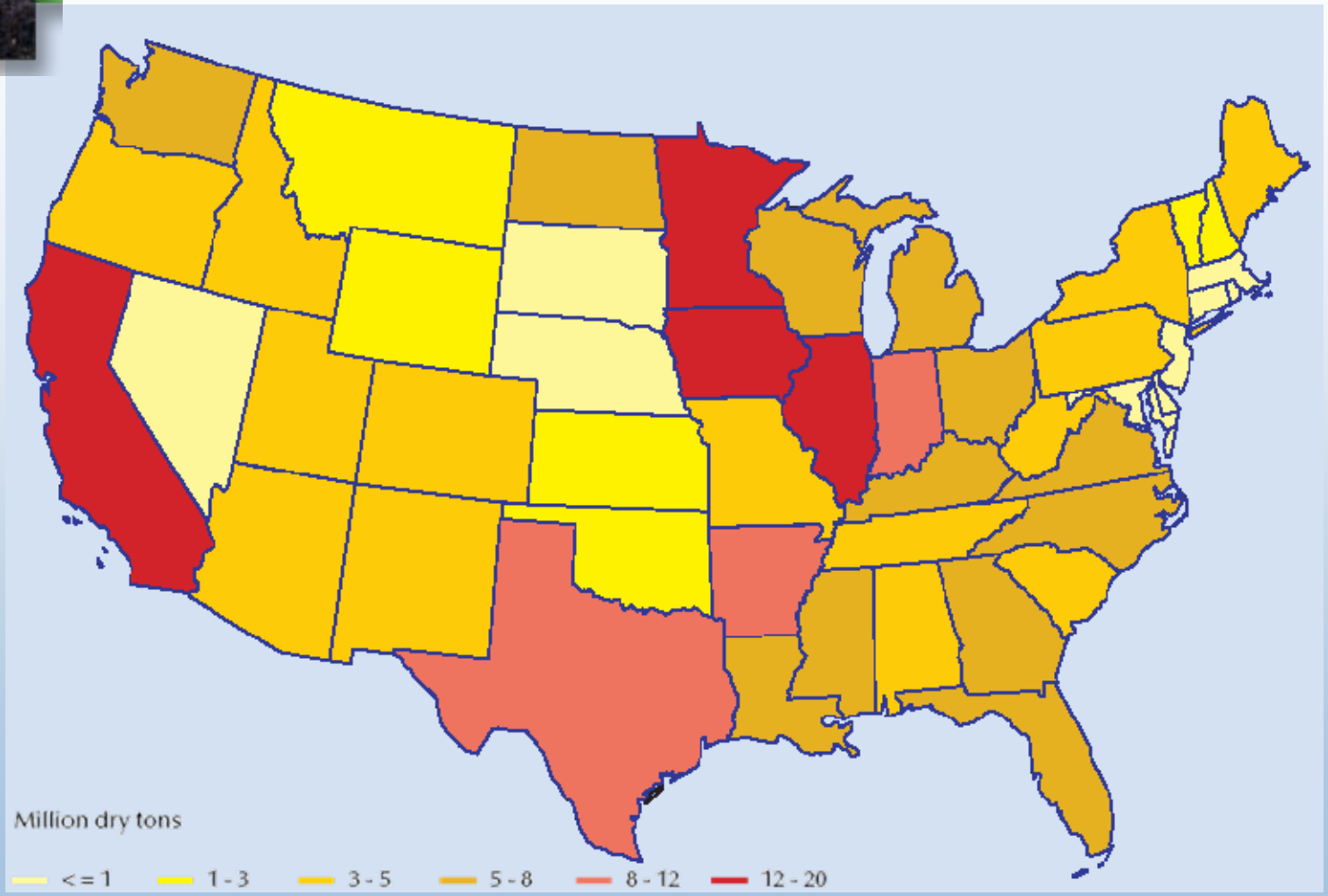
Biomass Feedstock Transport

Biomass Conversion Technology

Markets: Fuels & Vehicles

Biomass Feedstock Supply

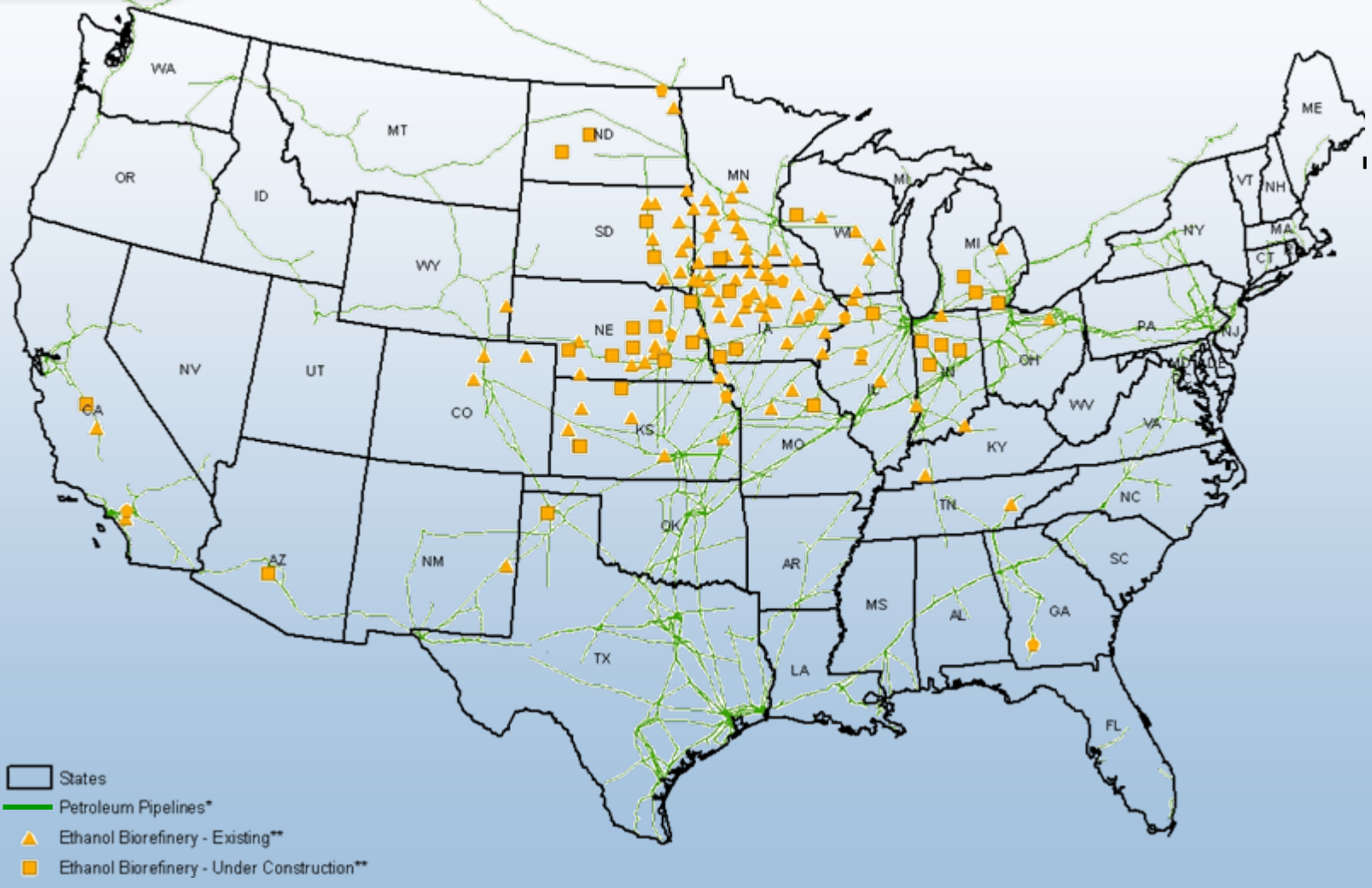
Renewable Waste Resources



Source: National Commission on Energy Policy, *Ending the Energy Stalemate*, December 2004

Biomass Feedstock Transport

Current Distribution Infrastructure



Source: MapSearch, PennWell, Renewable Fuels Association, June 2006

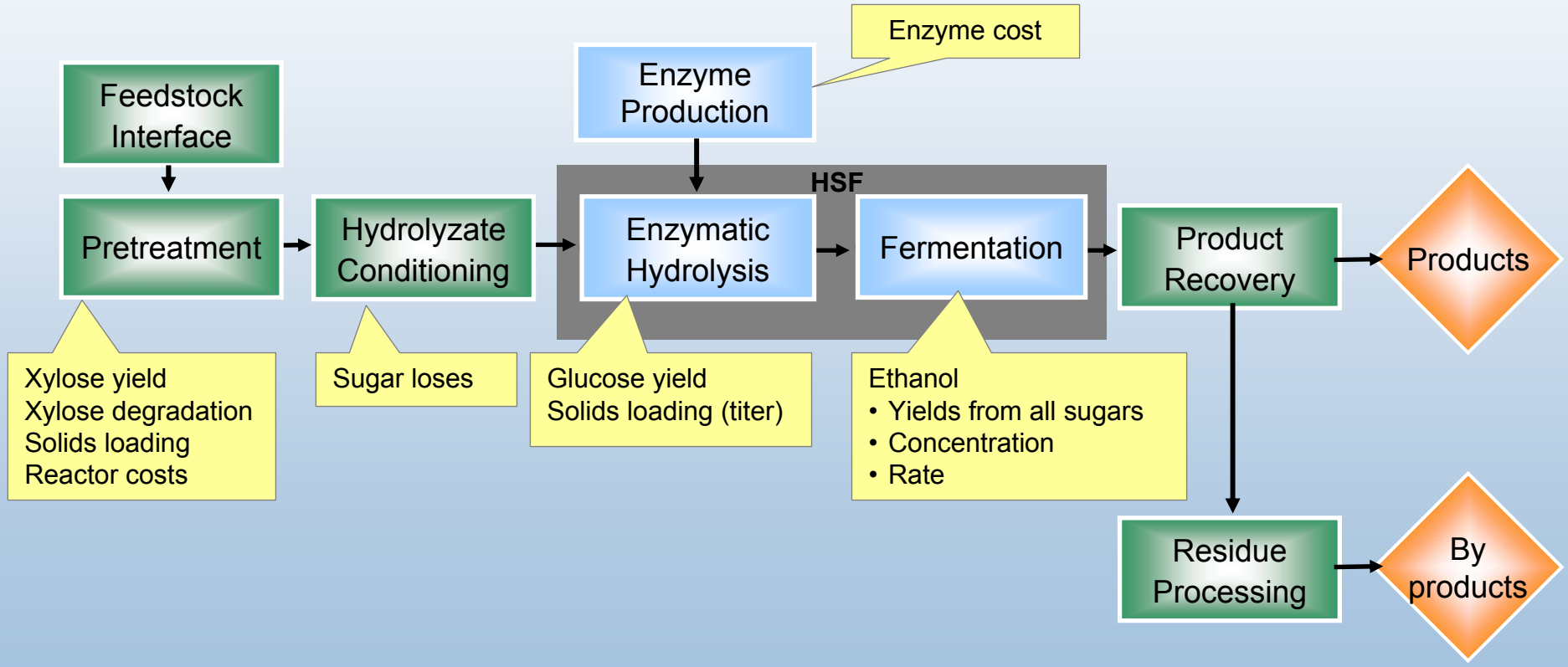
Biomass Feedstock Transport

Ethanol Distribution Infrastructure Hurdles

- Estimate that E85 pumps will be required in 50% of U.S. service stations
  - Public policy support
- E10 and E85 may enter U.S. pipeline system
  - E10 may move through product pipelines if they are modified to trap water, sediment and to keep ethanol from other products (diesel)
  - E85 dedicated pipelines will be created to connect large producing centers to large use centers
- E85 pumps may require new or modified underground tanks at retail outlets

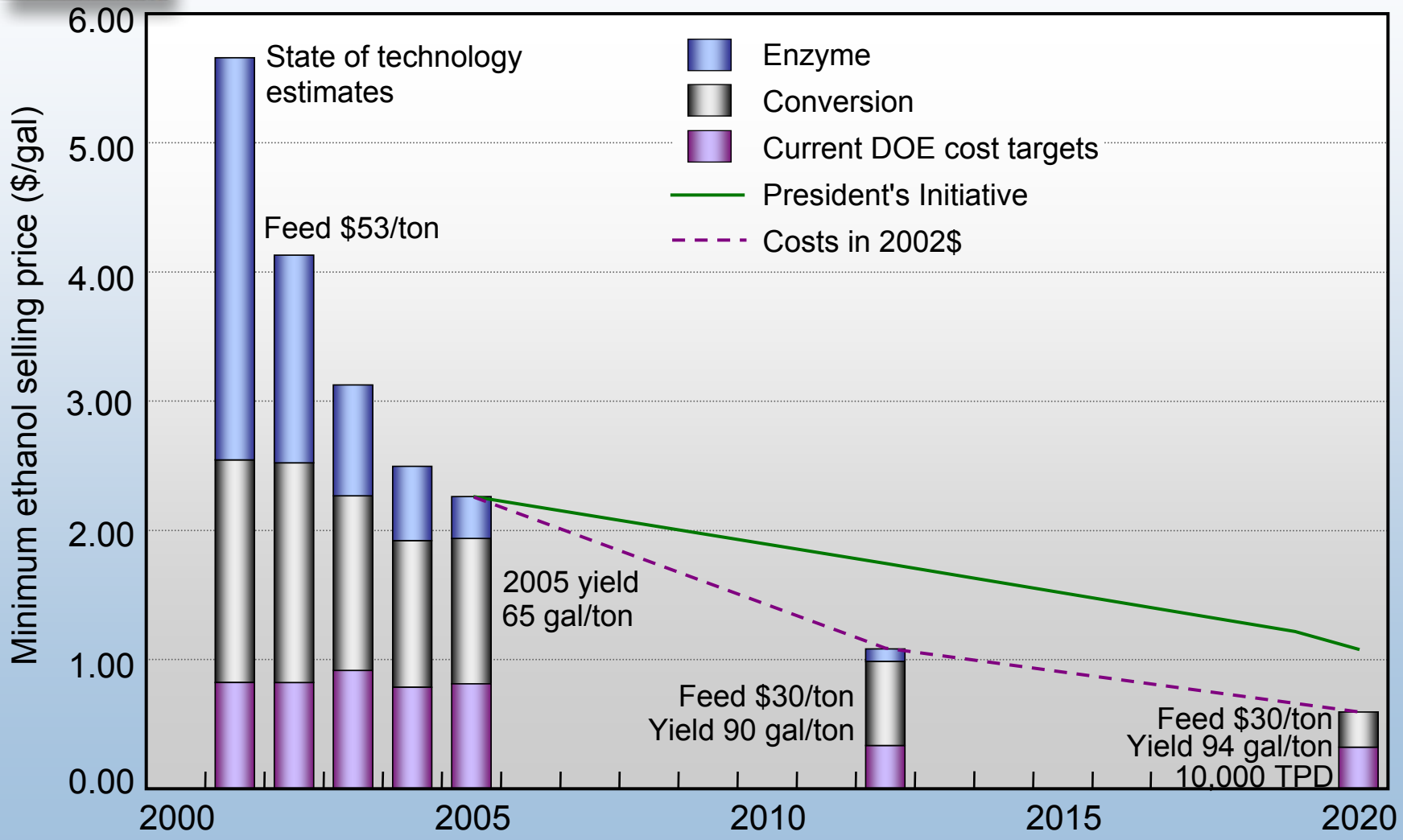
Biomass Conversion Technology

Biochemical Conversion Barrier Areas



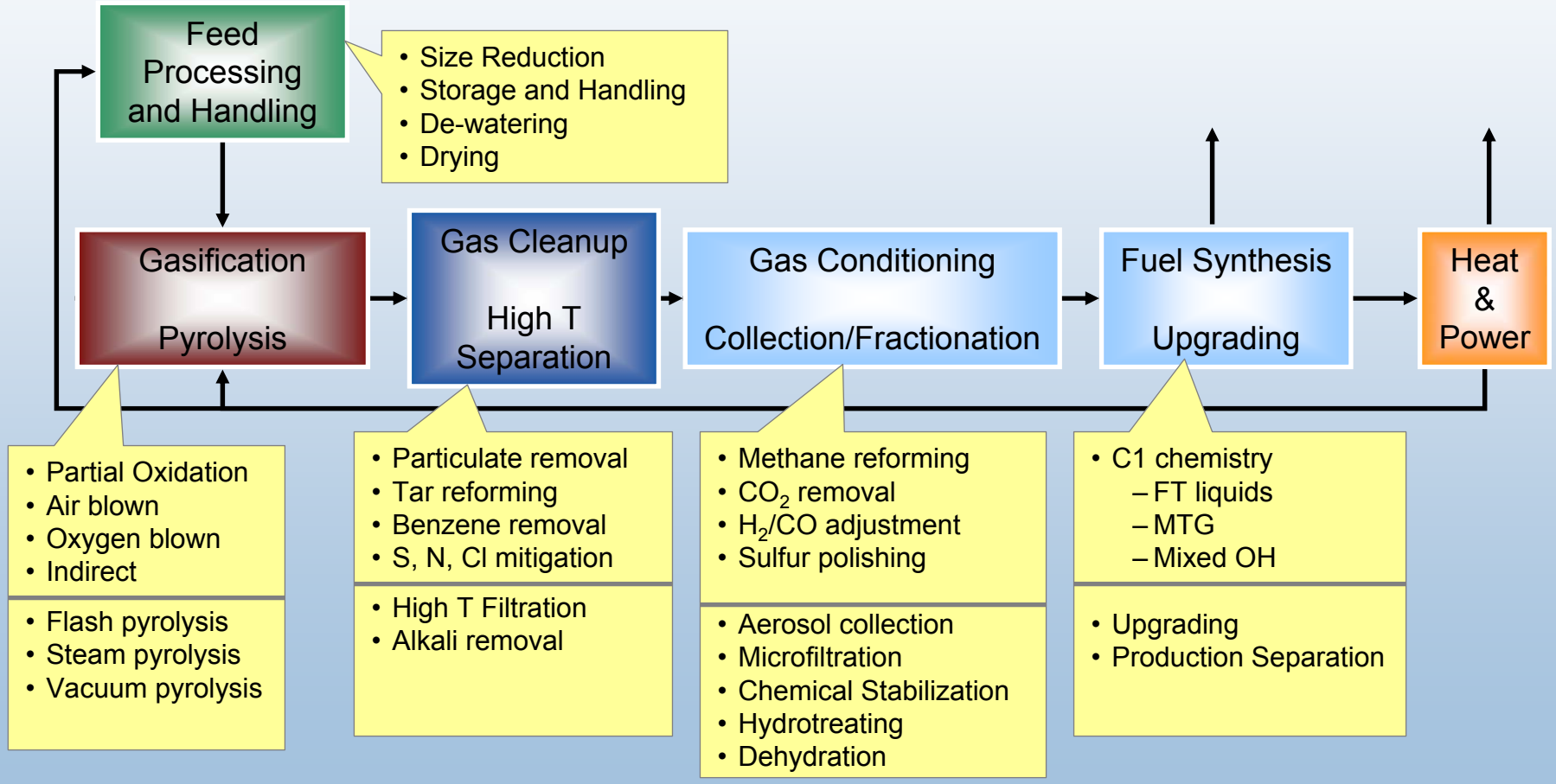
Biomass Conversion Technology

Reducing the Cost of Ethanol from Stover



Biomass Conversion Technology

Thermochemical Conversion Barrier Areas



Markets: Fuels & Vehicles

U.S. Transportation

	Autos	Light Trucks	Heavy Trucks	Airplanes
Share of transport fuel consumption	**39%**	**28%**	24%	9%
Fleet size – Millions	130	80	7	0.0085
New – Millions/year	8.5	8.5	0.5	Small
Median life – Years	**17**	**16**	28	22

Biggest, fastest savings

Source: SAIC/MISI

Markets: Fuels & Vehicles

Vehicle Needs

- Move to having all new light-duty vehicles being E85-compatible FFVs by 2020
  - This is a MAJOR public policy opportunity
- At some point, E85 or optimized FFVs may appear on large scale to help drive ethanol transition
- Next generation – FFVs and Plug-in Hybrids

30 x 30 Overview

Replace 30% of 2004 motor gasoline demand with ethanol by 2030 – 60 billion gallons

The U.S. Department of Energy's

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

www.nrel.gov