

# Opportunities and Challenges for Alternative Fuels

Presented at the  
Center for Strategic and International Studies  
Symposium on Future Fuels

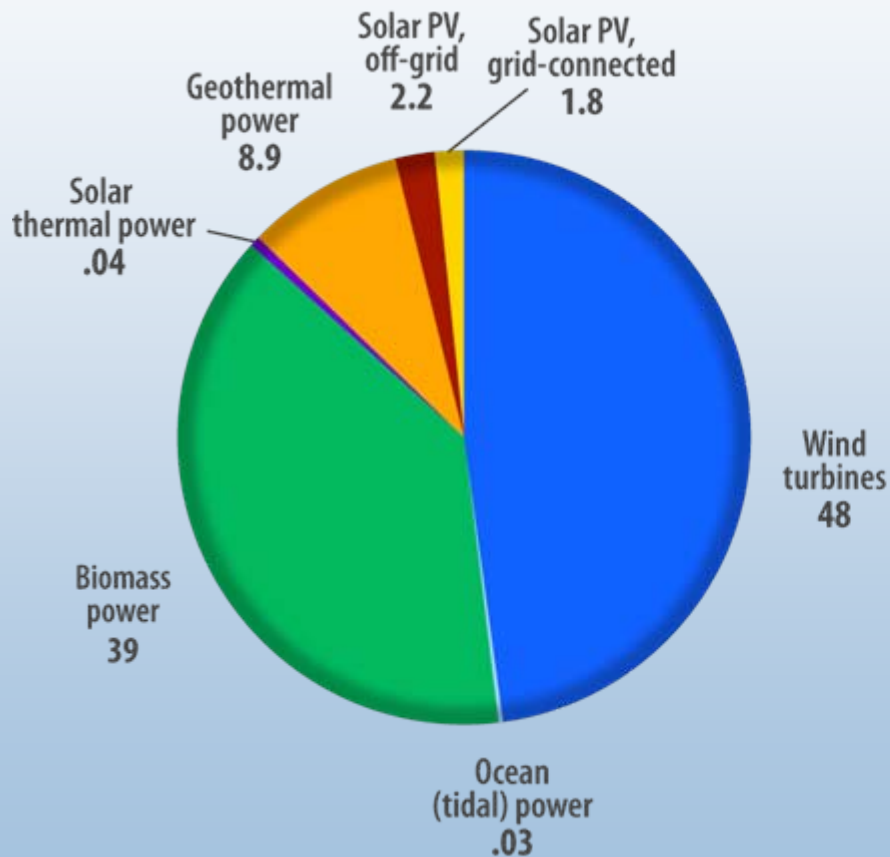
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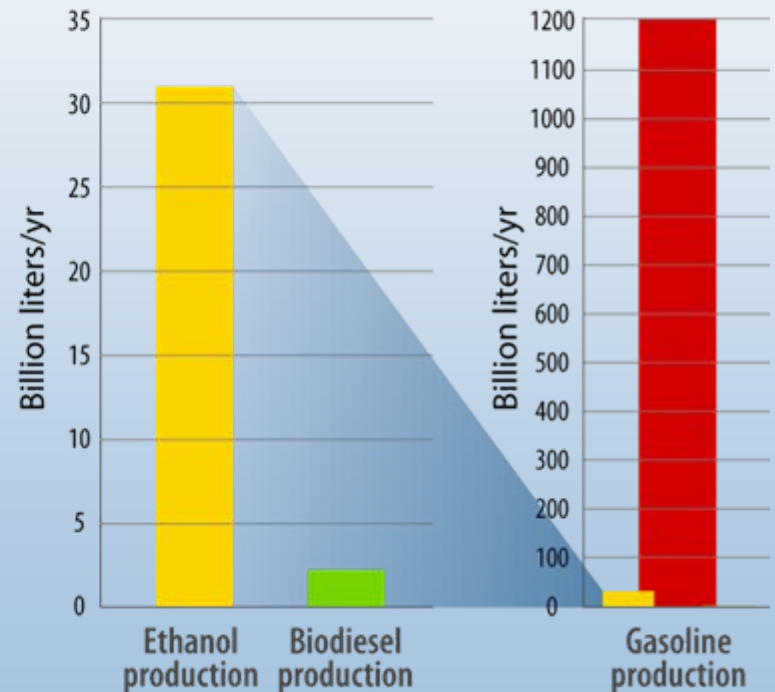
# Renewable Energy Indicators

As of Year End 2004

## Power Generation Existing Capacity\* – GW



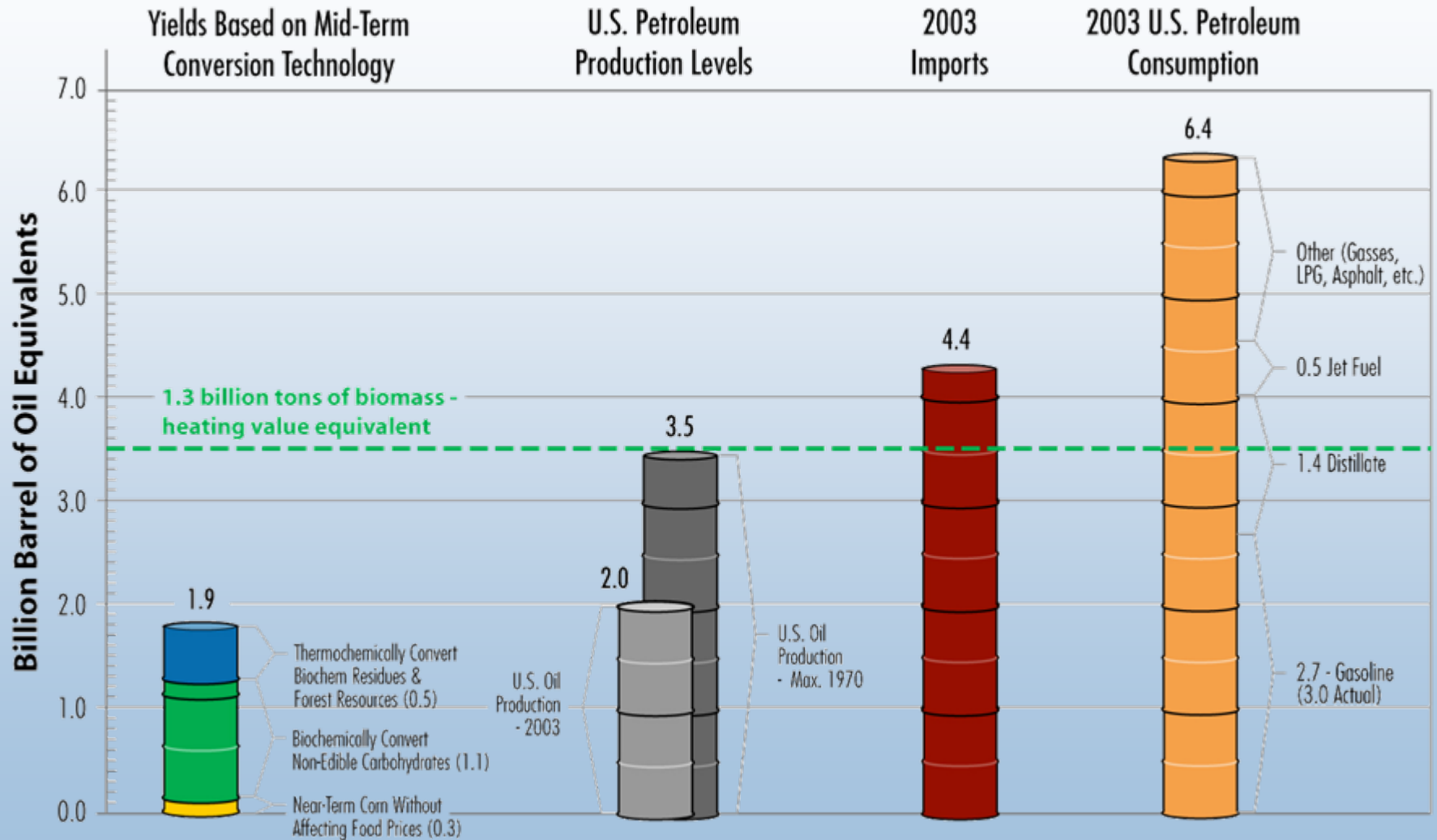
## Transport Fuels Billion liters/year



\*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](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

# Building the Supply Chain



**Biomass  
Feedstock  
Supply**



**Biomass  
Feedstock  
Transport**



**Biomass  
Conversion  
Technology**



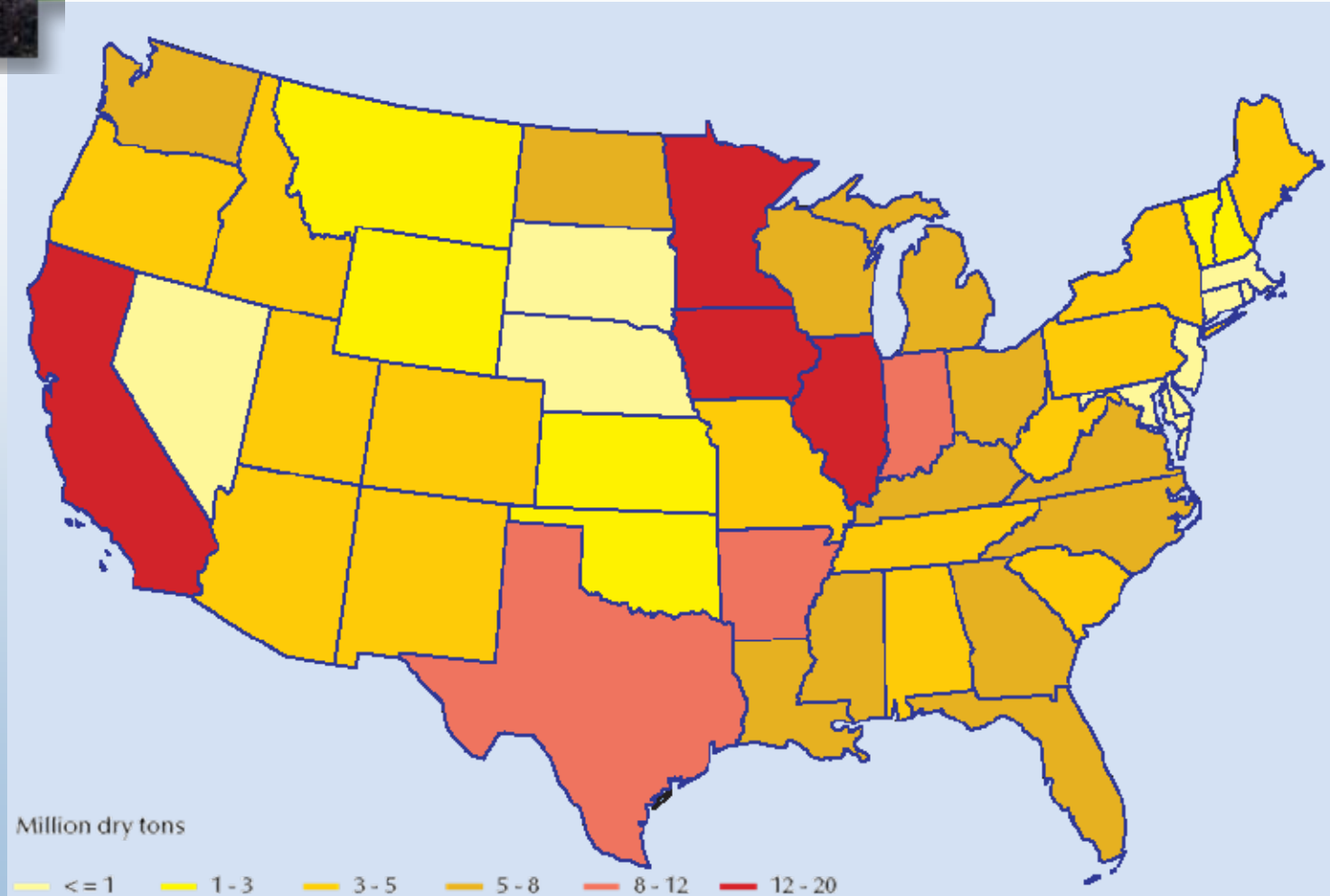
**Markets:  
Fuels & Vehicles**





# Biomass Feedstock Supply

## Renewable Waste Resources

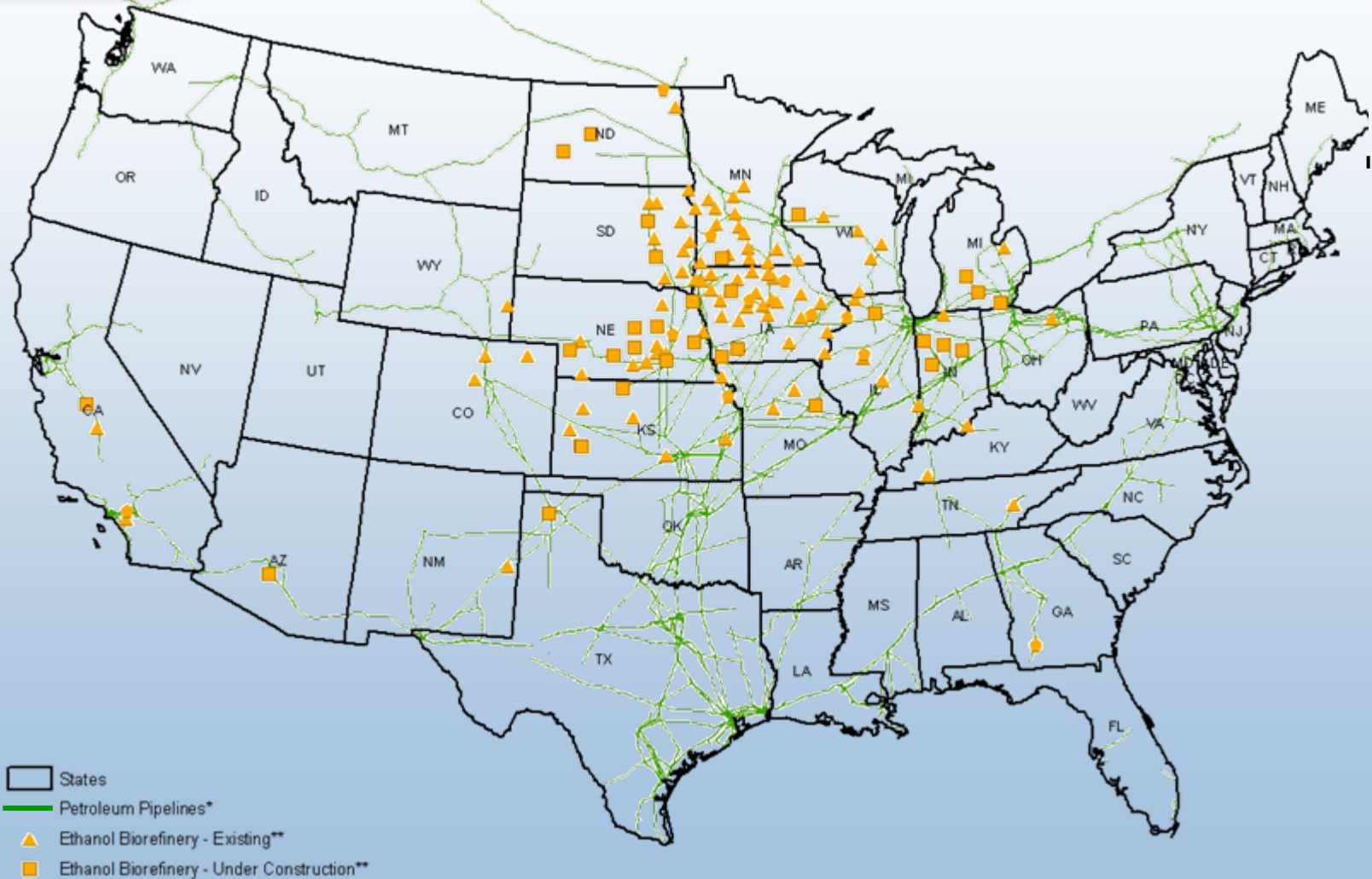


Source: National Commission on Energy Policy, *Ending the Energy Stalemate*, December 2004



# Biomass Feedstock Transport

## Current Distribution Infrastructure





# 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

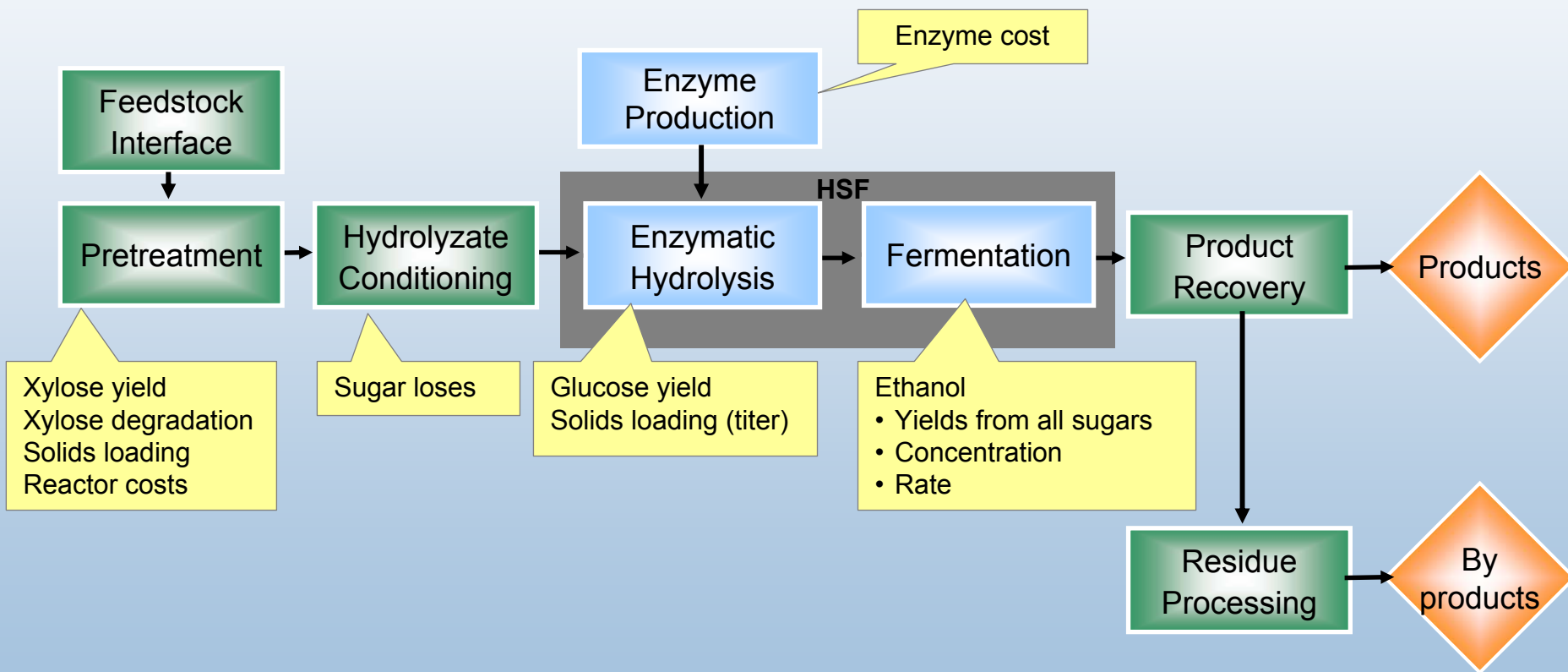






# Biomass Conversion Technology

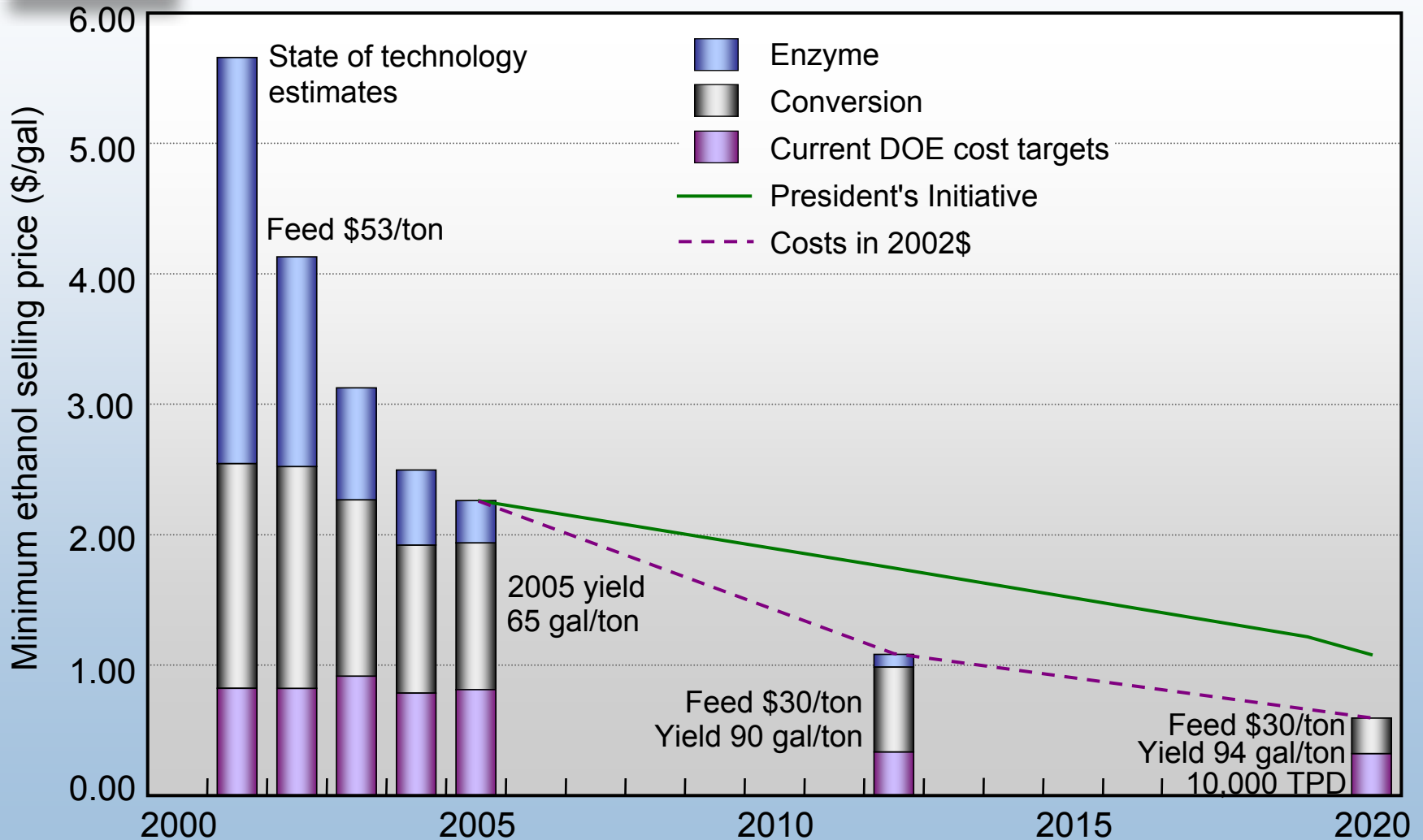
## Biochemical Conversion Barrier Areas





# Biomass Conversion Technology

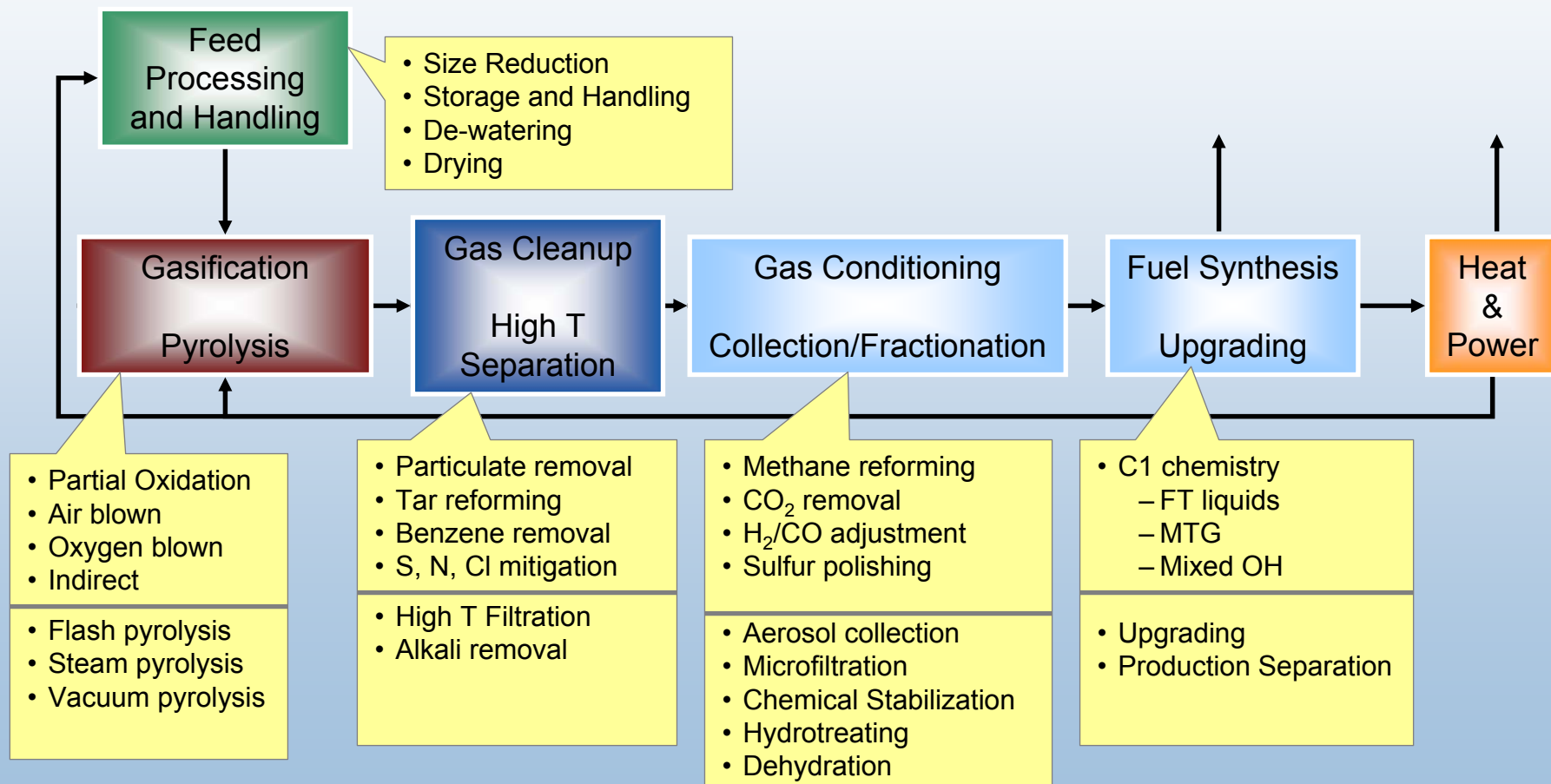
## Reducing the Cost of Ethanol from Stover





# Biomass Conversion Technology

## Thermochemical Conversion Barrier Areas





# Markets: Fuels & Vehicles

## U.S. Transportation

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

**Biggest, fastest savings**



# Markets: Fuels & Vehicles

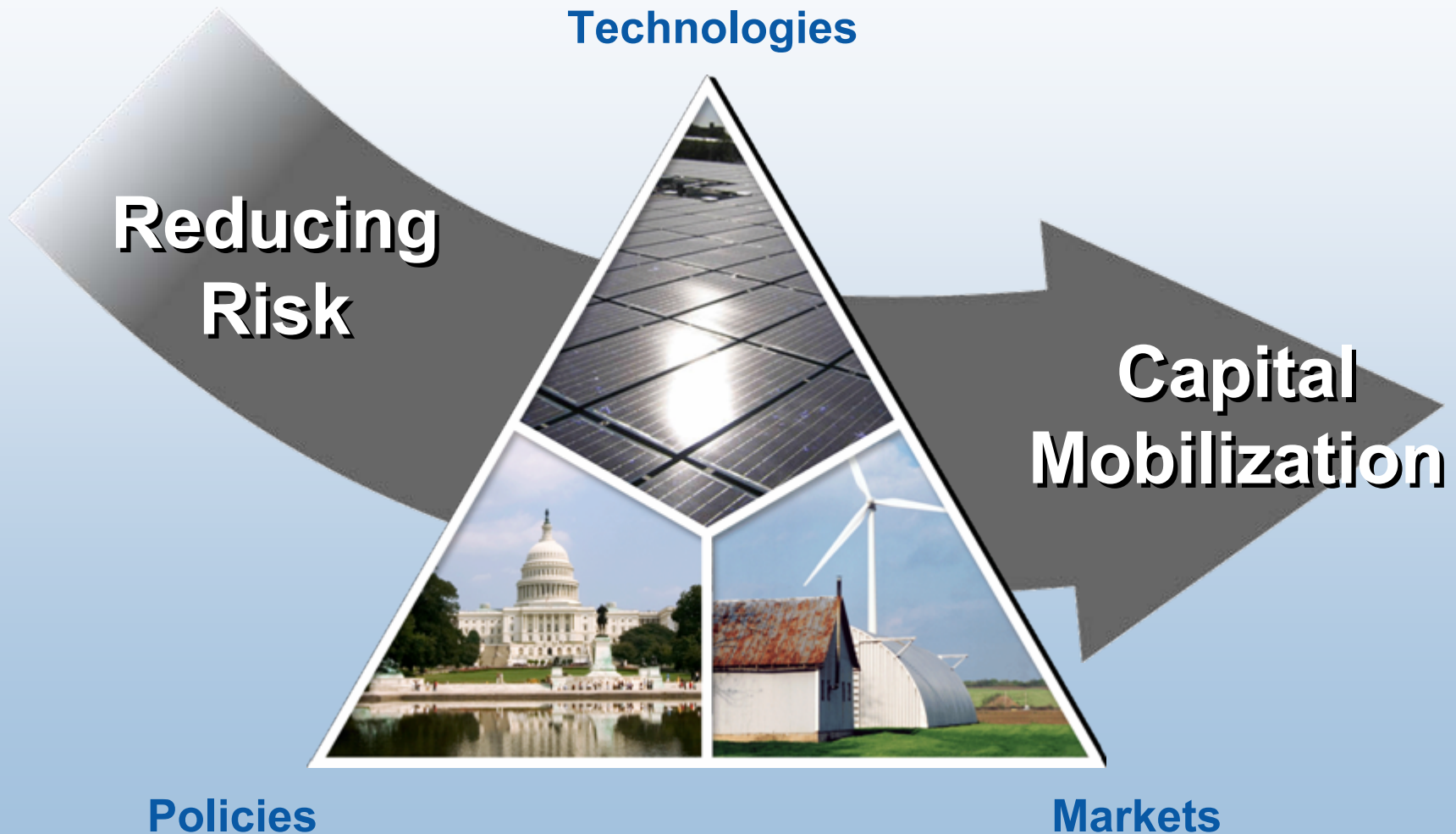
## Vehicle Needs

- 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](http://www.nrel.gov)



**Golden, Colorado**