

Wie nachhaltig sind CO₂- und biobasierte Polymere im Vergleich zu ölbasierten Materialien?

Deep Dive Session

Claudia Som, Empa; **Tim Börner**, Empa / HESSO

A photograph of a diver in a blue underwater environment, swimming over a coral reef. Sunlight rays penetrate the water from the top left. The diver is in the center, facing away from the camera, with their arms and legs extended. The coral reef is visible in the lower left and bottom center.

Wir laden Sie gerne zu einem Tauchgang ein:

- Was sind CO₂- und biobasierte Polymere?
- Was sind die Eigenschaften CO₂- und biobasierte Polymeren?
Welche Unterschiede gibt es zu ölbasierten Materialien?
- Was sind die Umweltauswirkungen und Herausforderungen

Übersicht über die Wertschöpfungskette: erneuerbare Polymere

Renewable carbon sources, production & supply (upstream - BOL)

(upstream - BOL)



CO + H₂ + CO₂

CH₄ CO₂

CO₂

Syngas (carbonous gases)

Biogas

DAC & CCU

Assessment criteria:

Environmental footprint, impacts (LCA) & Trade-offs

Availability & TRL

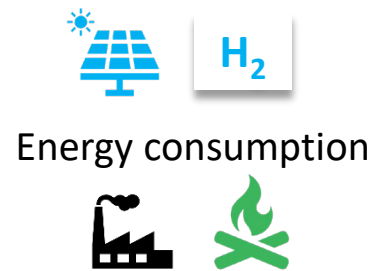
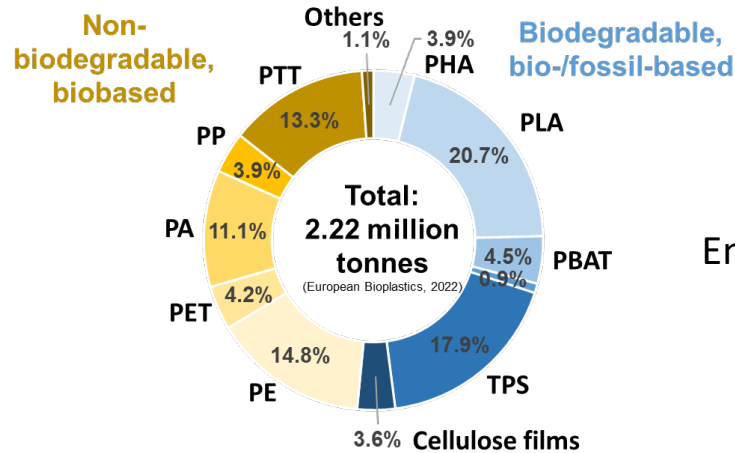
Properties, quality & performance

WMS* & recyclability

Biodegradability & biocompatibility

Regulations, policies, certification, standards

Chemical & polymer production (midstream – BOL)



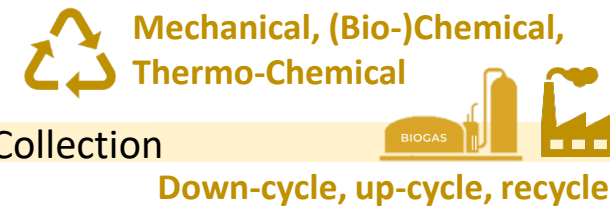
Chemistry

Biotechnology

Product, application & use phase

Quality, performance
Durability, etc.

End-of-life (EOL), recycling & environmental fate



Not collectable



*Waste management system

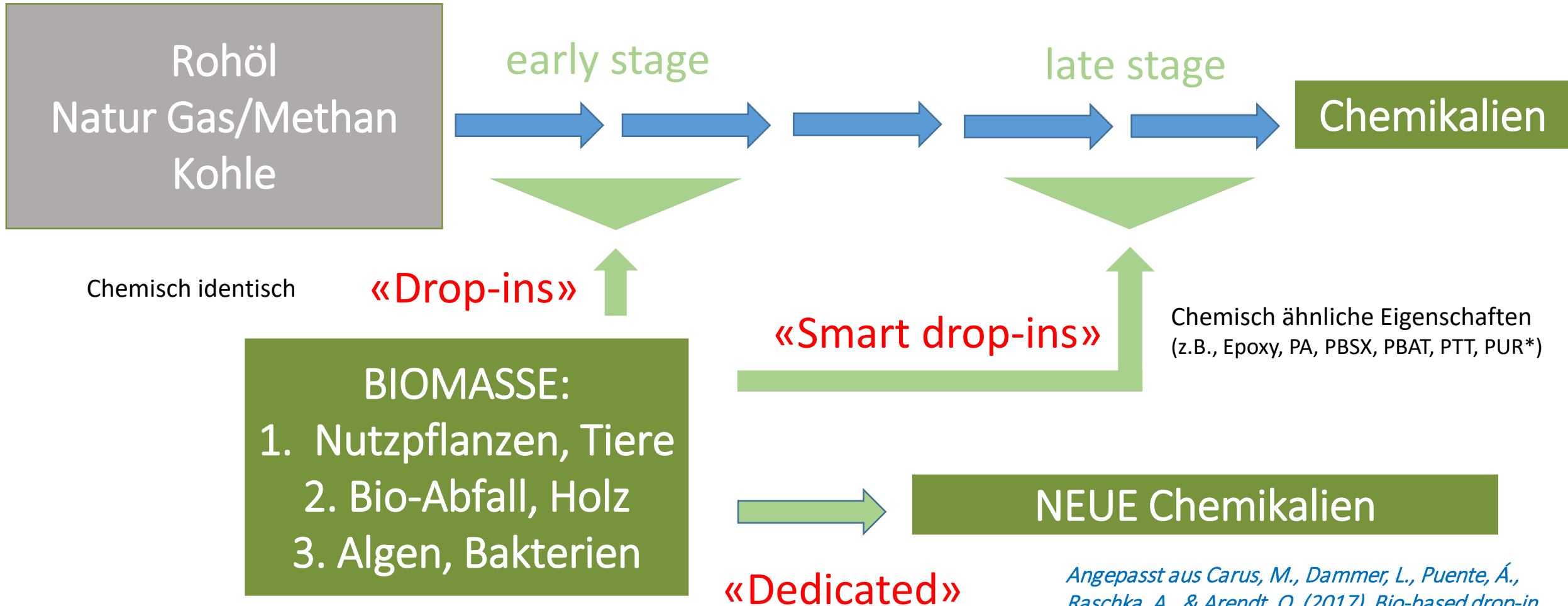
Wieso ist CO₂- und biobasierter Plastik so interessant?

Die Motivation:

- Erneuerbarer Rohstoff
- Bio-abbaubare Plastik-Produkte
- Regionaler Rohstoff
- «Klimafreundlicher» Rohstoff, besserer Kohlenstoff-Fussabdruck
- Neuartige innovative Materialien

Erfüllen diese Polymere die Erwartungen?

Erneuerbarer Rohstoff als Ersatz für fossil-basiert - wie geht das?



Kein fossil-basiertes Gegenstück

Angepasst aus Carus, M., Dammer, L., Puente, Á., Raschka, A., & Arendt, O. (2017). Bio-based drop-in, smart drop-in and dedicated chemicals.

Erneuerbarer Rohstoff?

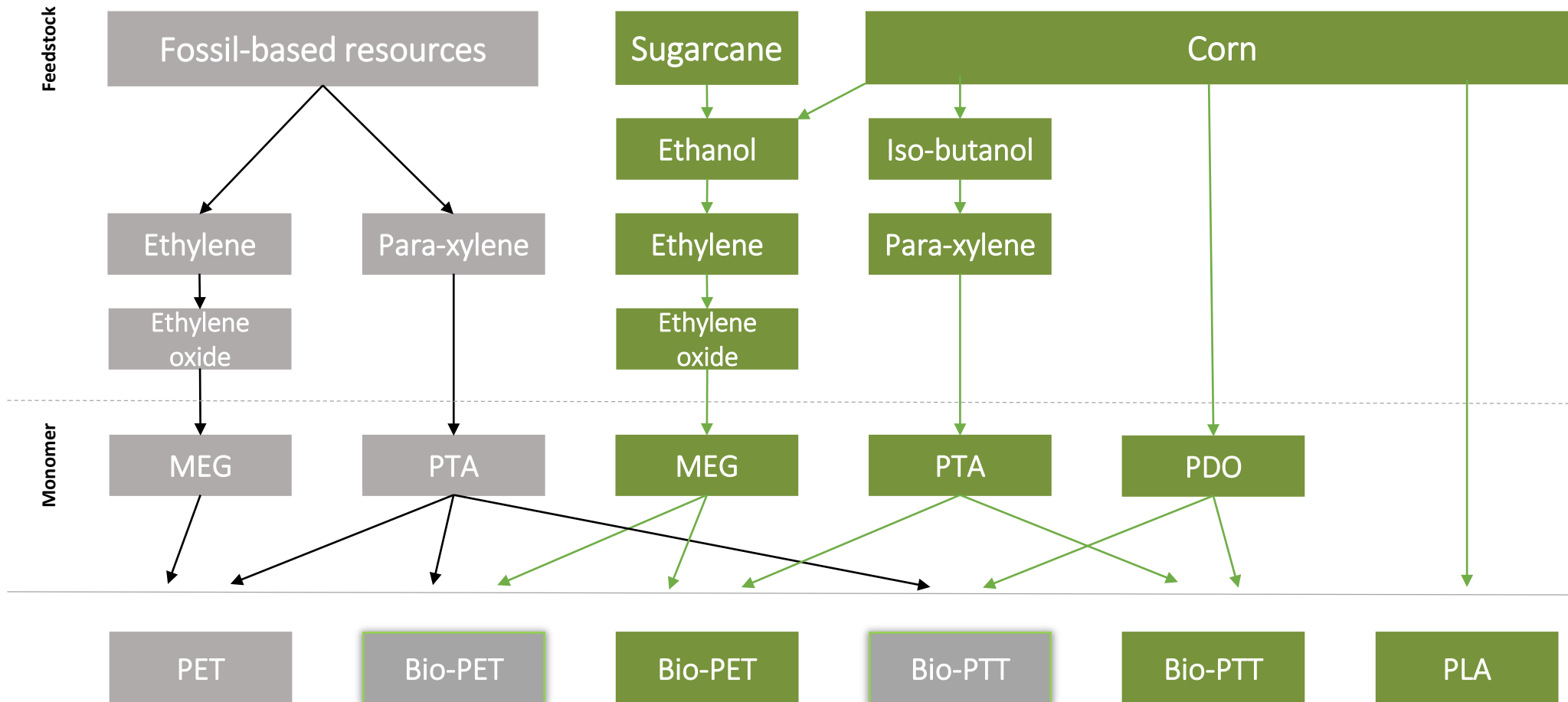
Bio-basierter Polyester

Article

Bio-Based Polyester Fiber Substitutes: From GWP to a More Comprehensive Environmental Analysis

Tijana Ivanović, Roland Hischer and Claudia Som

<https://doi.org/10.3390/app11072993>



Bio-abbaubar?

Bio-Polyethylen-Terephthalat (bio-PET)
Bio-Polyamid (bio-PA)
Bio-Polyethylen (bio PE)

nicht bio-abbaubar

Acrylonitril-Butadien-Styrene (ABS)
Polyamide (PA)
Polyethylen (PE)
Polyethylen Terephthalat (PET)
Polypropylen (PP)
Polyvinylchlorid (PVC)

bio-basiert

Zellophan
Chitosan
Seide
Polyhydroxialkanoate (PHAs)
Polymilchsäure (PLA)

bio-abbaubar

Polybuten Adipat Terephthalat (PBAT)
Polybutylen Succinat (PBS)
Polycaprolakton (PCL)
Polyvinyl Alkohol (PVA)

fossil-basiert

*Abgeändert von Marti, R.,
Meyer, H. P., & Zinn, M. (2019):
Factsheet Bioplastics*

«Klimafreundlich»? Meta-Analyse CO₂-Fussabdruck für Polymilchsäure

Sustainable Production and Consumption 48 (2024) 396–406



Review Article

What can we learn about the climate change impacts of polylactic acid from a review and meta-analysis of lifecycle assessment studies?

Barbora Pinlova, Akshat Sudheshwar, Kealie Vogel, Nadia Malinverno, Roland Hischier, Claudia Som

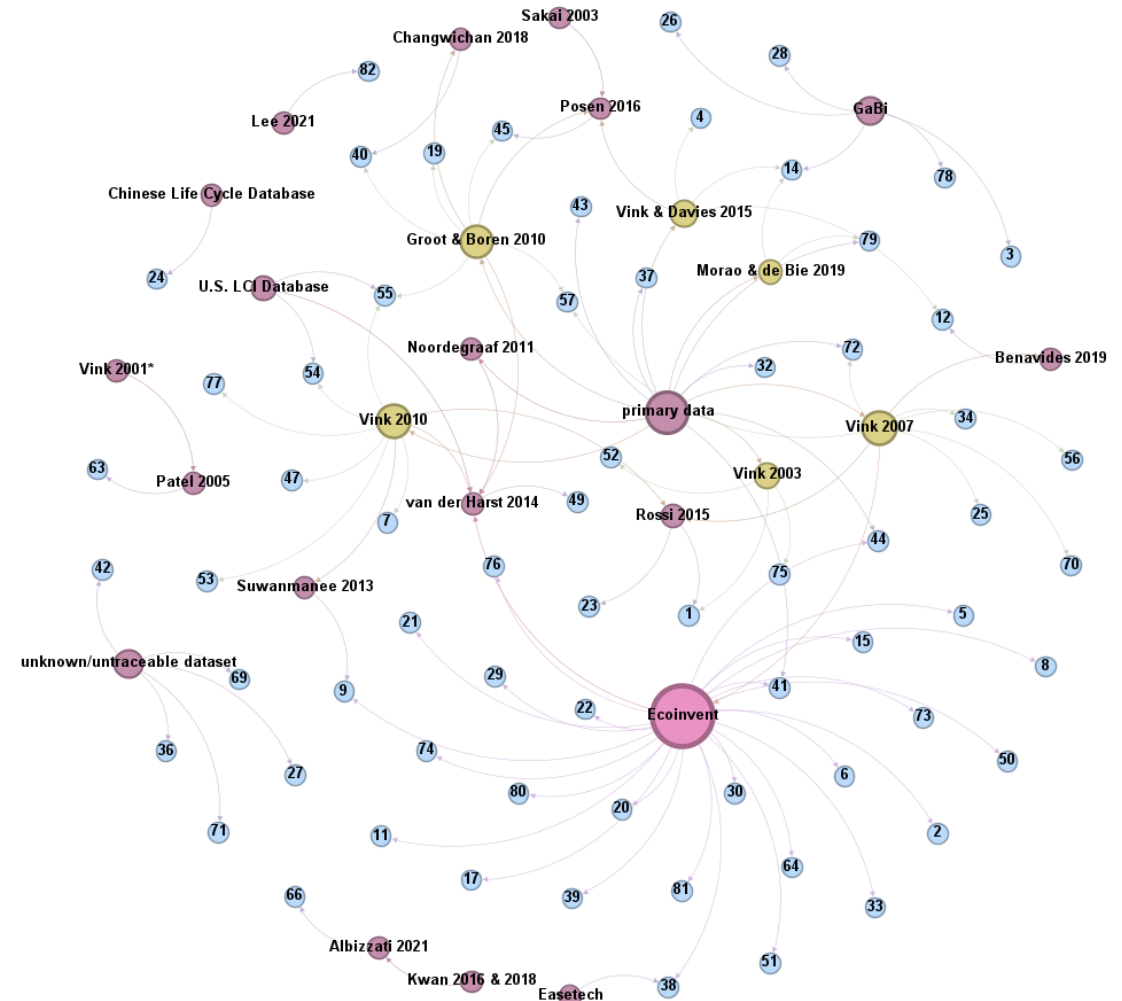
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spc.2024.05.021>

Vorgehen:

1. Auswertung aller wissenschaftlichen Studien LCA/CO₂-Fussabdruck (Global Warming Potential, GWP) von PLA
2. Gruppieren der Literatur in Bereich (Scope):
 - Wiege zum Tor (**cradle-to-gate**)
 - Wiege zu Bahre (**cradle-to-grave**)

Daten-Analyse:

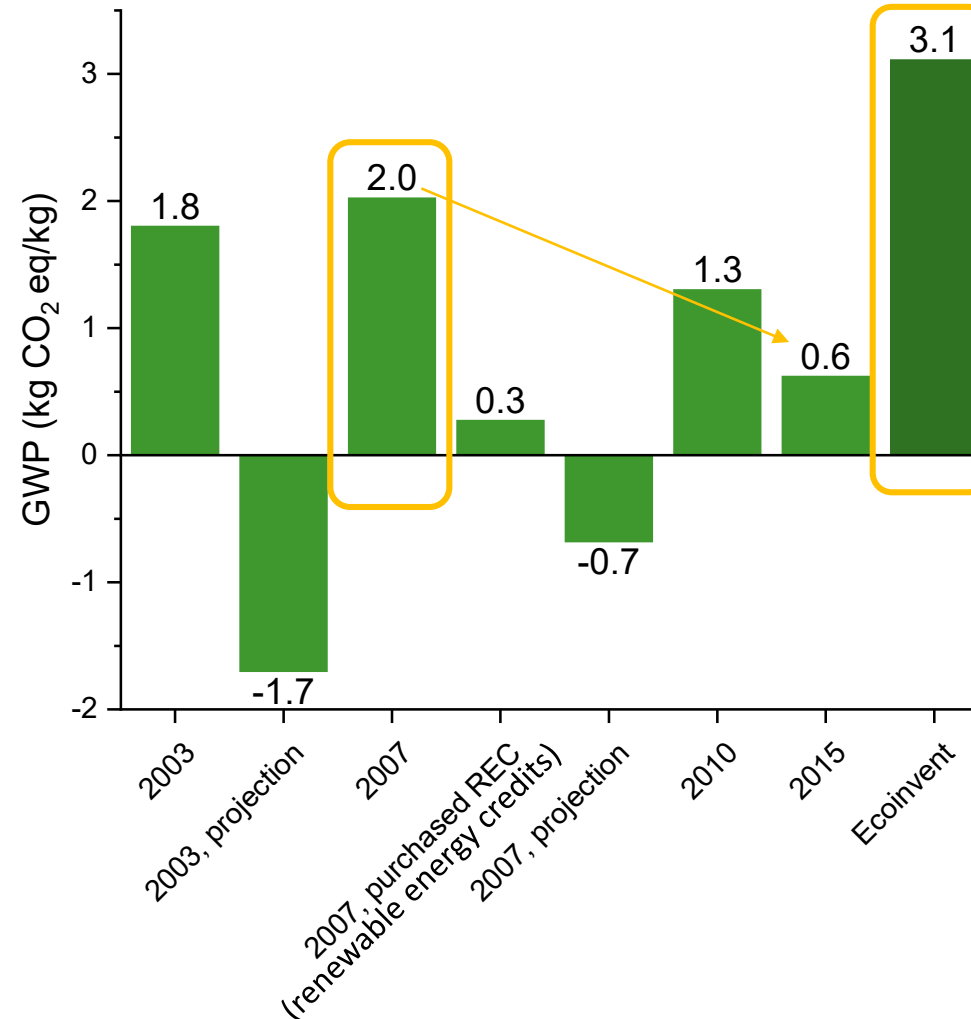
Auf welche Daten stützen sich die Studien?



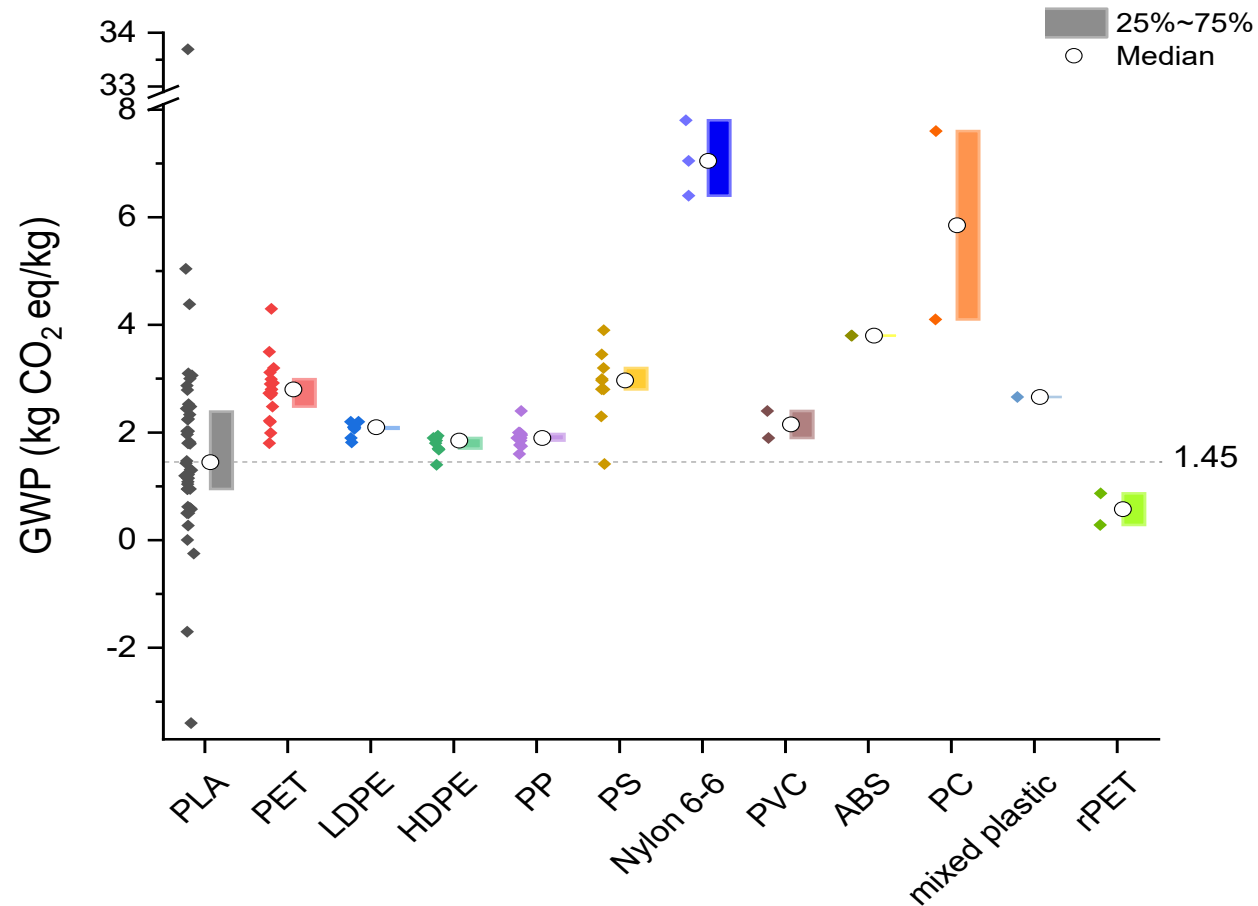
LCA von einem Hersteller über die Zeit - NatureWorks



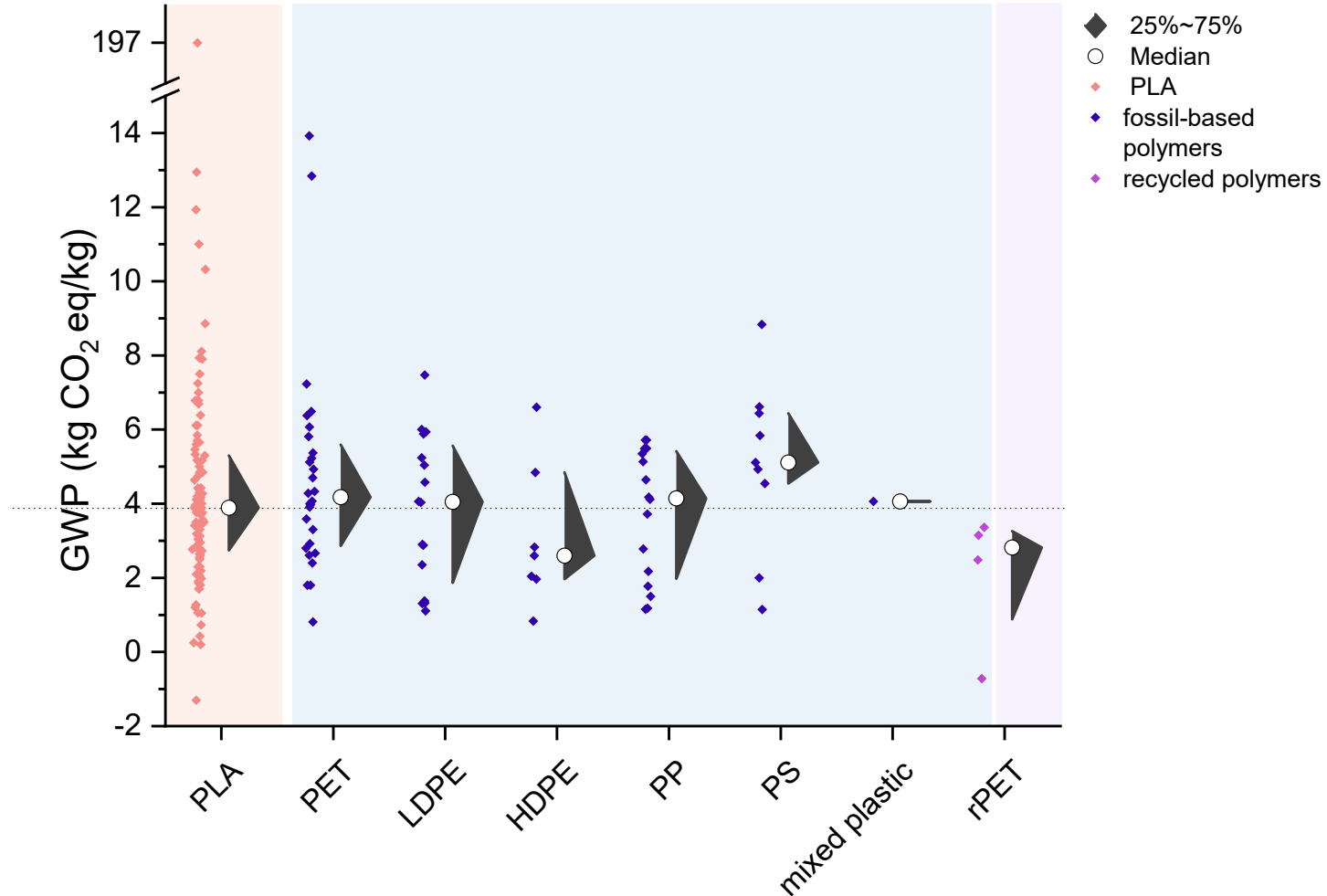
- 4 Studien
- Autor: Vink
- Cradle-to-gate



LCA «Cradle to Gate»: PLA vs fossil-basierte Polymere



LCA «Cradle to Grave»: PLA vs fossil-basierte Polymere



«Klimafreundlich»? Meta-Analyse CO₂-Fussabdruck für Lignin und Zellulose

RSC
Sustainability



PAPER

View Article Online
View Journal

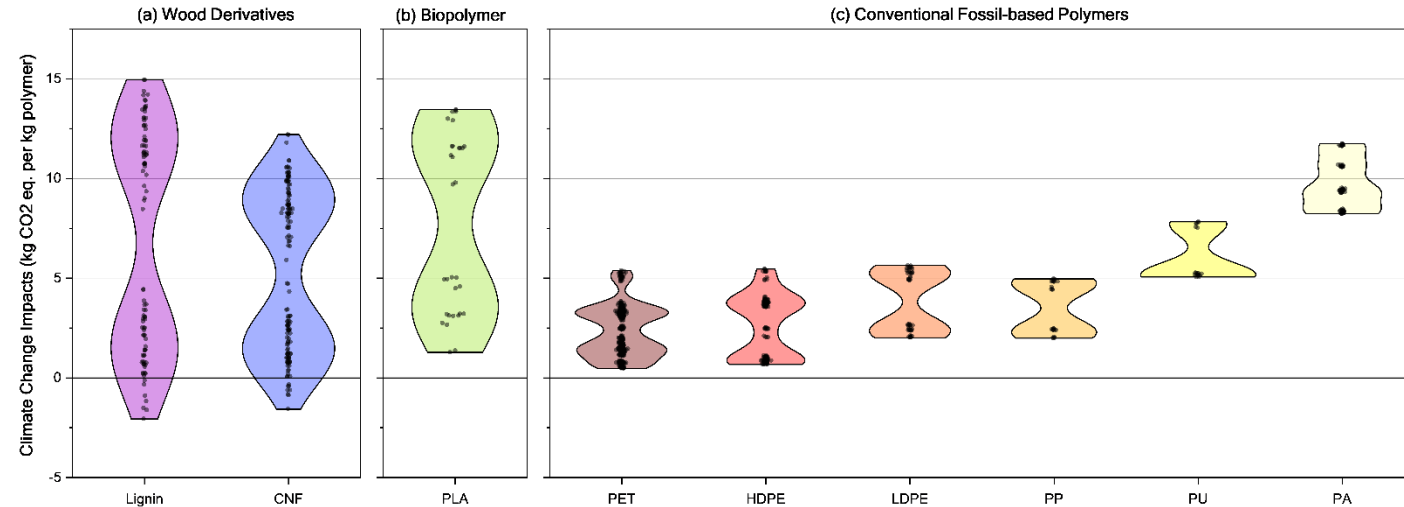


Unraveling the climate neutrality of wood derivatives and biopolymers†

Cite this: DOI: 10.1039/d4su00010b

Akshat Sudheshwar,^a Kealie Vogel,^{ab} Gustav Nyström,^b Nadia Malinverno,^a
Monica Arnaudo,^a Carlos Enrique Gómez Camacho,^a Didier Beloin-Saint-Pierre,^a
Roland Hischier,^a and Claudia Som^{b*}

DOI: 10.1039/d4su00010b

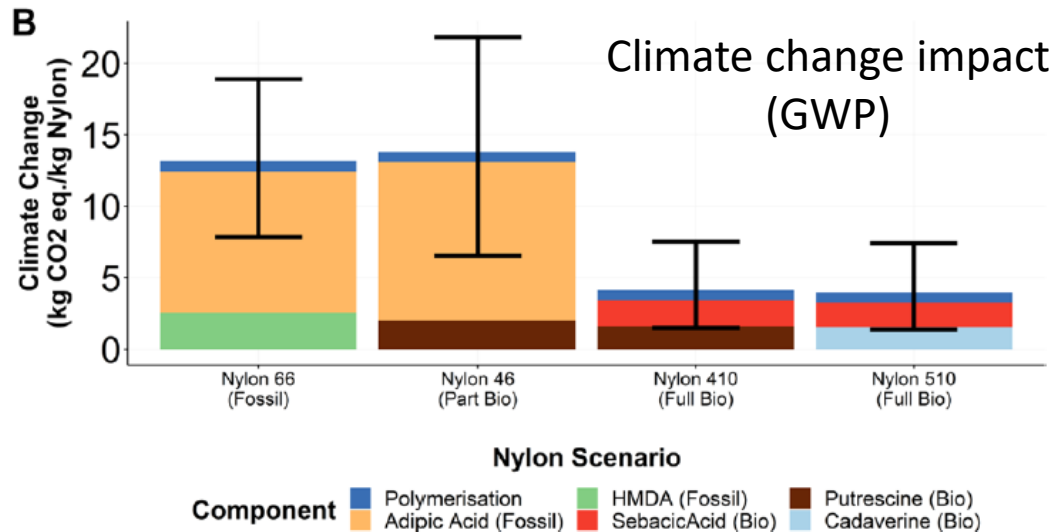
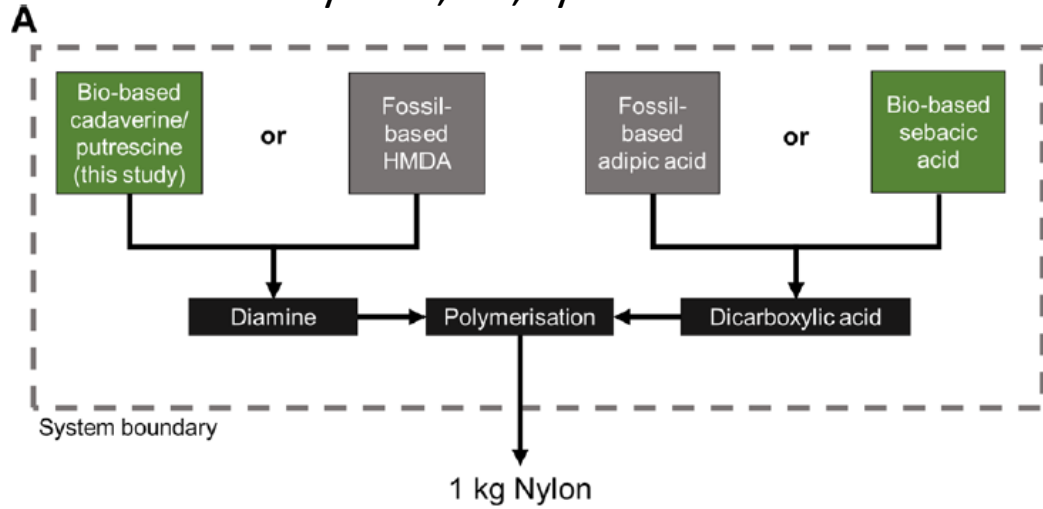


Vorgehen:

1. LCA/CO₂-Fussabdruck (Global Warming Potential, GWP) von Lignin und Cellulose
2. Gruppieren der Literatur in Bereich (Scope):
 - Wiege zum Tor (**cradle-to-gate**)
 - Wiege zu Bahre (**cradle-to-grave**)

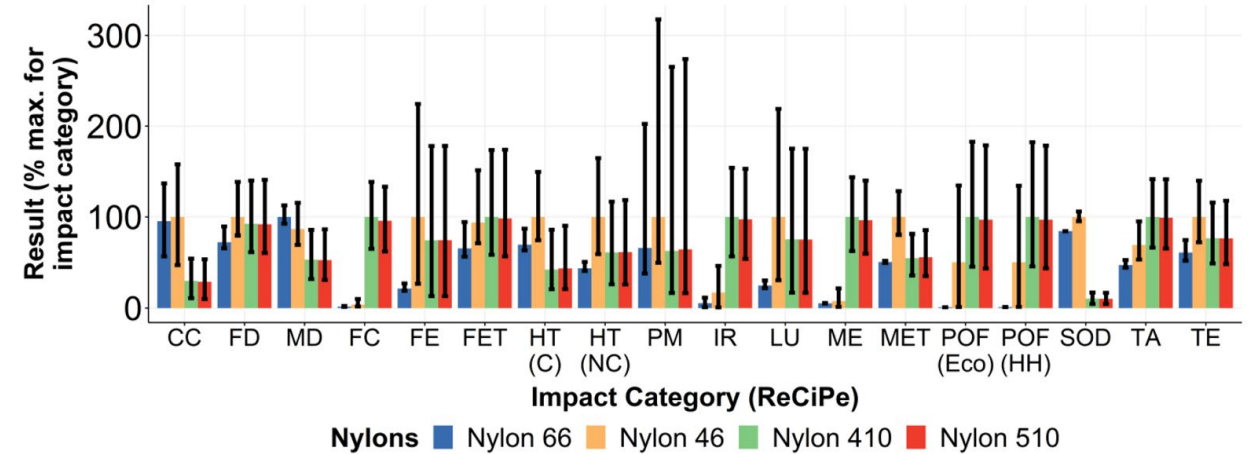
Biobased vs. fossil-based Nylon (cradle-to-gate)

Product system, FU, system boundaries

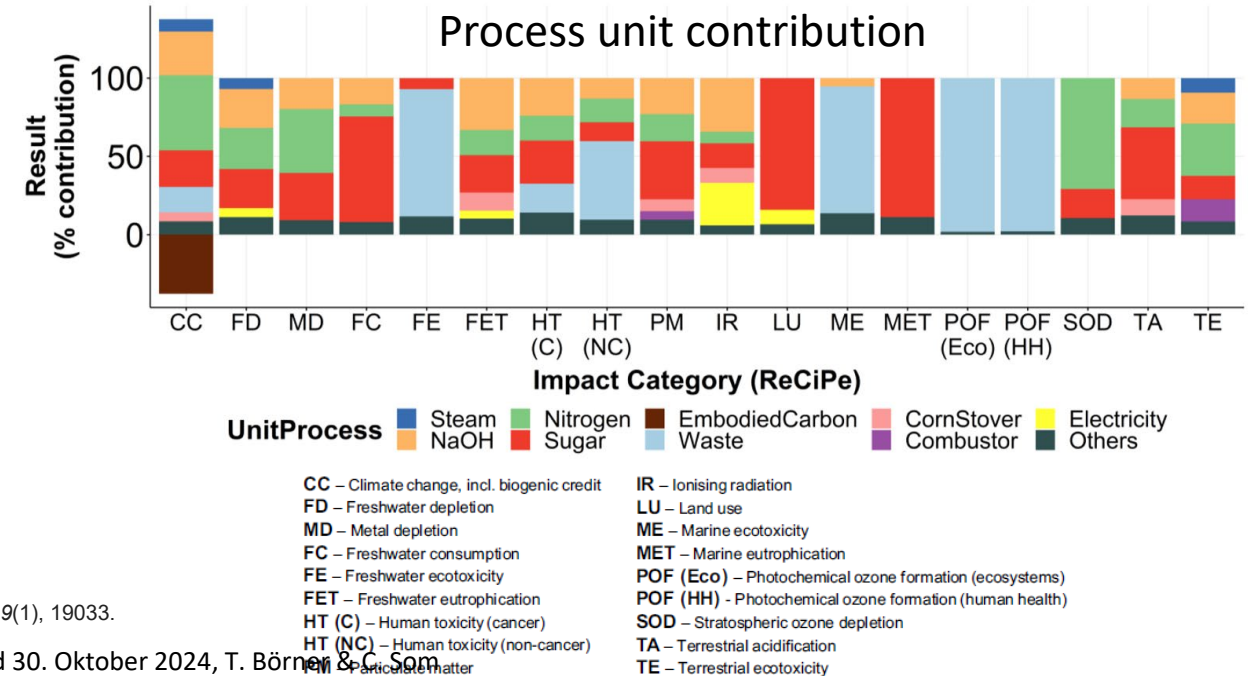


Source: Matthews et al. (2019). Collaborating constructively for sustainable biotechnology. *Scientific Reports*, 9(1), 19033.

Environmental categories: trade-offs



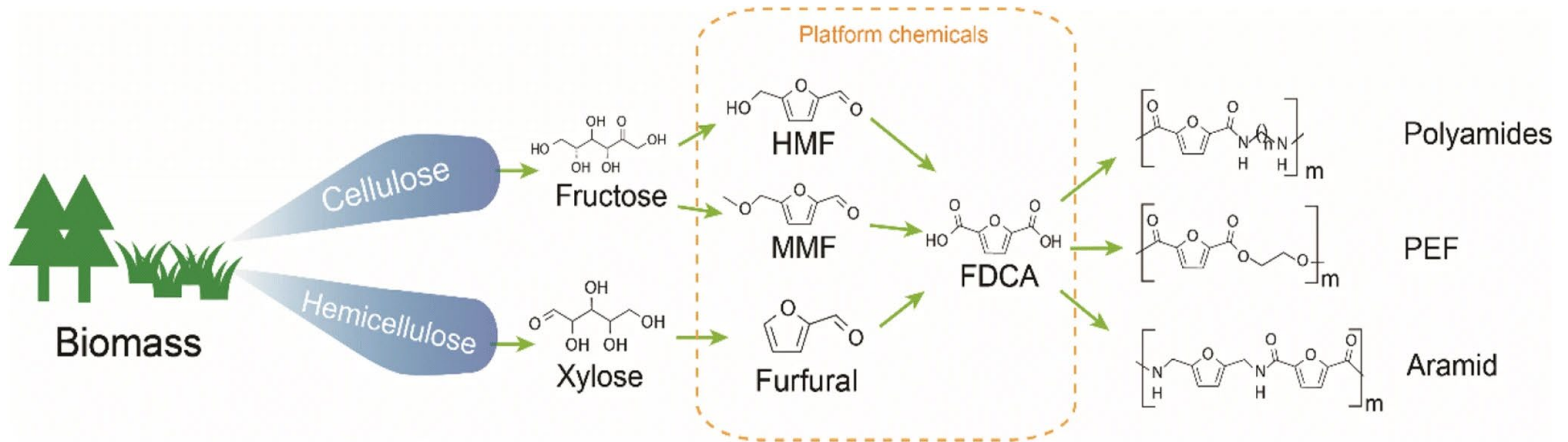
Process unit contribution



Biobased chemicals for PEF and Polyamides (cradle-to-gate)

FDCA - 2,5-Furandicarboxylic acid

PEF - polyethylene furanoate

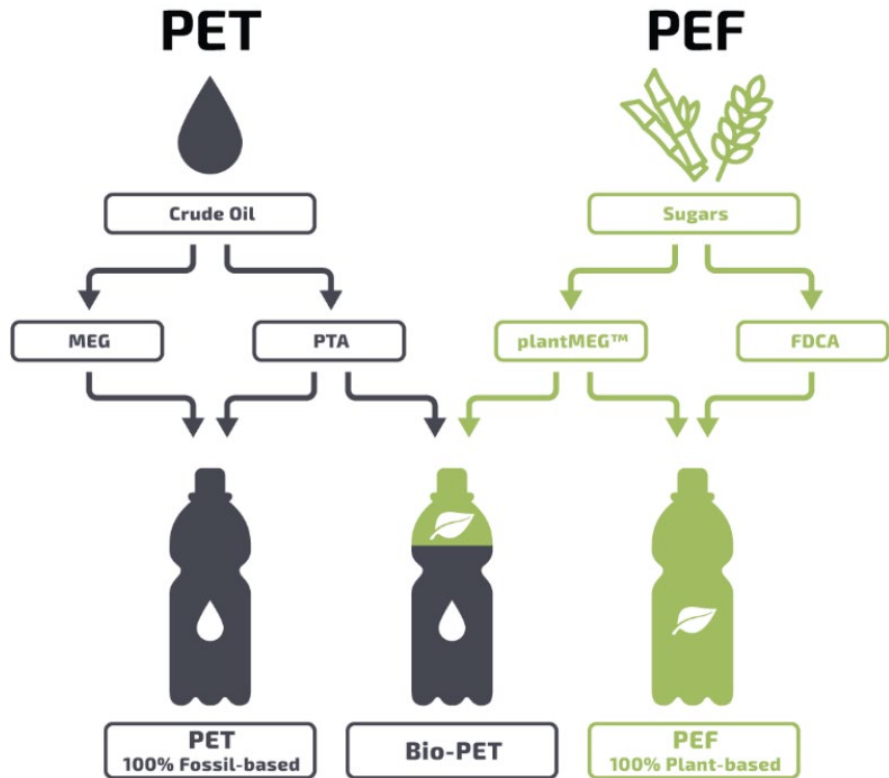


Source: Yuan, H., Liu, H., Du, J., Liu, K., Wang, T., & Liu, L. (2020). *Applied microbiology and biotechnology*, 104(2), 527-543.

PET versus biobased PEF (cradle-to-gate)

FDCA - 2,5-Furandicarboxylic acid

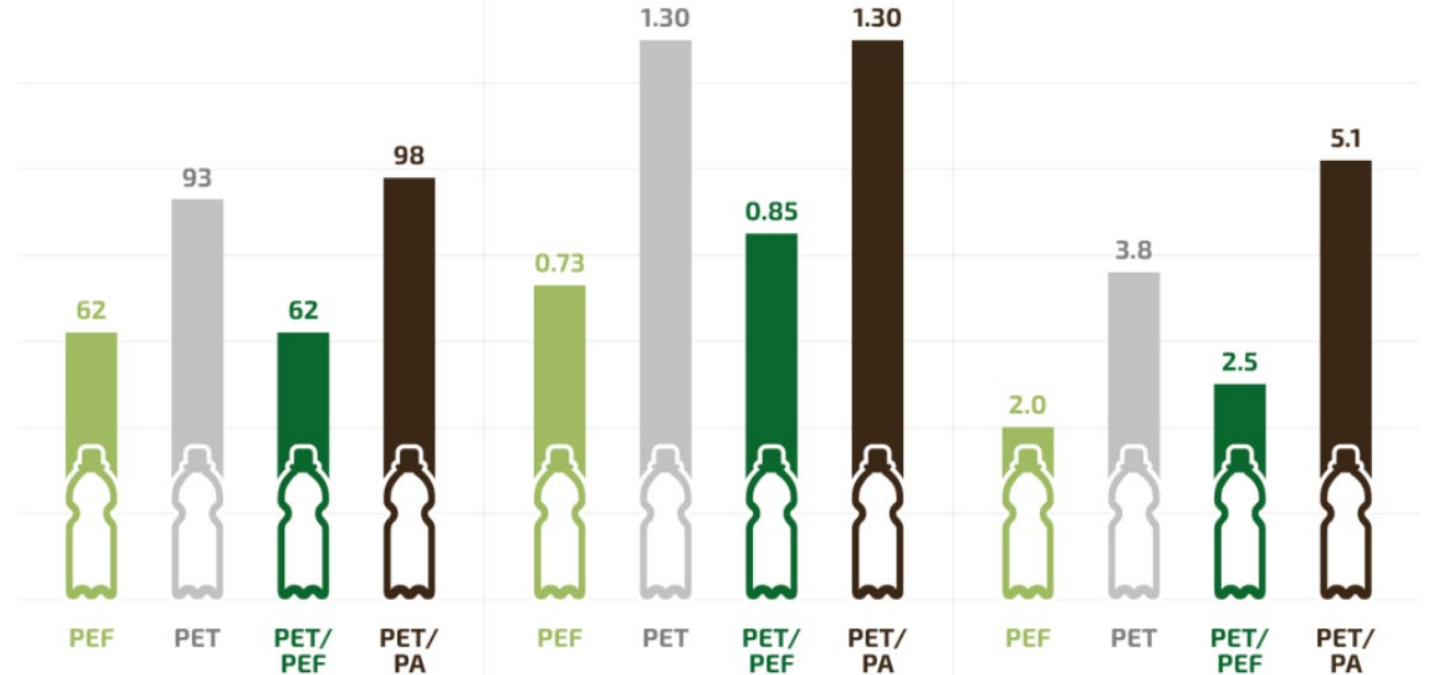
PEF - polyethylene furanoate



Climate Change
[g CO₂ eq./Bottle]

Resource use, Fossils
[MJ/Bottle]

Resource use, Minerals and Metals
[mg Sb eq./Bottle]



Source: <https://avantium.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/20220221-PEF-bottles-%E2%80%93-a-sustainable-packaging-material-ISO-certified-LCA.pdf>

Schlussfolgerungen aus den Meta-Analysen zu PLA, Lignin und Zellulose

- Grosse Variation in den Resultaten
- Jeder Datenpunkt ist einzigartig berechnet
- Erneuerbare Energien scheinen wichtig für einen tieferen CO₂- Fussabdruck
- Vergleicht man PLA mit fossil-basierten Polymeren sieht man keine relevante Reduktion des CO₂-Fussabdruckes
- «Carbon Crediting» nicht missbrauchen
- Jedoch: Die Daten für PLA sind veraltet und fossil-basierte Polymere haben seit kurzem einen 30% höheren CO₂-Fussabdruck (neue Berechnungsmethoden)
- «End of Life» (EoL) Management ist wichtig (extended producer responsibility, recycling)
- «Carbon-tunnel vision» bestraft die Bioabbaubarkeit und Mikro/Makroplastik Auswirkungen werden (noch) nicht erfasst.

Carbon Capture & Utilization (CCU) Technologies for CO₂-based chemicals & polymers

Tim Börner*, Carlos Gomez, Akshat Sudheshwar, Claudia Som

Carbon capture, storage & utilization pathways

Overview

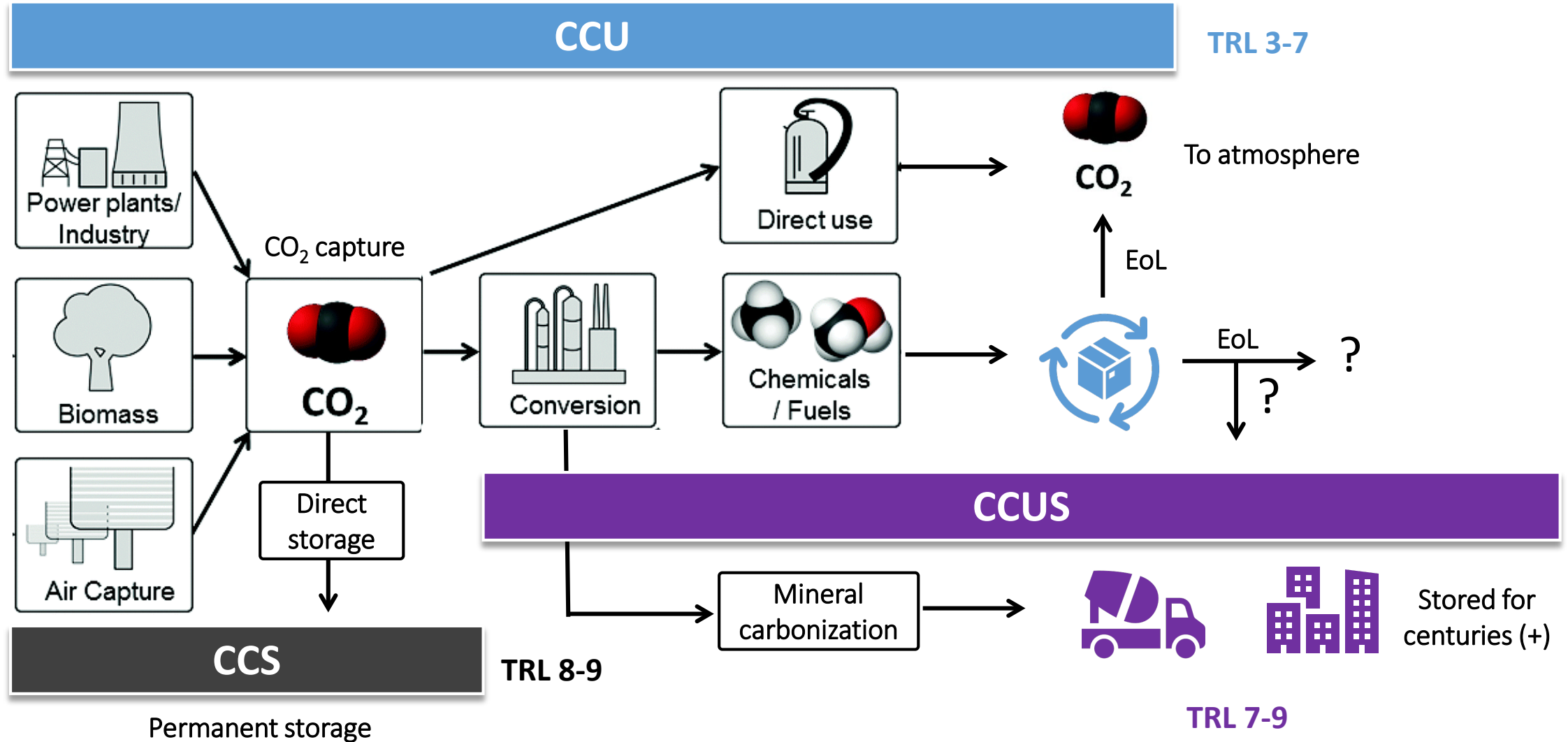
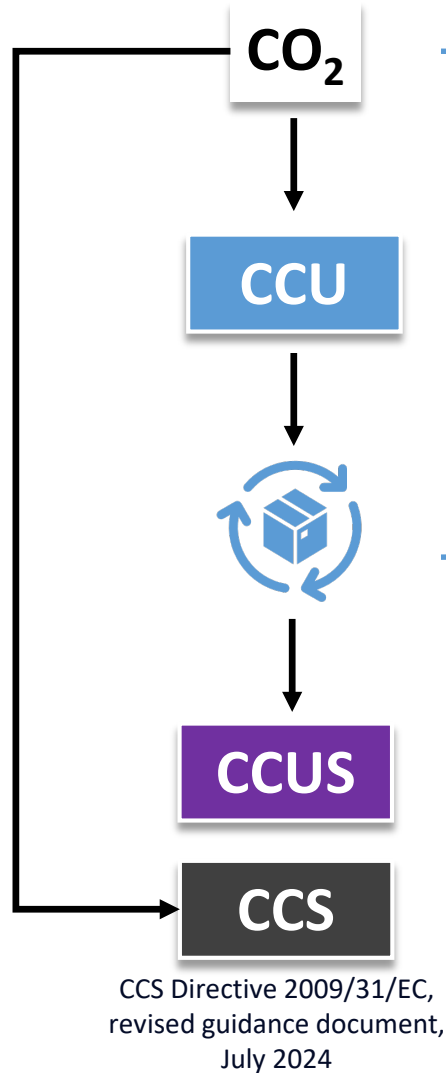


Image modified from Bui et al. (2018). *Energy & Environmental Science*, 11(5), 1062-1176.

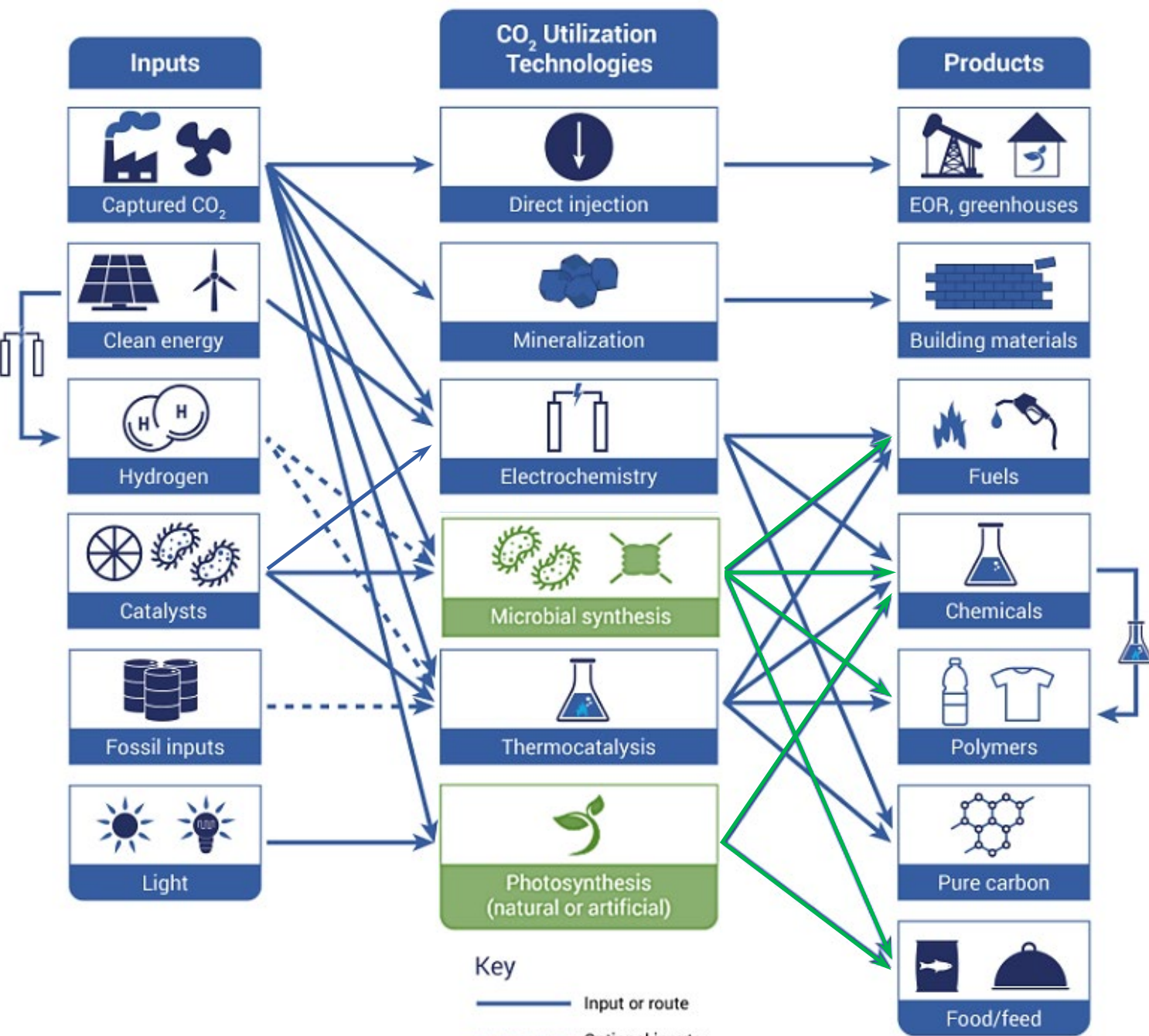
Can “CCU products” be certified as CO₂-storage?

Current regulatory framework



Commission delegated regulation CCU DA 2024/2620 (July):

- ... GHGs (CO₂) permanently chemically bound in a product
- ... bound in product at least for a period of several centuries or longer
- ... EOL routes leading to CO₂ release e.g., incineration, are excluded
- ... provide a similar climate benefit as geological storage
- CCU routes/products via mineral carbonization are considered to permanently chemically bind CO₂: construction products (cement, lime, hydraulic binders, bricks, tiles, etc.)
- Review/update product list to adapt according to technology innovation and development

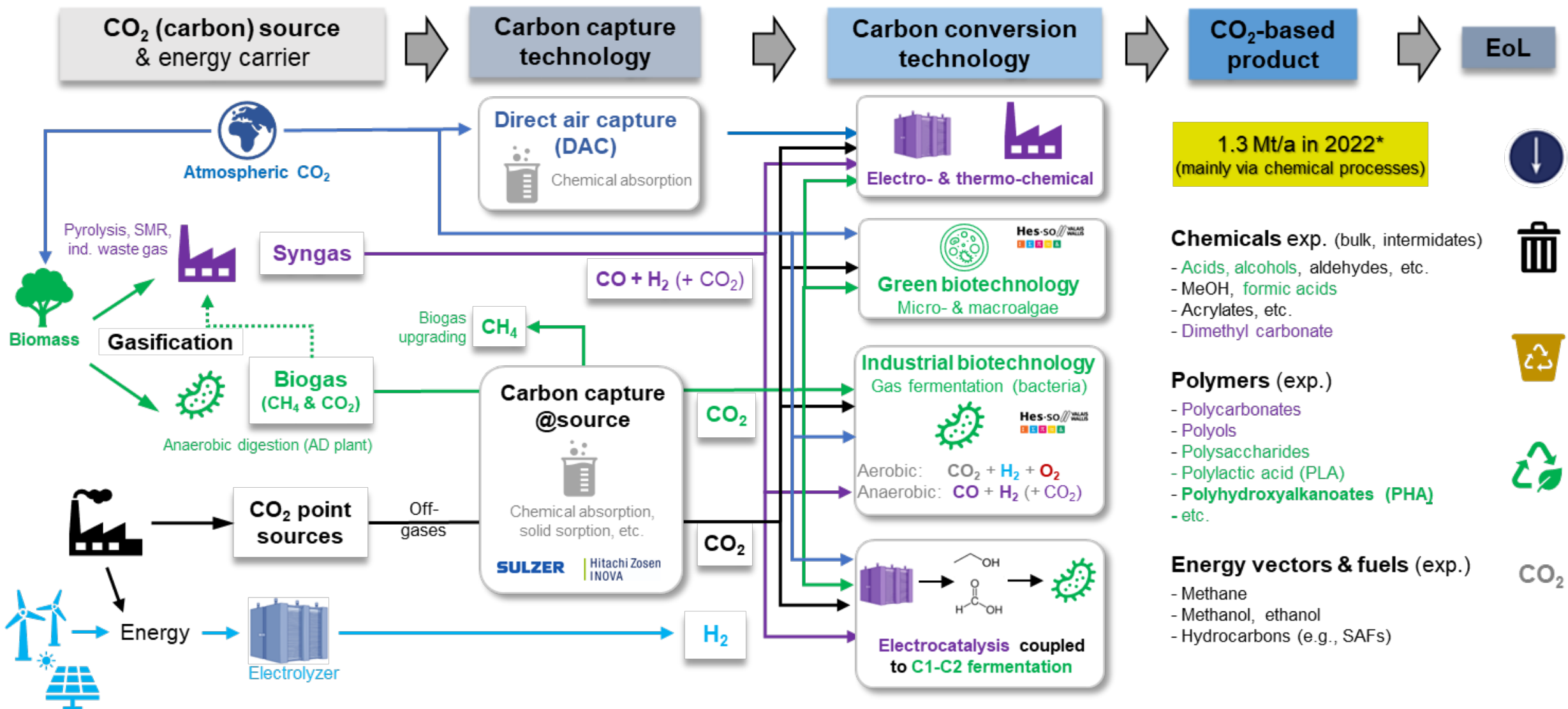


Carbon capture & utilization (CCU) pathways

Defossilization of the chemical, polymer and energy sector with the help of **Chemistry and **Biotechnology****

Carbon capture & utilization (CCU) pathways

Where biotechnology can support defossilization of the chemical, polymer & energy sector

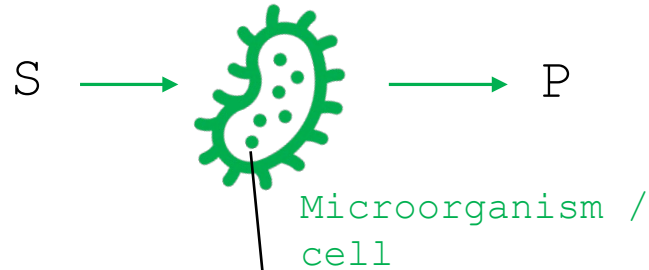


*Nova Institute, Report: Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) as Feedstock for Chemicals, Advanced Fuels, Polymers, Proteins and Minerals. April 2023

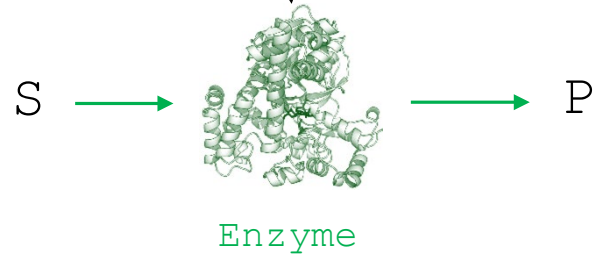
Advantages of Biotechnologies

Biocatalysts versus chemical catalysis (and electro-catalysis)

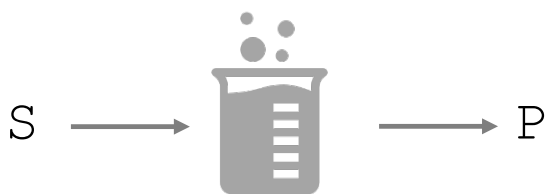
Fermentation
Whole cell
biocatalysis



Enzyme catalysis
(Biocatalysis, cell
free)



Chemical
catalysis



Highly selective / specific for S and P

Effective at low temperatures (20-40 °C, 45-95°C)

Can catalyze complex reactions / molecules

Renewable biocatalyst

Handle mixed substrates / waste / impurities

Does not need solvents, but can be used



for S or P
Inhibition at high S and P concentration,
high temp.
Microbial and enzymatic engineering

(optimization, e.g., metabolic pathway,
Typically lower productivity (lower space
stability, novel S or P)
time yields)

Sensitive to organic solvents (alleviated

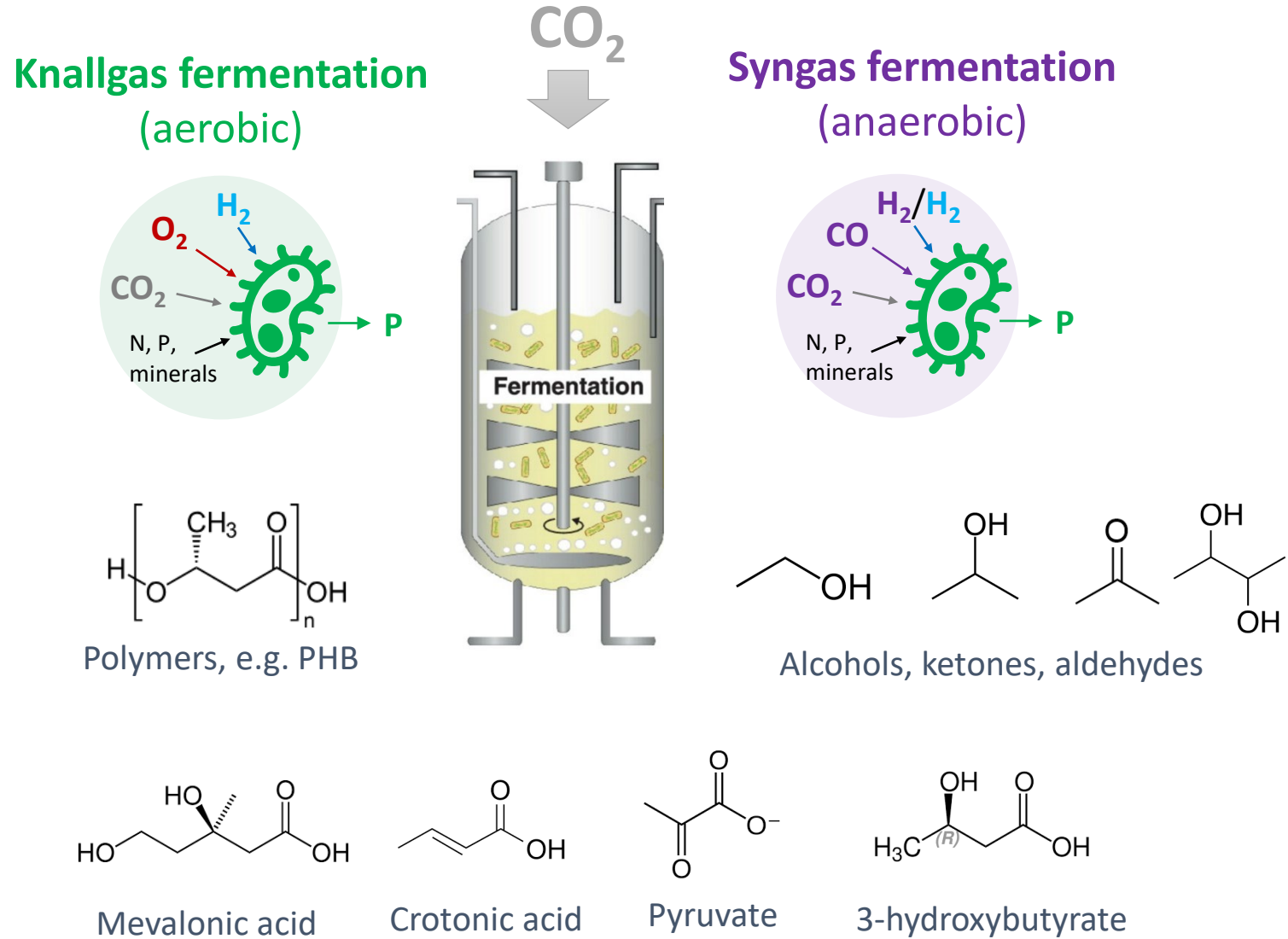
by E. engineered)

Gas fermentation

Biotechnological conversion of CO₂ into chemicals and (bio)polymers

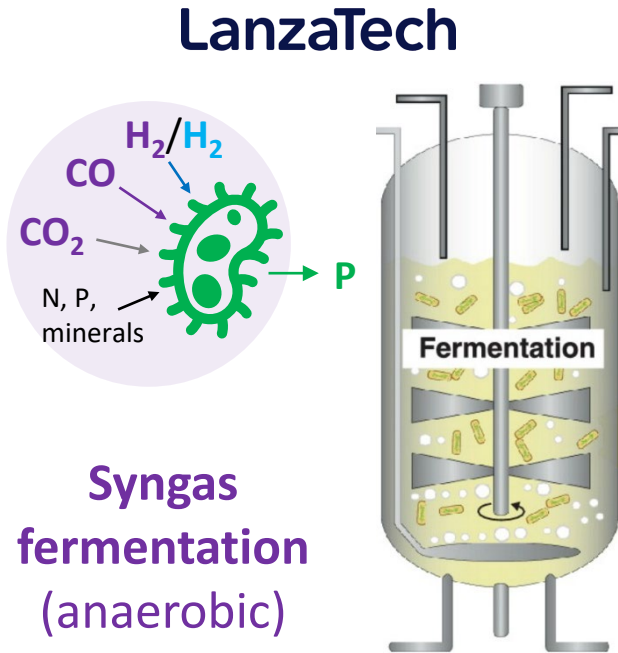
Two gas fermentation technologies

Platform chemicals and polymers as products (examples)

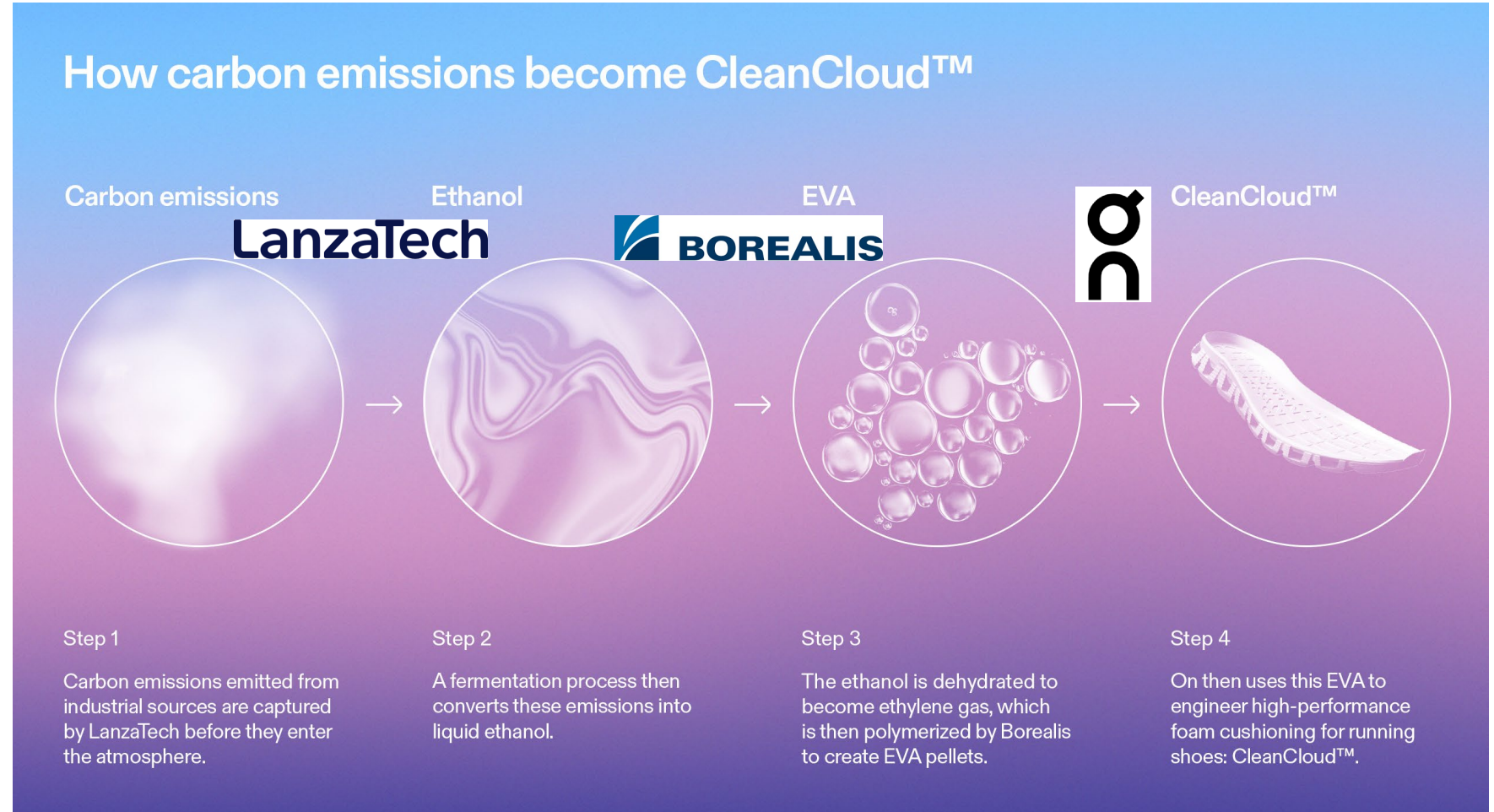


Ethylenevinyl acetate (EVA) from CO2

Biotechnology as CCU enabler coupled to chemical synthesis

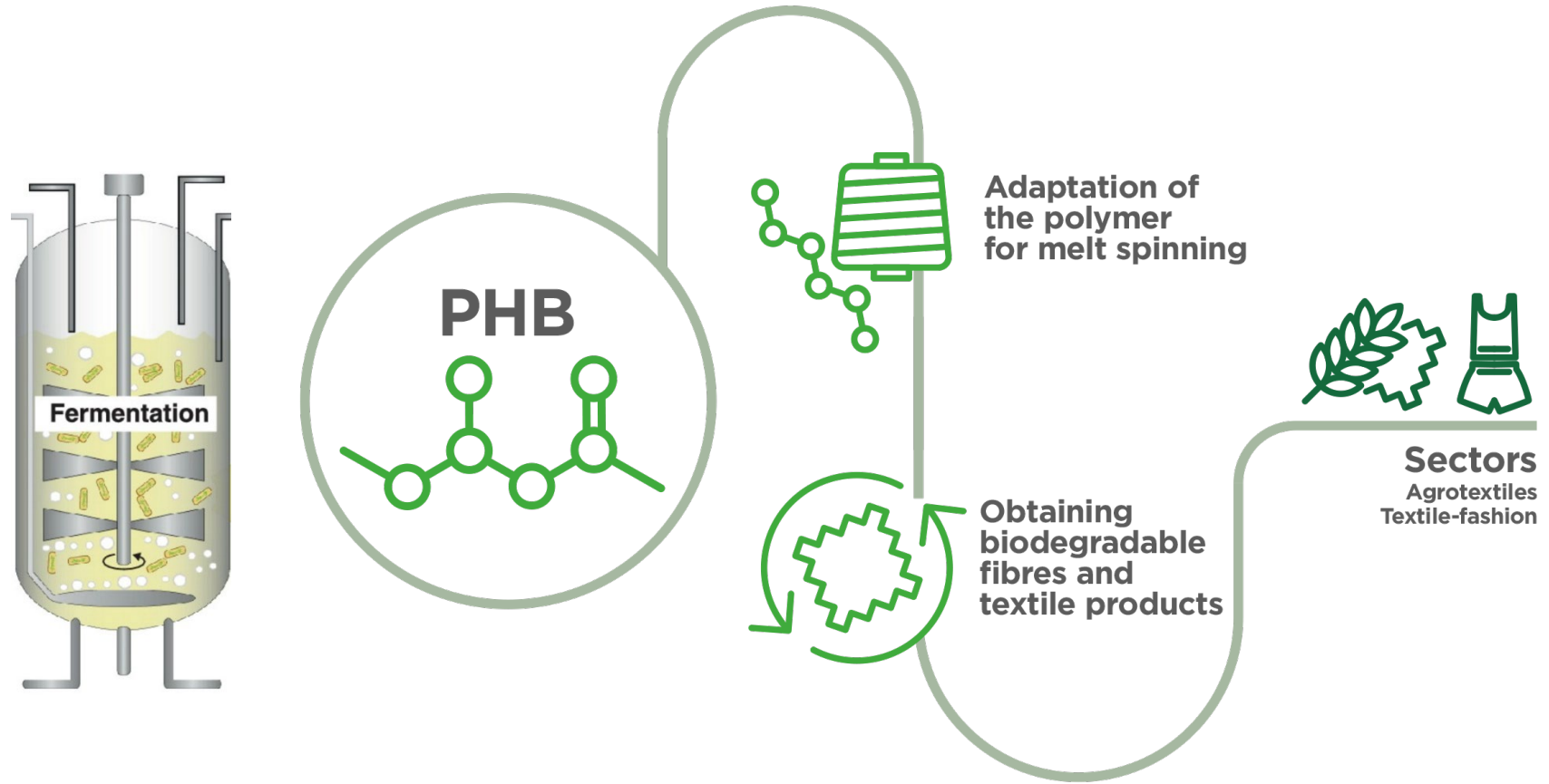


CO2-based ethanol
>100'000 tons/a



Biopolyester (PHB) from CO2 for textiles

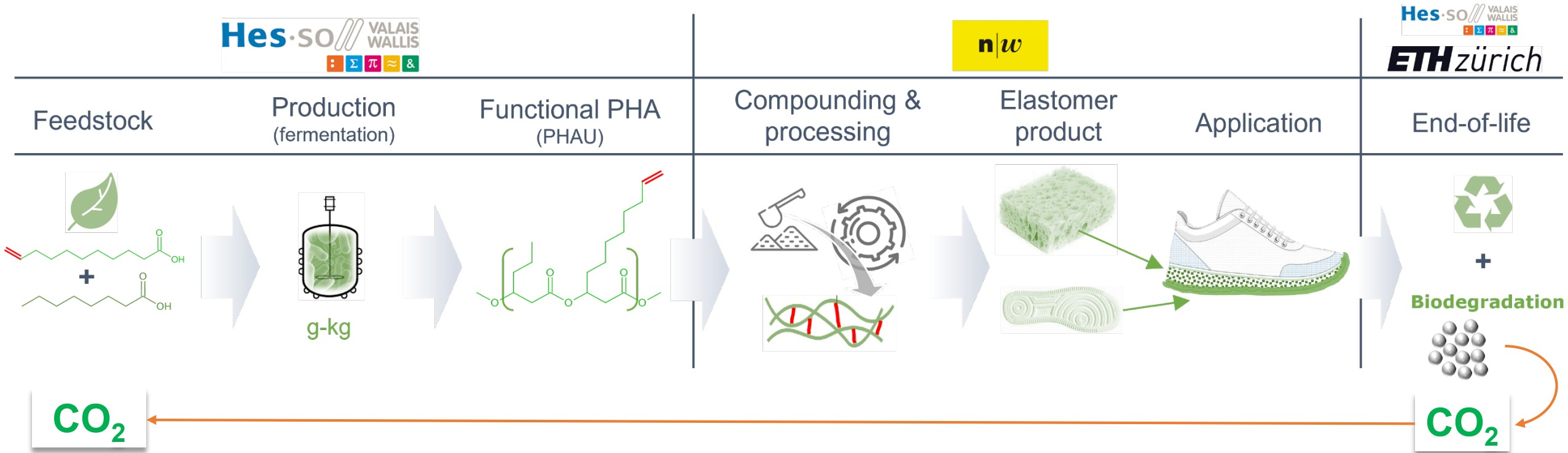
Polyhydroxybutyrate (PHB) via Bio-CCU



<https://www.aitex.es/portfolio/phbtex-textile-production-from-biopolymers/?lang=en>

Innovation project: BIO-PHAME

Functionalized PHA as life-cycle engineered elastomers



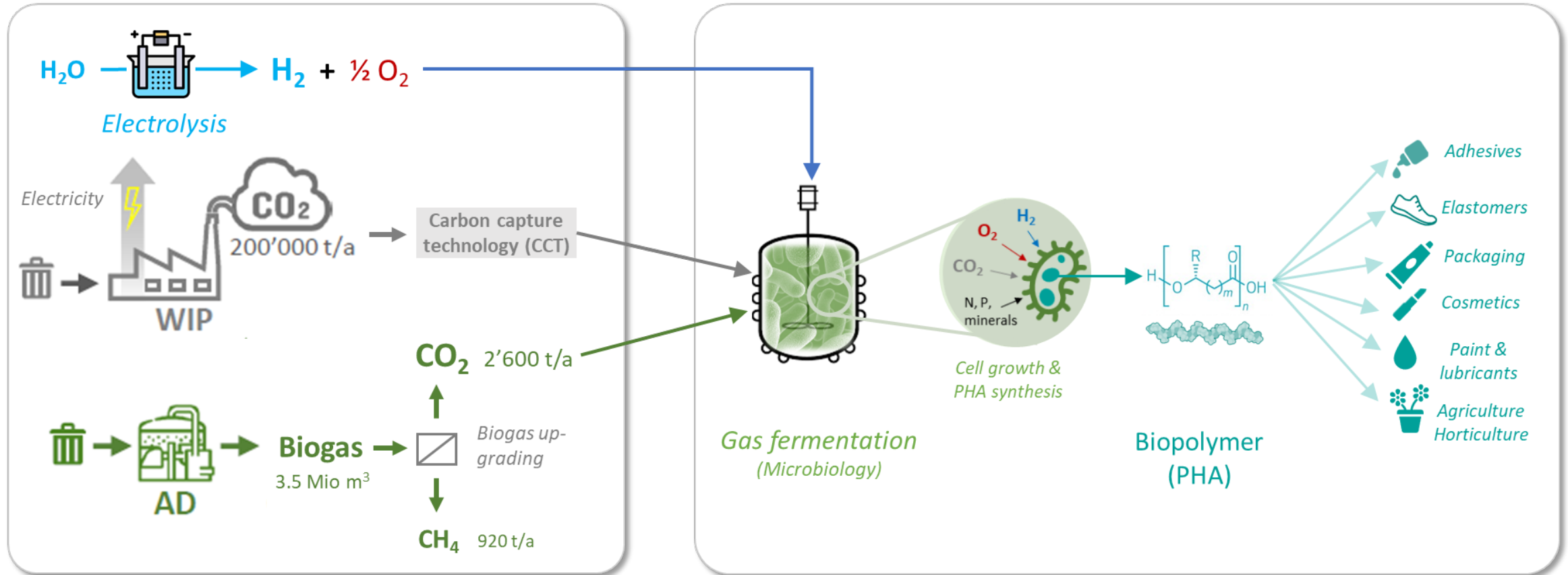
Using CO₂ as feedstock (CCU)

→ Carbon cycling

→ Temporary storage of CO₂ in the recycled product

Electro-microbial process for CO₂-based biopolyester

Production of polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs)



Waste management & resource supply

BIO-CCU & applications

Summary BIO-CCU

- Bio-CCU brings added-value:
 - CDR - carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technology for point sources and DAC
 - Production of (complex) platform chemicals and (bio)polymers
 - Hybrid systems of electro-chemical and biology for best performance
- Microorganisms: renewable, more robust than chemical catalysts (i.e., gas impurities)
- Further technology and infrastructure development needed across the value-chain
- All routes have carbon reduction potential (CDR) but also trade-offs
- Apply sustainability assessment (LCA) to identify best pathways

Unsere Schlussfolgerungen

- Biomasse keine unendliche Ressource
- Jeder Sektor sieht nur sich, keine Biomasse Strategie
- Recycling ist gut, aber Logistik, Energieverbrauch & Materialverlust
- Es reicht nicht auf bio-basierte Materialien umzusteigen oder zu rezyklieren
- Es muss ein breites Portfolio von Technologien entwickelt werden, um CO₂ zu verwerten - «Carbon Capture and Use (CCU)»
- Geschäftsmodelle und Konsum müssen neu gedacht werden: Weg von Verkauf von Masse hin zu Qualität/Langlebigkeit und zu neuen Dienstleistungen.

Diskussion

- Auf was achten Sie beim Einkauf?
- Wenden Sie diese Materialien schon an? Erfahrungen?
- Wie schätzen Sie die Rolle der CO₂- und biobasierten Polymere in Zukunft ein?