



# EuChemS

## European Chemical Society

### Carbon dioxide reduction: perspectives and challenges

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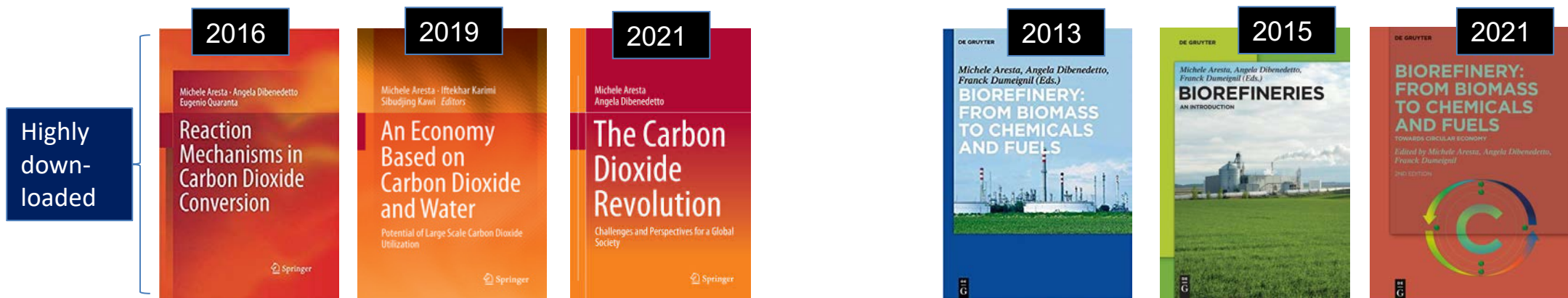
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## Energy Technology

DOI: 10.1002/ente.201600610

## REVIEW



### Biocatalytic and Bioelectrocatalytic Approaches for the Reduction of Carbon Dioxide using Enzymes

Stefanie Schlager,<sup>[a]</sup> Angela Dibenedetto,<sup>[b]</sup> Michele Aresta,<sup>[b,c]</sup> Dogukan H. Apaydin,<sup>[a]</sup> Liviu M. Dumitru,<sup>[a]</sup> Helmut Neugebauer,<sup>[a]</sup> and Niyazi S. Sariciftci<sup>[a]</sup>

### Tunable mixed oxides based on CeO<sub>2</sub> for the selective aerobic oxidation of 5-(hydroxymethyl)furfural to FDCA in water<sup>†</sup>



From the journal:  
Green Chemistry

Maria Ventura,<sup>a</sup> Francesco Nocito,<sup>b</sup> Elvira de Giglio,<sup>b</sup> Stefania Cometa,<sup>d</sup> Angela Altomare<sup>e</sup> and Angela Dibenedetto<sup>†</sup> <sup>abc</sup>

CHEMICAL  
REVIEWS

1471 Citations

Review  
pubs.acs.org/CR

### Catalysis for the Valorization of Exhaust Carbon: from CO<sub>2</sub> to Chemicals, Materials, and Fuels. Technological Use of CO<sub>2</sub>

Michele Aresta,<sup>\*,†</sup> Angela Dibenedetto,<sup>†,‡</sup> and Antonella Angelini<sup>†,‡</sup>

PERSPECTIVE

www.rsc.org/dalton | Dalton Transactions

### Utilisation of CO<sub>2</sub> as a chemical feedstock: opportunities and challenges

Michele Aresta<sup>\*,†</sup> and Angela Dibenedetto<sup>†</sup>

Received 17th January 2007, Accepted 14th May 2007  
First published as an Advance Article on the web 26th June 2007  
DOI: 10.1039/b700658f

### Journal of Catalysis

State of the art and perspectives in catalytic processes for CO<sub>2</sub> conversion into chemicals and fuels: The distinctive contribution of chemical catalysis and biotechnology

Michele Aresta<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Angela Dibenedetto<sup>c,d</sup>, Eugenio Quaranta<sup>c,d</sup>



### Mini-review

Received: 6 June 2013 | Revised: 18 September 2013 | Accepted article published: 2 October 2013 | Published online in Wiley Online Library: 14 November 2013

### Use of carbon dioxide as feedstock for chemicals and fuels: homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis

Angela Dibenedetto,<sup>\*</sup> Antonella Angelini and Paolo Stufano



Current Opinion in Green and Sustainable Chemistry  
Volume 21, February 2020, Pages 34–43

Review article

### Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation technologies: carbon capture utilization and storage

Francesco Nocito<sup>1</sup>, Angela Dibenedetto<sup>1,2,\*,‡</sup>



Minireview

### The Future of Carbon Dioxide Chemistry

Prof. Angela Dibenedetto Dr. Francesco Nocito

First published: 15 September 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/cssc.202002029>



Fuel Processing Technology  
Volume 86, Issues 14–15, October 2005, Pages 1679–1693

Utilization of macro-algae for enhanced CO<sub>2</sub> fixation and biofuels production: Development of a computing software for an LCA study

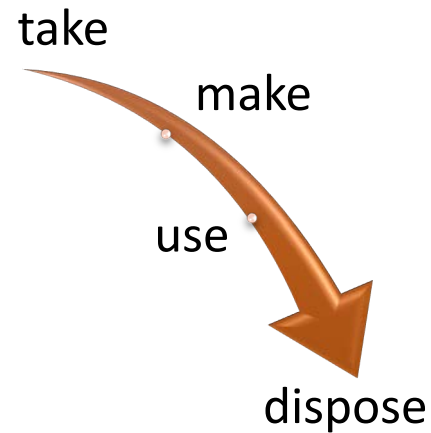
Michele Aresta<sup>\*,‡</sup>, Angela Dibenedetto, Grazia Barberio

# Introduction

- *Linear C-economy: the effects*
- Technologies for the conversion of large volumes of *spent-carbon* into *working-carbon*
  - *Direct conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> vs Utilization of biomass*
- *Man-made photosynthetic processes*
  - *Photochemical CO<sub>2</sub> conversion*
- *Integration of catalysis and biotechnology*
- *Oily biomass (microalgae)*
- *Cellulosic biomass*
- *Circular C-economy: **our future***

transition

# Society and CO<sub>2</sub>



## CO<sub>2</sub> capture

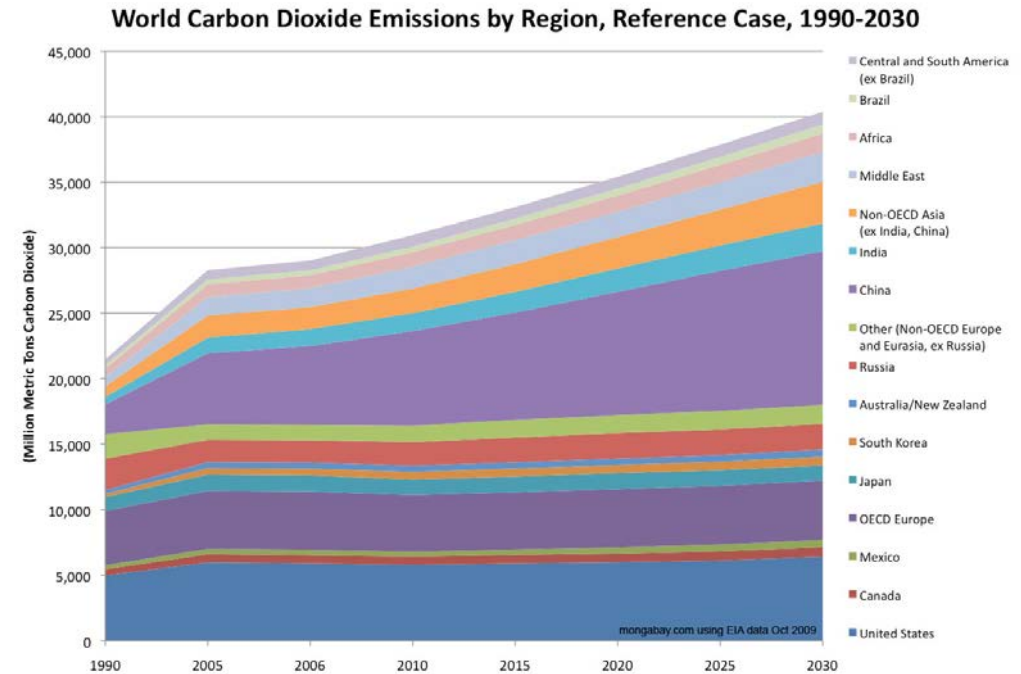
The capture of CO<sub>2</sub> from continuous and concentrated point sources such as power plants (at a cost of 30-130 US\$/t) or industry (at a cost depending on the purity of the source) or directly from the atmosphere (at cost of 180-300+ €/t, due to the low concentration), may contribute to reduce its accumulation in the atmosphere.

### CCS option

Disposal in natural fields

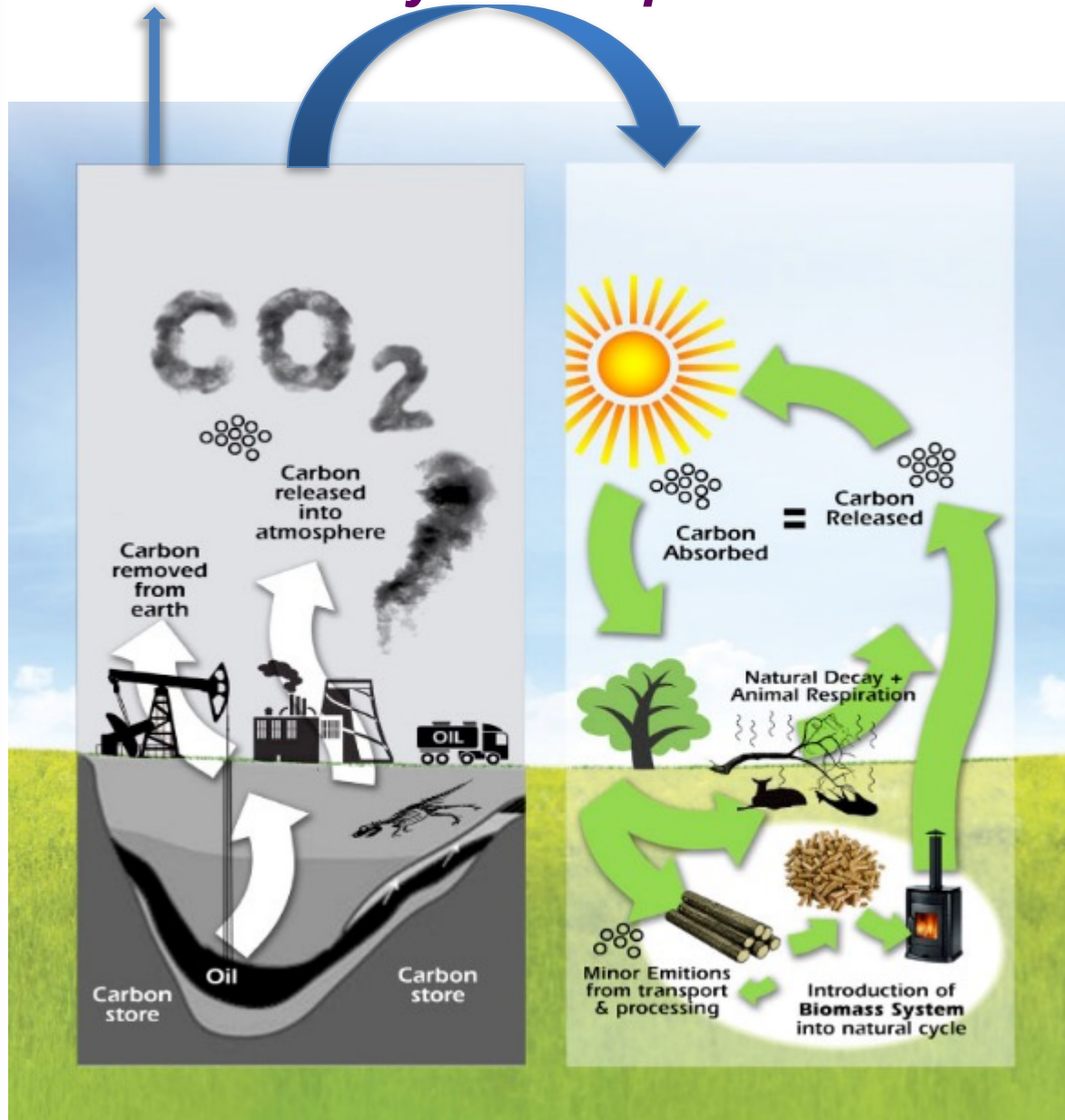
### CCU option

Used for several purposes





# *CCU: way to complement the natural C-Cycle*



*From the linear  
to the  
circular C-economy*

**Use of  
renewable carbon:  
our future**

**Is atmospheric  $\text{CO}_2$   
a renewable-C?**

- In a circular economy view, CO<sub>2</sub> is increasingly considered by the chemical industry as a building block or a source of carbon, rather than a waste.
- In some cases, the use of CO<sub>2</sub> for the production of chemicals is already at the commercial level.



- Efforts are underway to react CO<sub>2</sub> with olefins, dienes, alkynes, alcohols, amines, epoxides etc to form carboxylates, carbonates and carbamates. Many of such processes are catalytic.
- Some processes are endergonic and thus more difficult to implement.

# *The Alternatives, the Challenges*

- Direct conversion of Carbon Dioxide:  
Carbon Dioxide Capture and Utilization-CCU
- Let Nature to fix CO<sub>2</sub> and use Chemistry to convert biomass into chemicals, materials and fuels
- Integration of Chemistry and Biotechnology

Transition from HCH to HCOH

CO    CO<sub>2</sub>

New Catalysis

New Catalysts



Michele Aresta · Iftekhar Karimi ·  
Sibudjing Kawi *Editors*

# An Economy Based on Carbon Dioxide and Water

Potential of Large Scale Carbon Dioxide  
Utilization

2019

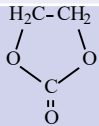
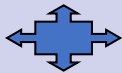
 Springer

## CCU: benefits and challenges

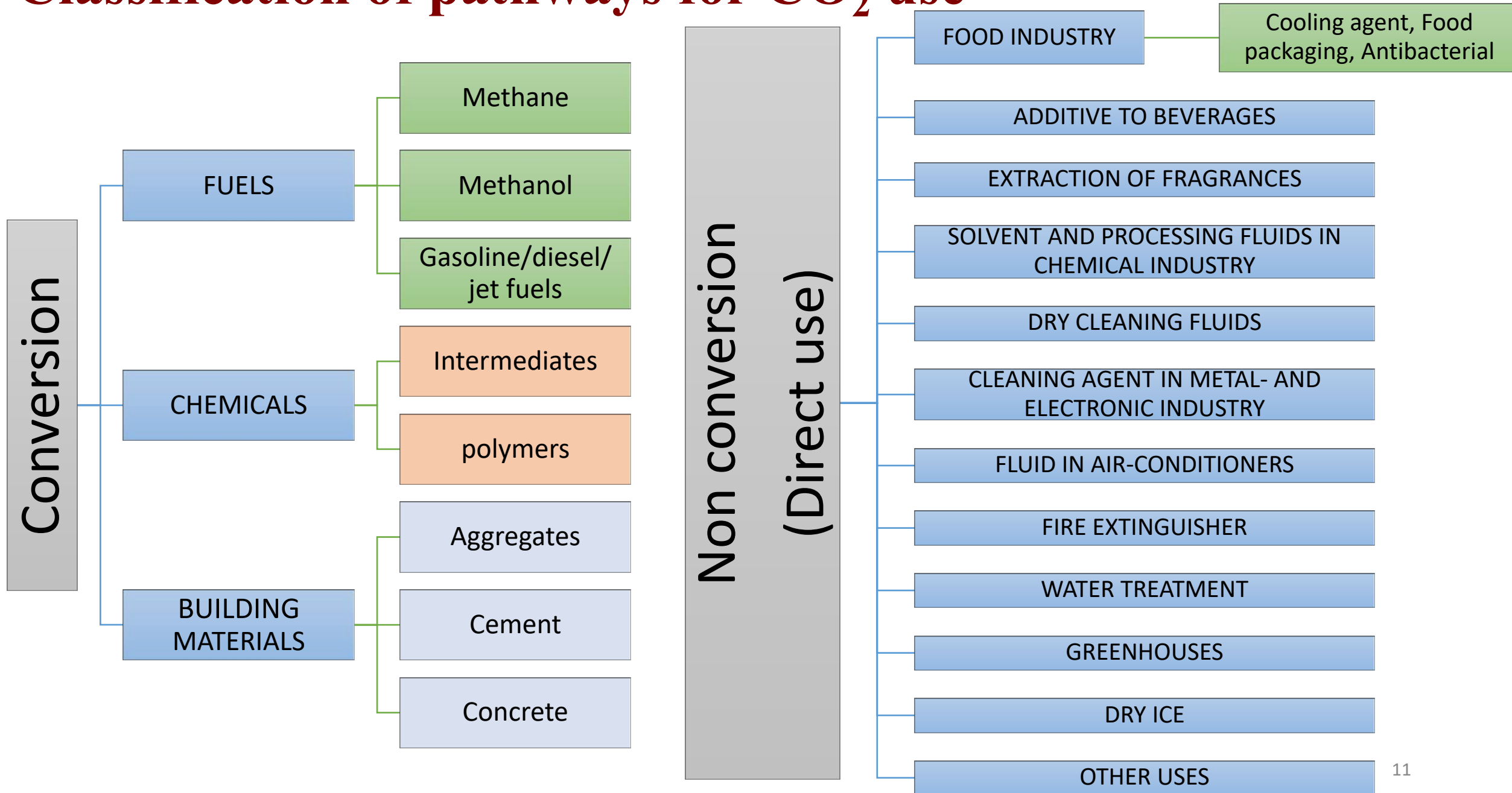
- Affords added value products from a «waste»
  - Fine chemicals, bulk chemicals, materials, fuels
- Reduces fossil fuels extraction and dependence on natural reserves of carbon
- Reduces the CO<sub>2</sub> immission into the atmosphere
- Makes use of perennial energy sources for CO<sub>2</sub> valorisation, mimicking Nature
- May contribute to develop a

**CO<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O-economy**

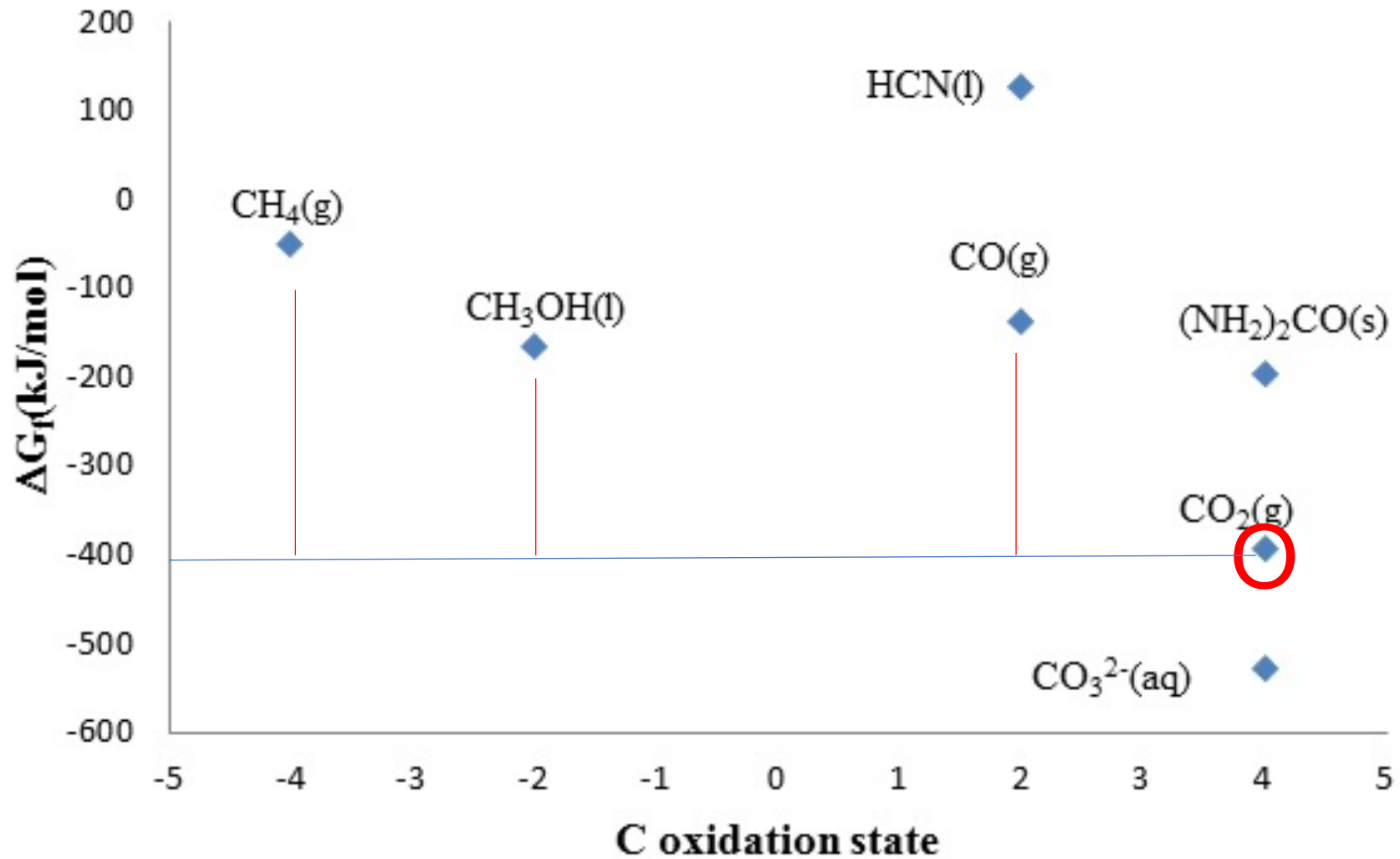
# Perspective use of CO<sub>2</sub> to Chemicals

Compound	Formula C <sub>oxstate</sub>	Actual Market Mt/y	CO <sub>2</sub> Use Mt/y	Market 2030 Mt/y	CO <sub>2</sub> use Mt/y
Urea	(H <sub>2</sub> N) <sub>2</sub> CO +4	180	132	210	154
Carbonates linear	OC(OR) <sub>2</sub> +4	>2	0.5	10	5
Carbonates cyclic	 +4				
Polycarbonates	-[OC(O)OCH <sub>2</sub> CHR]-n +4	5	1	9-10	2-3
Carbamates	RHN-COOR +4	>6	1	11	ca. 4
Acrylates	CH <sub>2</sub> =CHCOOH +3	5	(0.5) ?	8	5
Formic acid	HCO <sub>2</sub> H +2	1	(0.9) ?	>10	>9
Inorganic carbonates	M <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> +4 M' CO <sub>3</sub>	CaCO <sub>3</sub> 250	70	400	100
Methanol 	CH <sub>3</sub> OH -2	60	10	120	>100
Total			207		>370

# Classification of pathways for CO<sub>2</sub> use

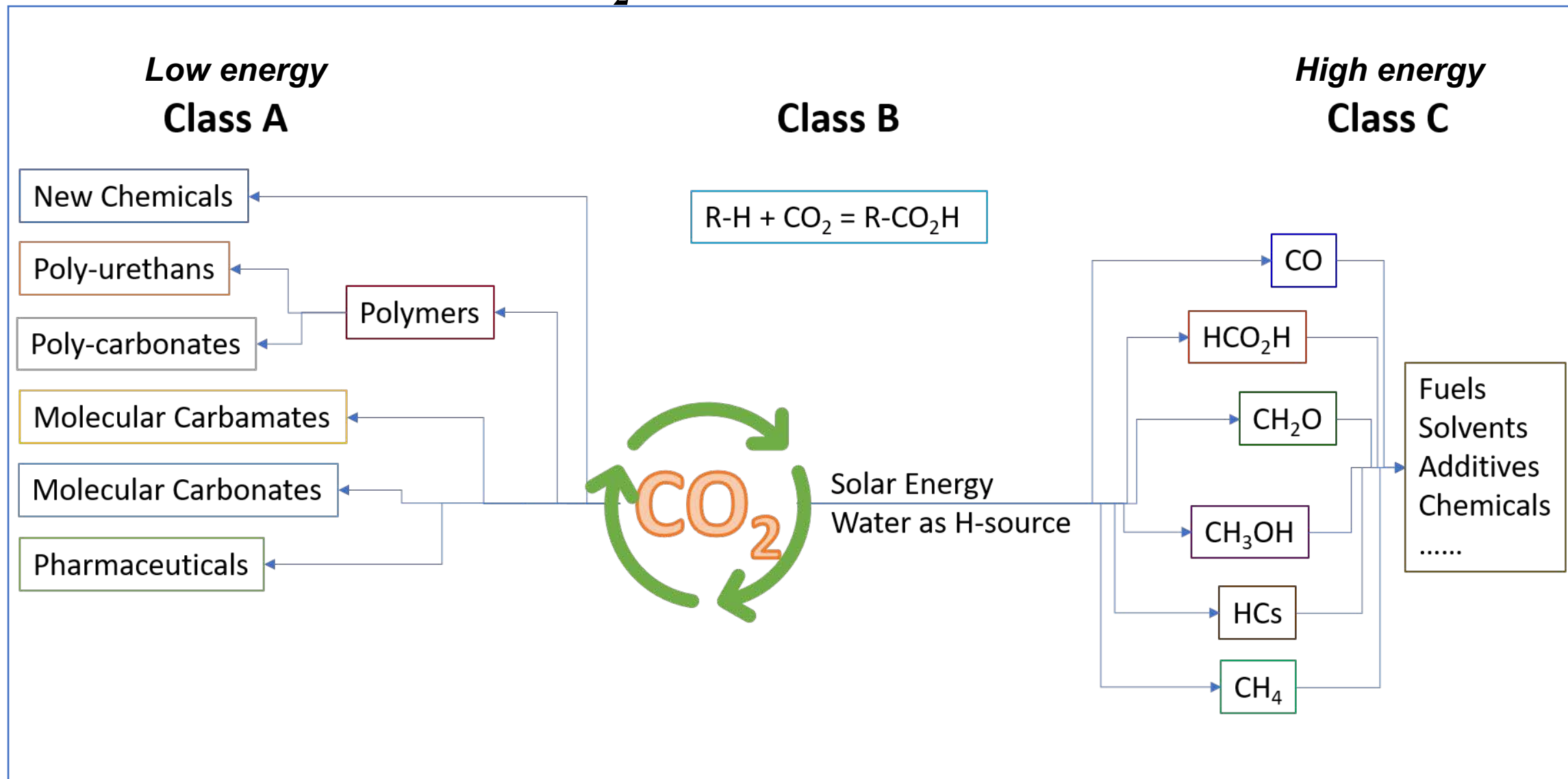


# Gibbs standard free-energy





# Classes of reactions for CO<sub>2</sub> conversion



# Sources of CO<sub>2</sub> (Except Power stations)

Variable  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
Concentration

<i>Industrial Sector</i>	<i>Mt<sub>CO2</sub>/y produced</i>	3300-3500
Oil Refineries	850-900	1040-1245
Ethene and other Petrochemical Processes	155-300	
LNG Sweetening	25-30	
Ethene oxide	10-15	
Ammonia	160	ca. 2260
Fermentation	>200	
Iron and steel	ca. 900	
Cement	> 1000	

# *Key Performance Indicators*



**E-Factor:** Waste produced per unit of product, w/w. *Fuels: 1-3; Chemicals: 5-100 (from fossil-C)*

**CF: Carbon footprint** - the CO<sub>2</sub> emission in the process per unit of product: this cannot be used as only criterion;

**ECF: Energy consumption ratio** ( $E_{\text{out}}/E_{\text{in}}$ ) - ratio of the input- to output-energy;

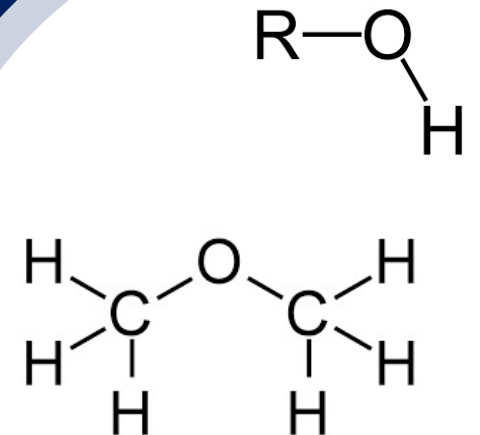
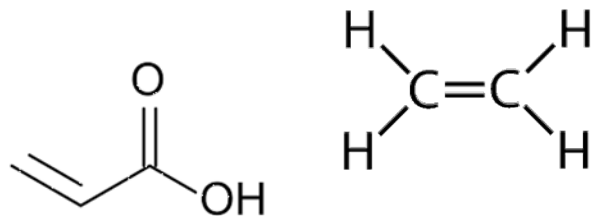
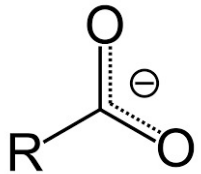
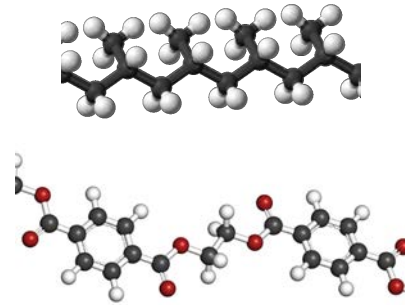
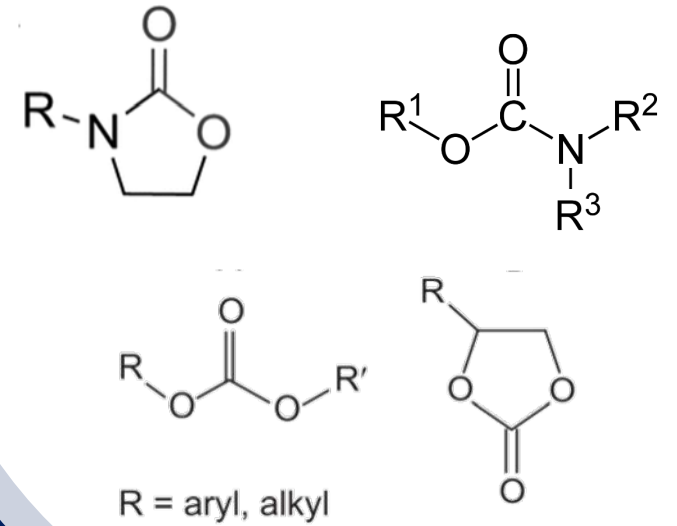
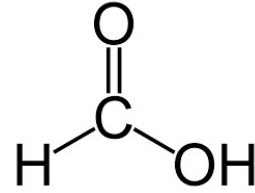
**CFU: Carbon fraction utilization** - the percentage of reagent-C fixed into the products;

**A/U: The “avoided” to “used” ratio** - For several applications the ratio avoided CO<sub>2</sub>/used CO<sub>2</sub> is in the range 2-5, with a good average around 3.5.

# *Sustainable Chemical and Polymer Industry*

## Bulk chemicals

- Carbonates: linear and cyclic
- Carbamates: linear and cyclic
- Formic acid
- Acrylic acid and Acrylates
- Olefins
- Alcohols (C1→Cn) and ethers (DME)
- Carboxylates
- Monomers, Polymers

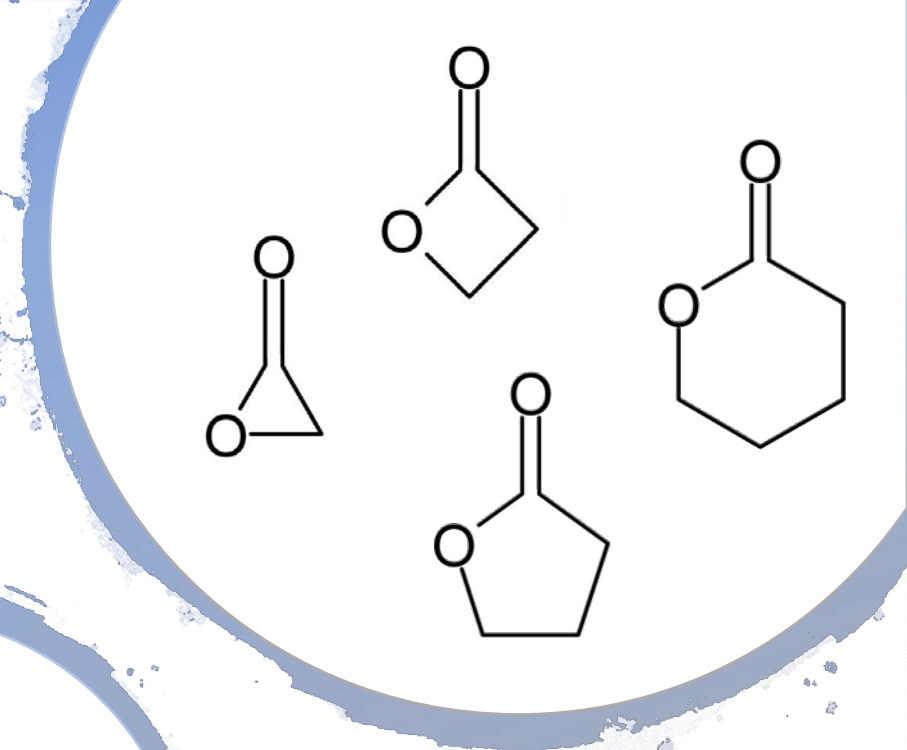
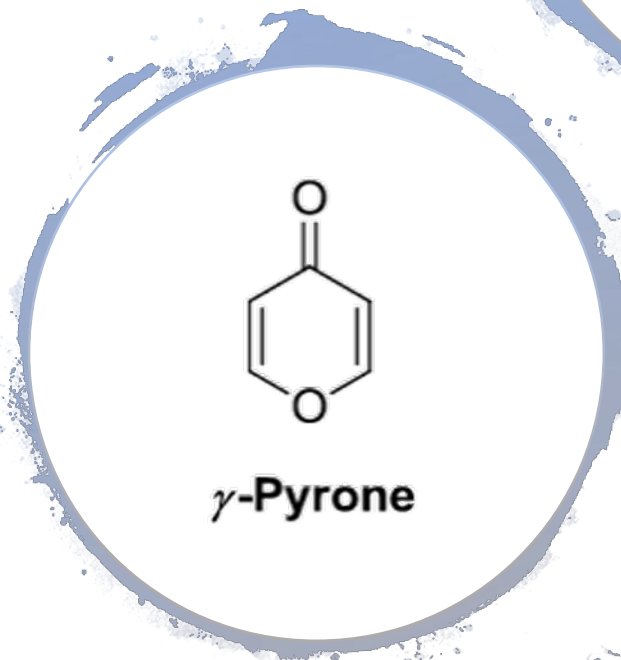
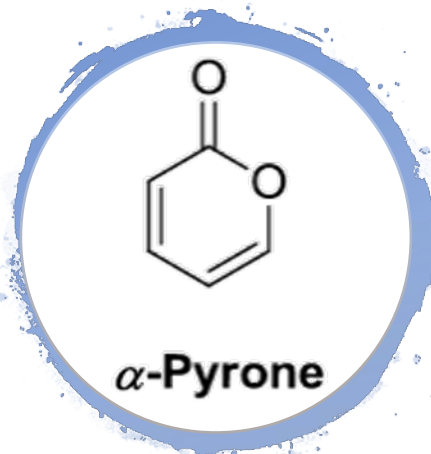




# *Sustainable Chemical and Polymer Industry*

- **Fine chemicals**

- Lactones
- Pyrones
- Pharmaceuticals (direct carboxylation of substrates to afford acids or esters)



Synthesis  $2\text{ROH} + \text{CO}_2 = (\text{RO})_2\text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$   
and uses of dialkyl carbonates....



*Linear: Monomers,  
Reagents, Solvents, Fuels.  
Captive use 0.2 Mt > 50 Mt+*

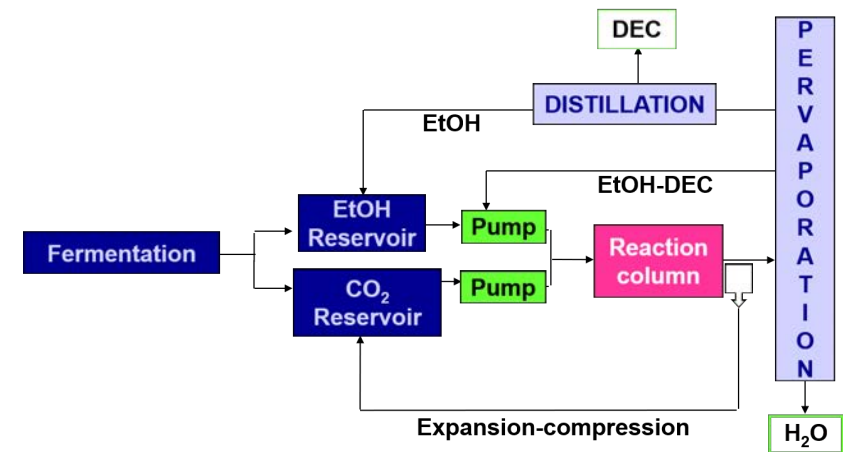
*Cyclic: Solvents,  
Reagents, (Co)-monomers.  
Captive use >Mt*

Shifts the Equilibrium, Damages the Catalysts

## SOLUTIONS

Inorganic Organic Traps, Membrane Reactors,  
Use of pervaporation membranes

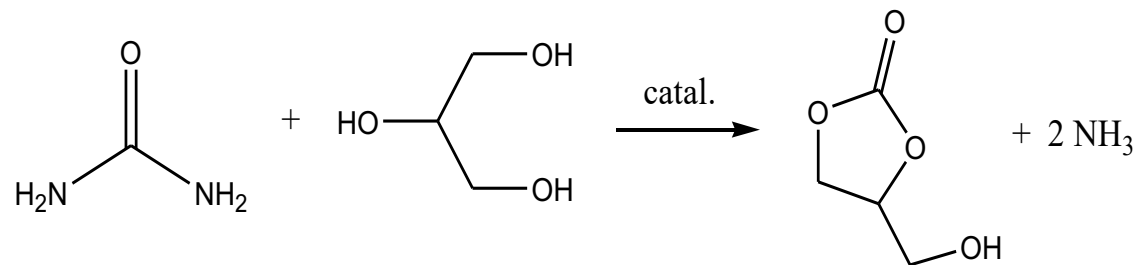
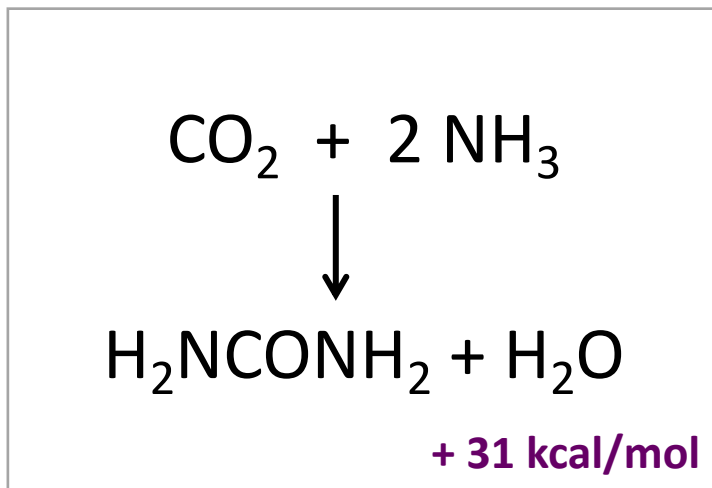
*Carbonates: Linear*



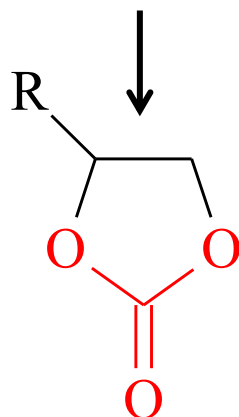
Low energy option, New concept reactor

Aresta, Dibenedetto et al 2012, 2016, 2017, in preparation <sup>18</sup>

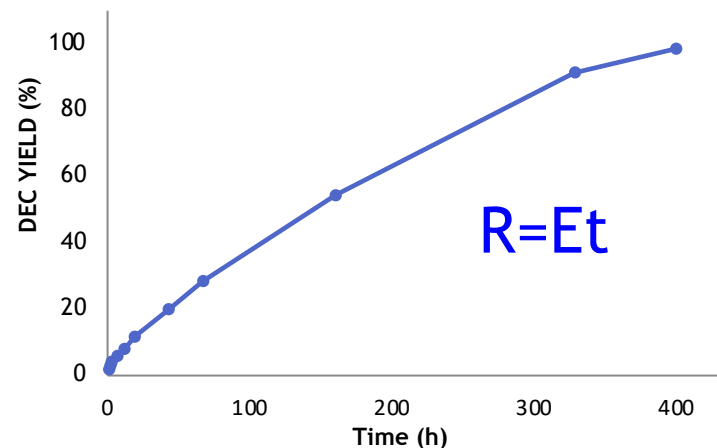
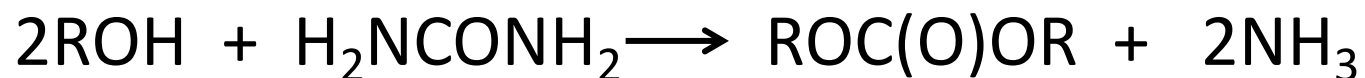
# Use of Urea, $\text{H}_2\text{NCONH}_2$ , as active form of $\text{CO}_2$



Dibenedetto et al, EU Patent 2010 to Arkema



5-6 membered rings.  
Dibenedetto et al, Eurobioref Project



better thermodynamics,  
higher conversion as the  
reaction is not equilibrium  
driven

A. Dibenedetto et al, RSC Adv 2015

Michele Aresta  
Angela Dibenedetto

# The Carbon Dioxide Revolution

Challenges and Perspectives for a Global Society

2021

 Springer

## A new scenario opens

- Change of paradigm in energy supply
- Primary energy sources, intensive utilization and at affordable costs
  - Sun
  - Wind
  - **Storage of solar and wind energy into chemical bonds**
- High energy processes for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction are now feasible with the use of non-fossil carbon based energy sources: such use is close to be cost-effective
- Chemists have to take this opportunity



Dark Chemistry

Chemicals

Use of  
Low-entropy CO<sub>2</sub>

Light Chemistry

Fuels

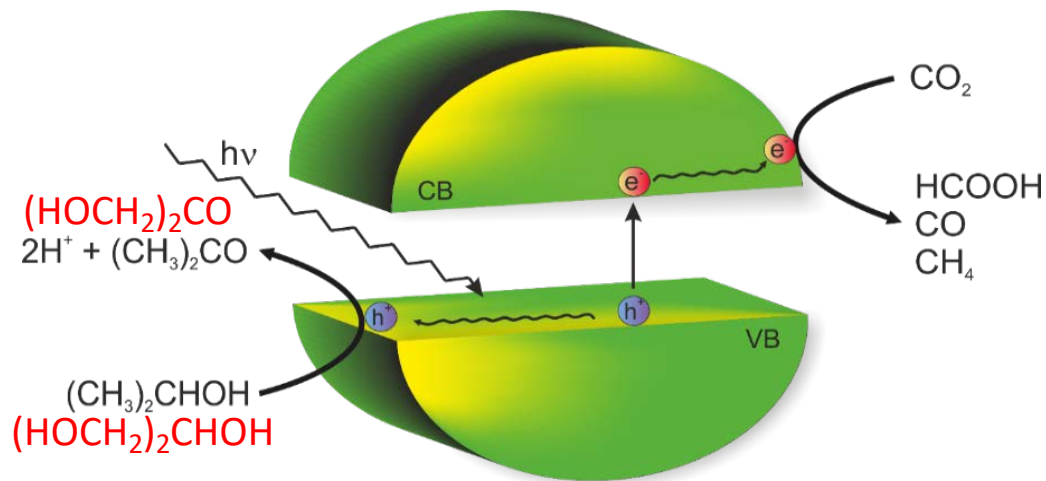


# *Alternative routes to large scale CO<sub>2</sub>R*

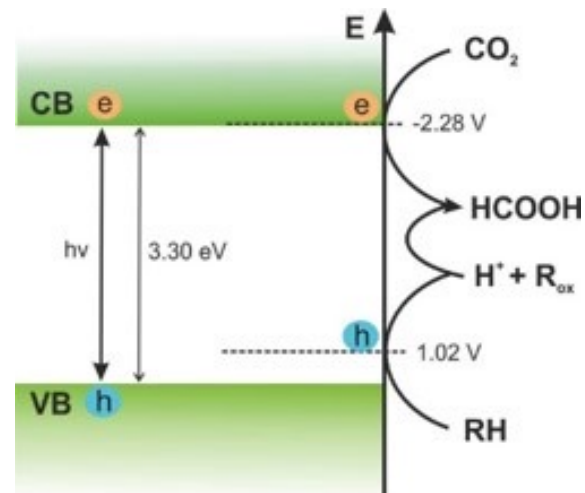
- Water electrolysis via PV and use of PV-H<sub>2</sub> for CO<sub>2</sub> thermochemical conversion into energy products (CH<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>OH, others)
- CO<sub>2</sub> and water coprocessing in
  - Electrochemical reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>ER (use of Cu electrodes for C<sub>2</sub>+ chemicals production: ethene, ethanol, others)
  - Photochemical co-processing of CO<sub>2</sub> and water to afford C<sub>1</sub> and C<sub>n</sub> species
  - Photo-electrochemical processing of CO<sub>2</sub> and water

# Use of solar energy and p-type SC in the direct CO<sub>2</sub> conversion

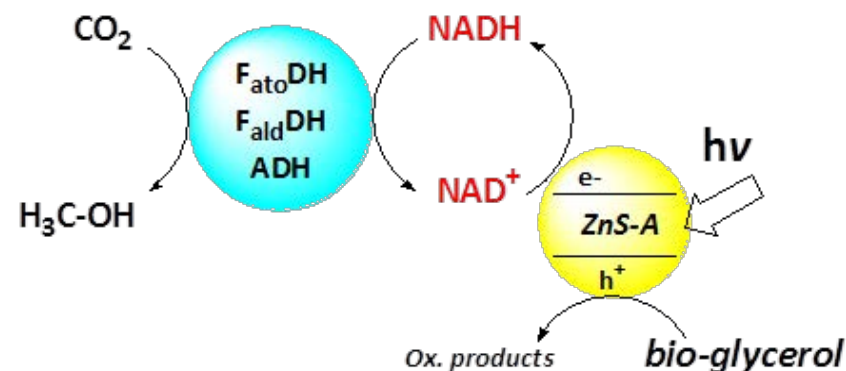
## 1. Photocarboxylation of organic substrates



## 2. Photoreduction of CO<sub>2</sub> in glycerol (i-propanol)-H<sub>2</sub>O with n-type semiconductors



## 3. Hybrid systems



# *Integration of Biotechnology and Catalysis*

***Let Nature fix CO<sub>2</sub> and Chemistry convert biomass***

CO<sub>2</sub> → Aquatic, Land Biomass → Catalytic conversion

CO<sub>2</sub> → Bioglycerol → Products (oxidation, reduction)

CO<sub>2</sub> → Lignocellulose → Products (C6 and C5 polyols, aromatic fraction)

Catalysis as a tool for accelerating bioprocesses

BES for *in situ* providing hydrogen for CO<sub>2</sub> conversion to C1, C2, Cn molecules

Microalgal biomass is compatible with the integrated **Biorefinery Vision** of producing a variety of valuable products and fuels.

**Using algae only for making fuels (liquid and gas) is not economic**

**Fractionation:**

**Cellulose (no lignin)**

**Proteins**

**Lipids**

**Cosmetics**

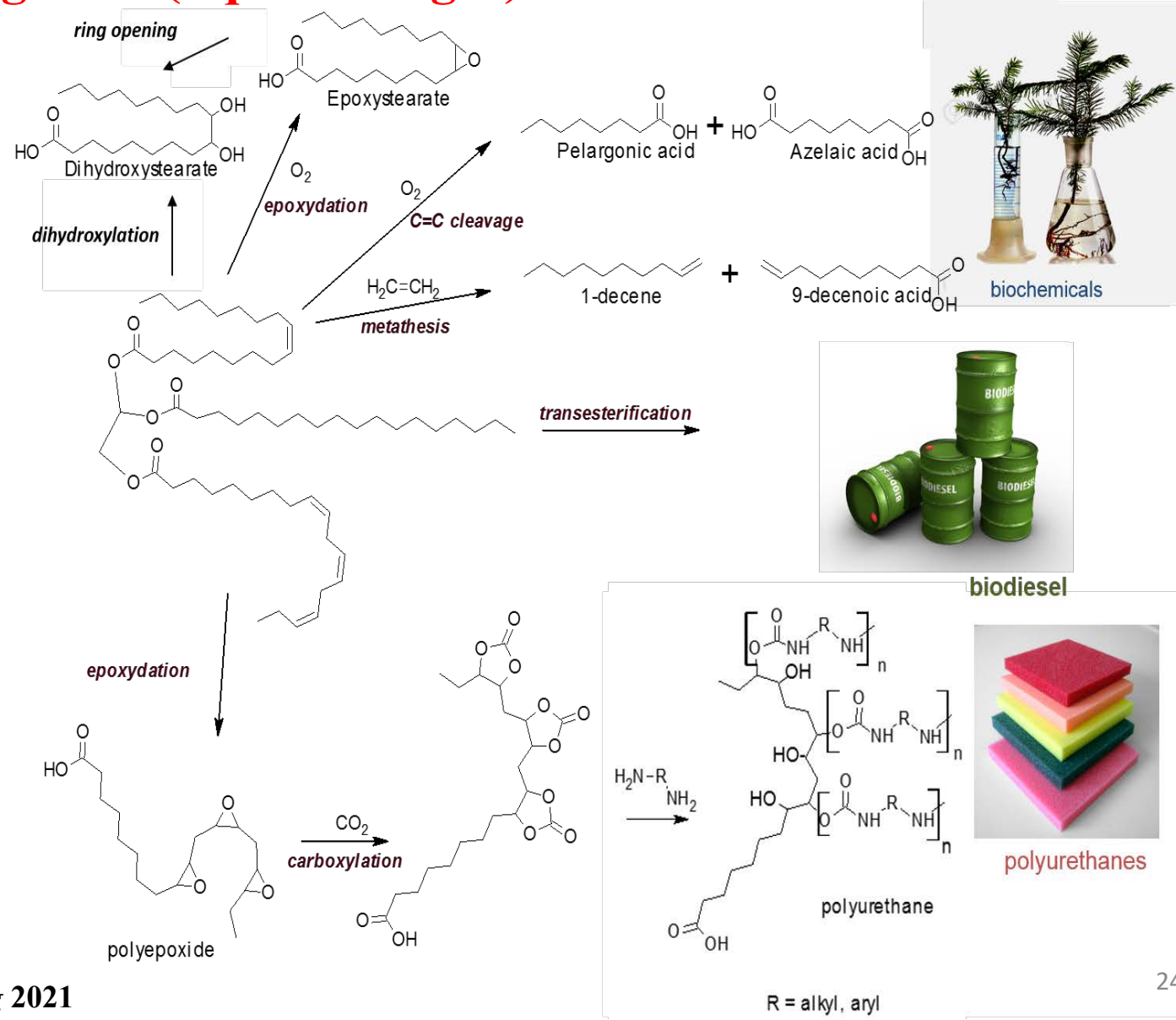
**Neutraceuticals  
pharmaceutical**

**Chemicals**

**Food and  
feed**

**Biofuels**

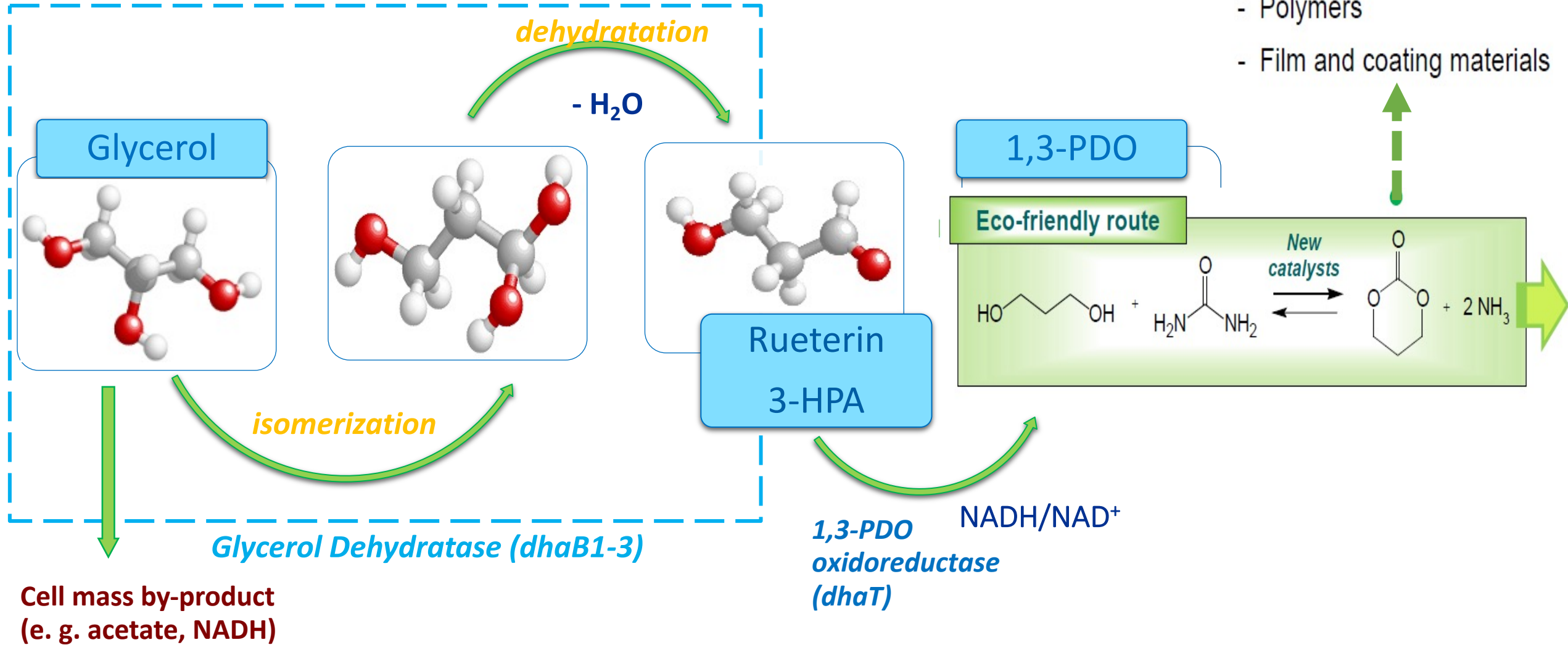
**Bioplastic**



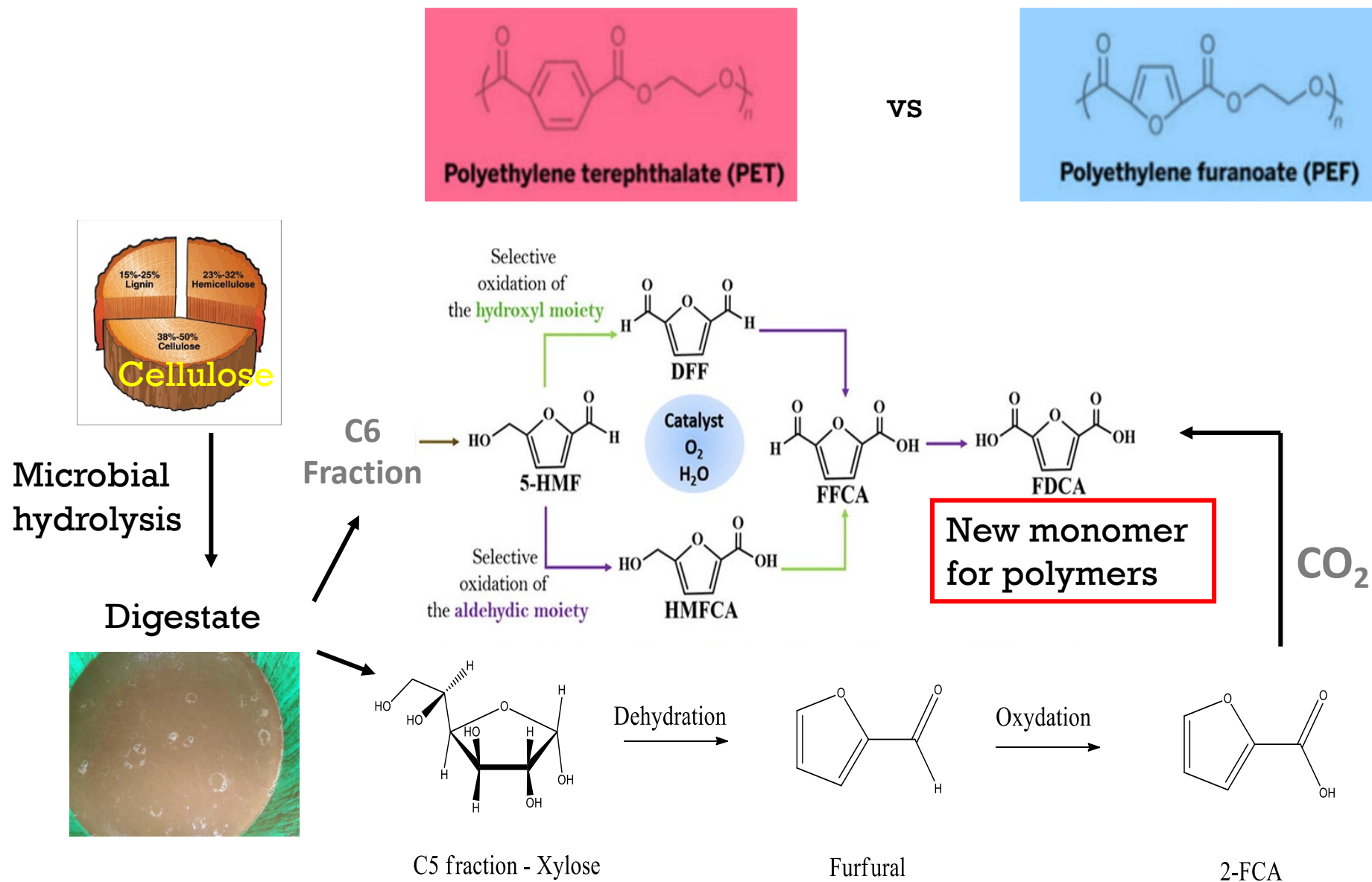


# Integration of Biotechnology and Catalysis

## Conversion of glycerol into 1,3-PDO >> TMC



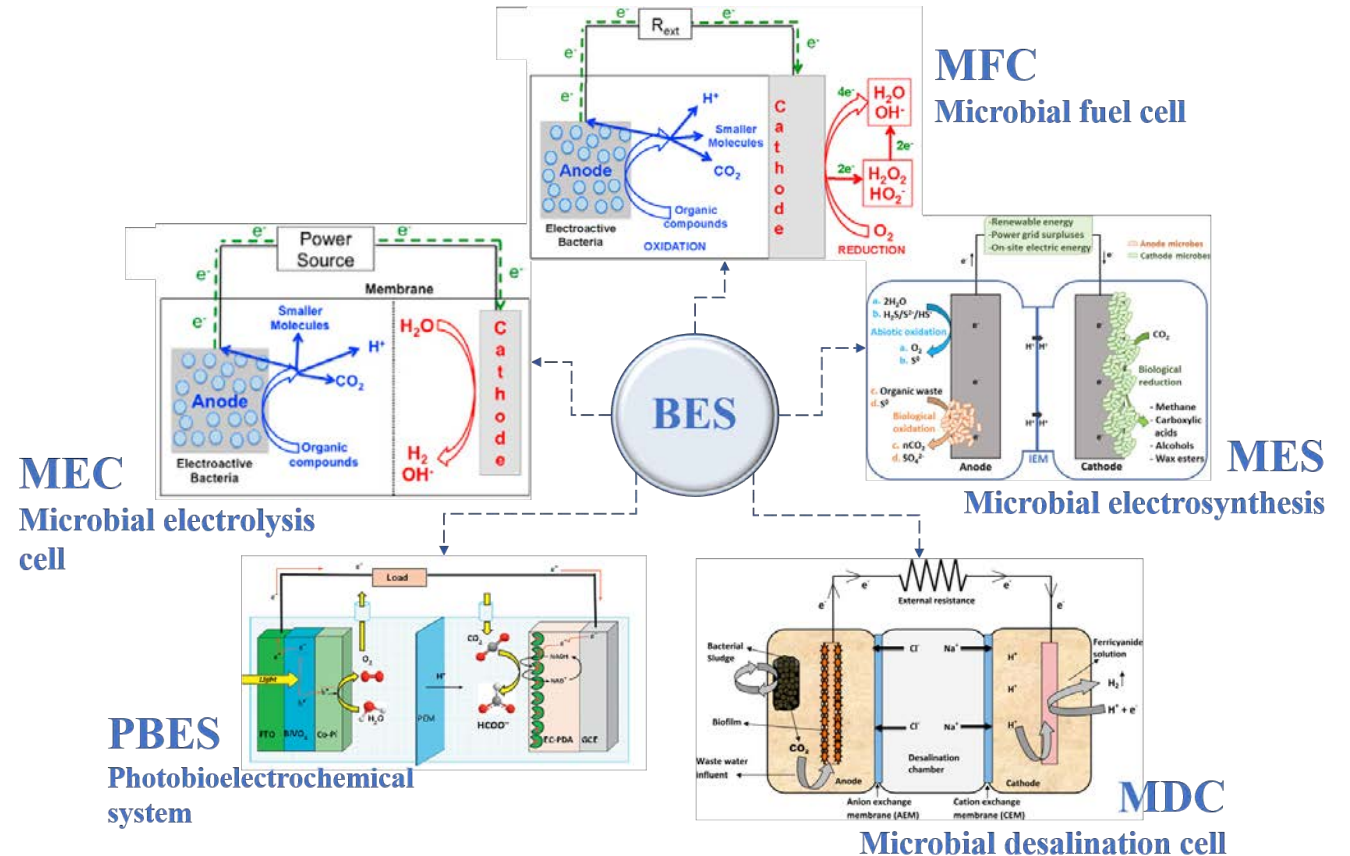
# Integration of Biomass and CO<sub>2</sub> utilization, Biotechnology and Catalysis



# Bioelectrochemical systems-BES

BES have recently been proposed as a new and sustainable technology for energy generation and useful products from wastes: in a BES, bacteria interact with solid-state electrodes by exchanging electrons with them, either directly or via redox mediators.

$\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow$  Methane,  
Carboxylic acids,  
Alcohols,  
Wax esters,  
Formic acid, .....



D.M.S. Marcolongo, M. Aresta, A. Dibenedetto *Advances in Inorganic Chemistry* Vol. 78 on Recent Highlights, Chapter 3, 2021

# *Conclusion*

- **CO<sub>2</sub> is a valuable source of carbon:** it is already used in the chemical industry at a rate of **200 Mt/y**.
- Using the existing knowledge the expectation is to convert over **370 Mt/y** by 2030 avoiding >1000 Mt/y
- Nature makes from CO<sub>2</sub> thousands energy-rich compounds using solar energy
- The combination of the use of solar energy with CO<sub>2</sub> catalytic conversion may bring to the reduction to fuels, enlarging the utilization to a several Gt/y level, with concomitant reduction of extraction of fossil-C.
- Hybrid catalysis and biotech may open a new scenario in CO<sub>2</sub> conversion into energy products.



Thank You.

