
Les opportunités offertes par les politiques climatiques: du CO₂ comme matière première?

Prof. Grégoire LEONARD, Chargé de cours

Content

- Context
- CO₂ capture
- CO₂ re-use
- FRITCO₂T Platform

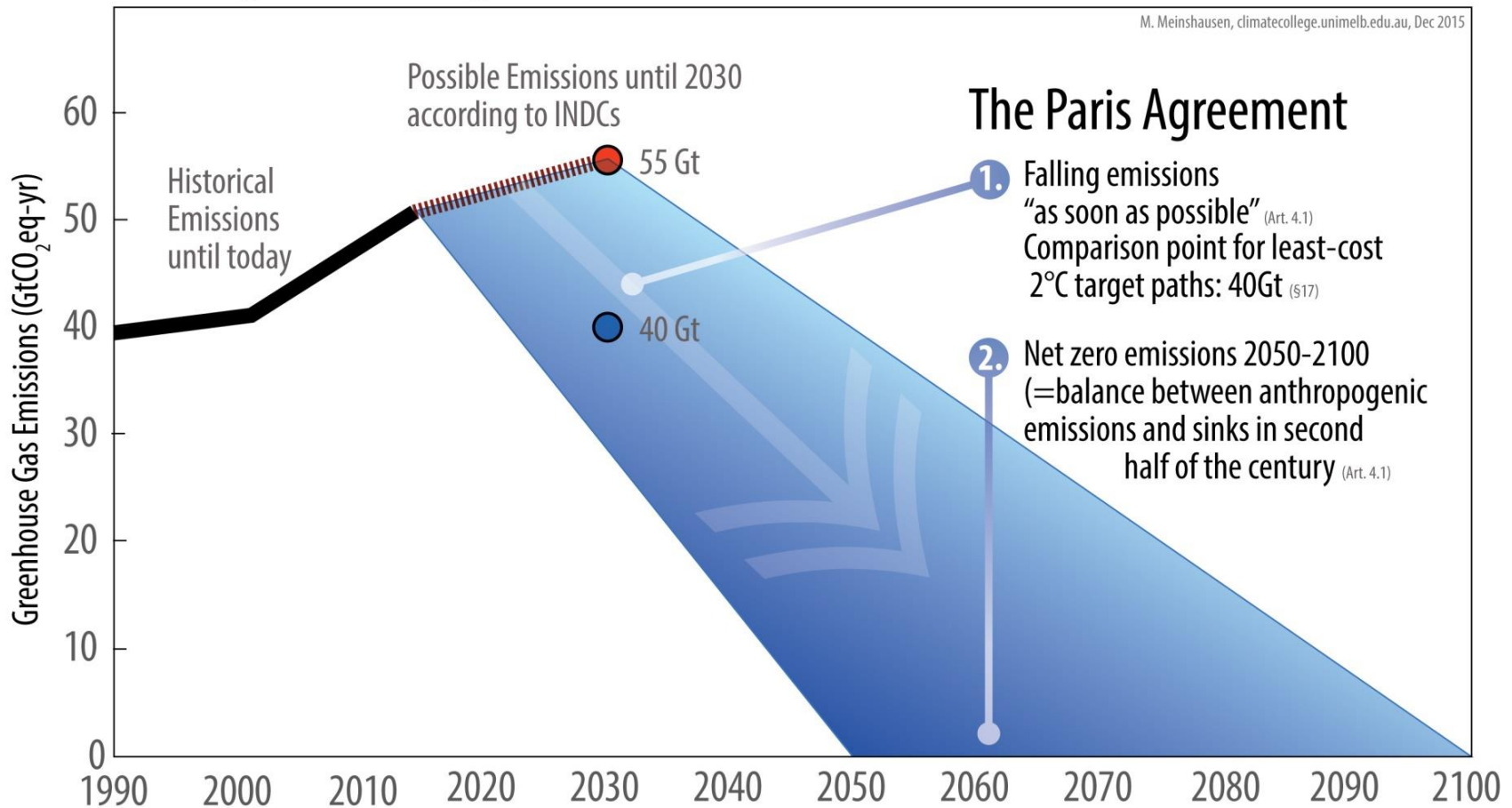
The energy transition has already started...



But there are still huge challenges to be addressed!

Worldwide goals and commitments...

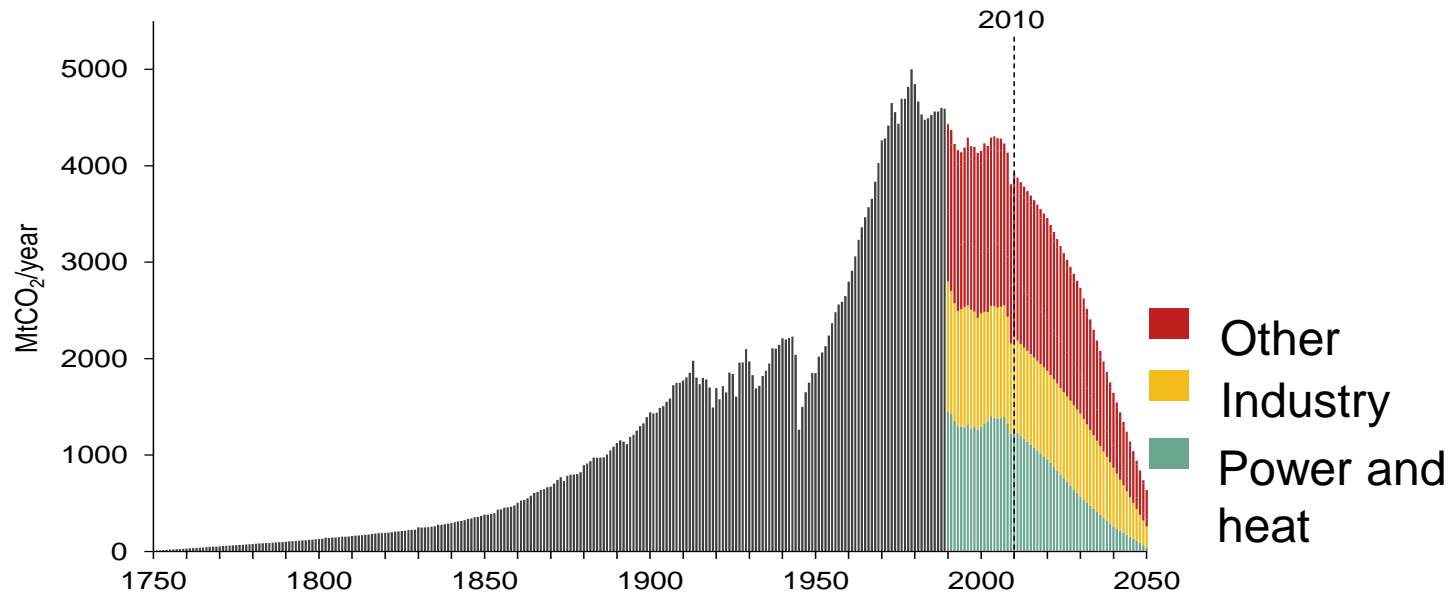
Global greenhouse gas emissions



European objectives

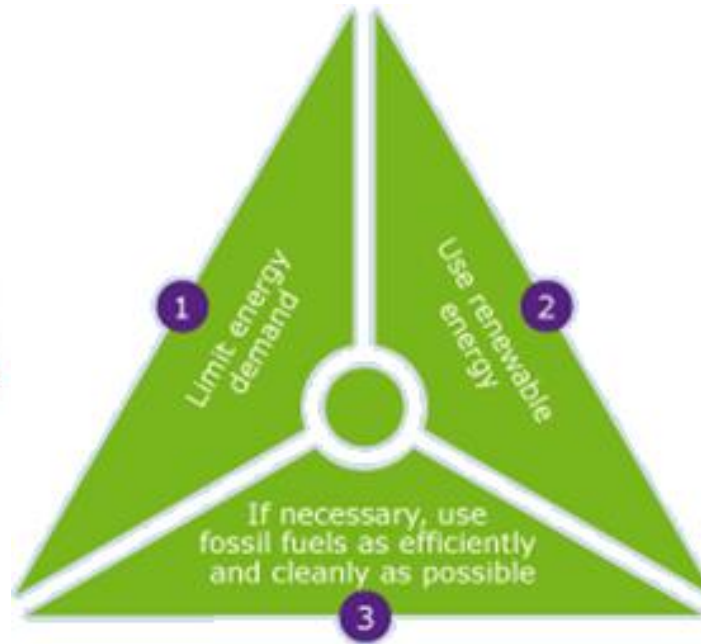
European targets: -80% CO₂

- - 93 to 99% CO₂ in power and heat
- - 83 to 87% CO₂ in the industry



Data sources: [Boden et al., 2010; EC-JRC/PBL, 2009; European Commission 2011; EEA, 2015]

Possible answers: Trias Energetica



CO₂ capture is basically a matter of fluid separation

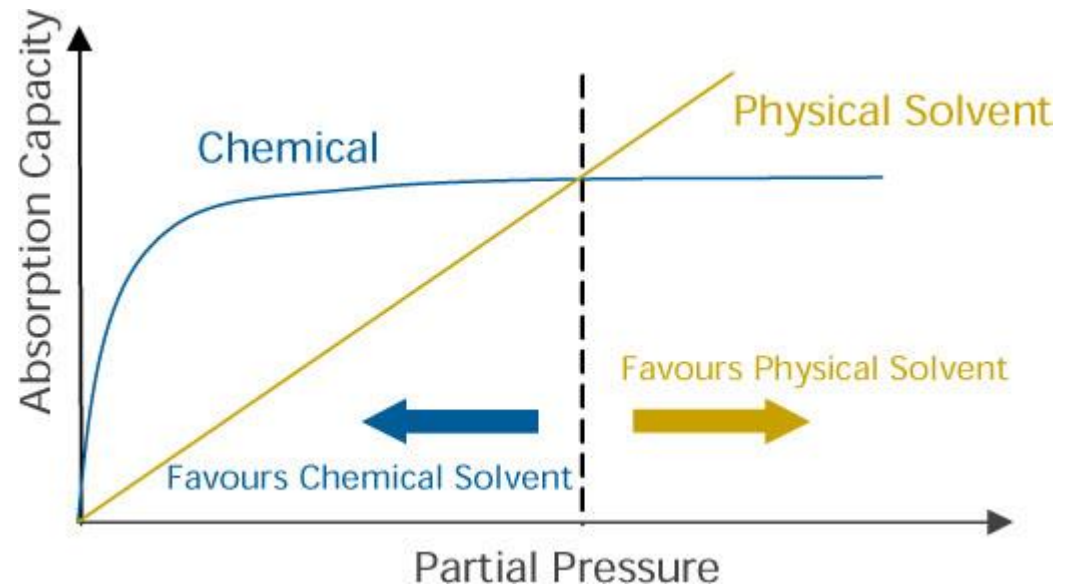


Purity of sources varies between 0.04% and almost 100%

2. CO₂ capture

CO₂ separation technologies

- Avoid fluid mixtures
- Absorption
 - Physical
 - Chemical
- Adsorption
- Membranes
- Cryogenic separation
- Others...



CO₂ capture configurations

1. Industrial processes (cement, steel...)

=> CO₂ resulting **from process**

2. Capture CO₂ from combustion gas

=> **Post-Combustion** capture

3. Remove C from fuel

=> **Pre-combustion** capture

4. Burn fuel with pure oxygen

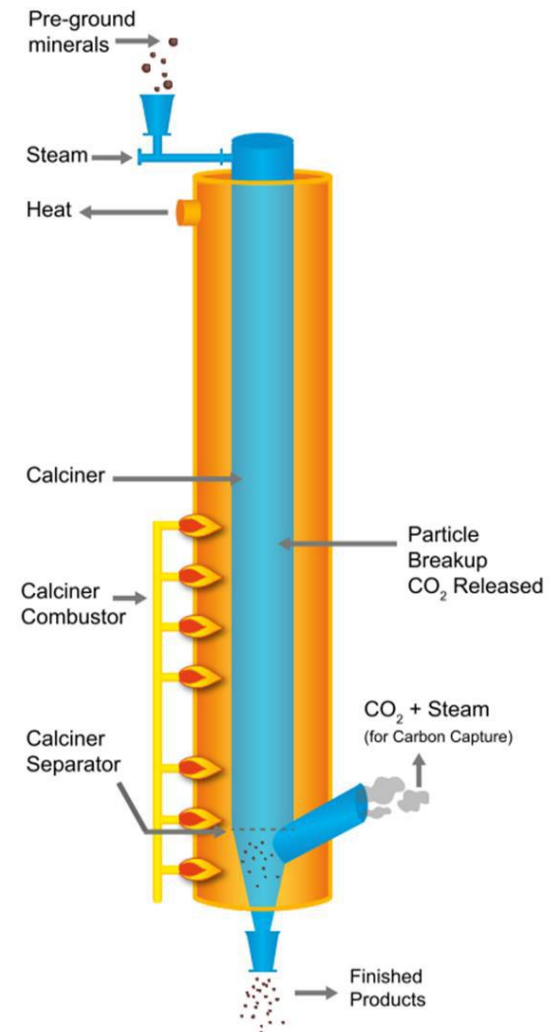
=> **Oxyfuel combustion**

Industrial processes

1. CO₂ not resulting from combustion

- Cement plants
 - $\text{CaCO}_3 \rightarrow \text{CaO} + \text{CO}_2$
 - Potential gain: -60% CO₂
 - High temperature $\rightarrow 1000^\circ\text{C}$

- Pilot plant close to Liège
- End of construction: 2019
- Investment: 21 M€



Post-combustion capture

2. Capture CO₂ from combustion gases

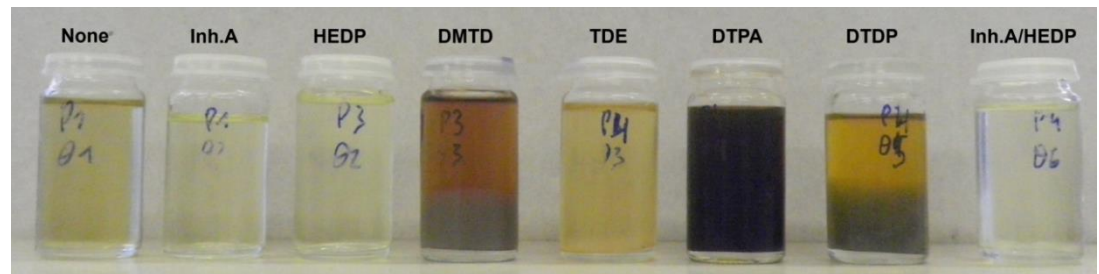
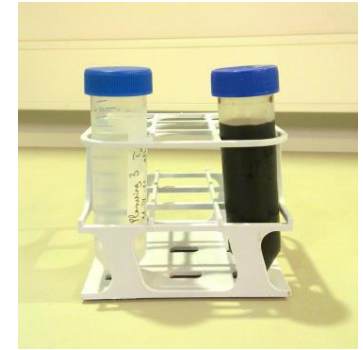
- Absorption – Regeneration with chemical solvents
- Boundary Dam (Ca), 2700 tCO₂/day from Coal PP
 - Flue gas: 180 Nm³/s ; Solvent: 550 L/s



Post-combustion capture

2. Capture CO₂ from combustion gases

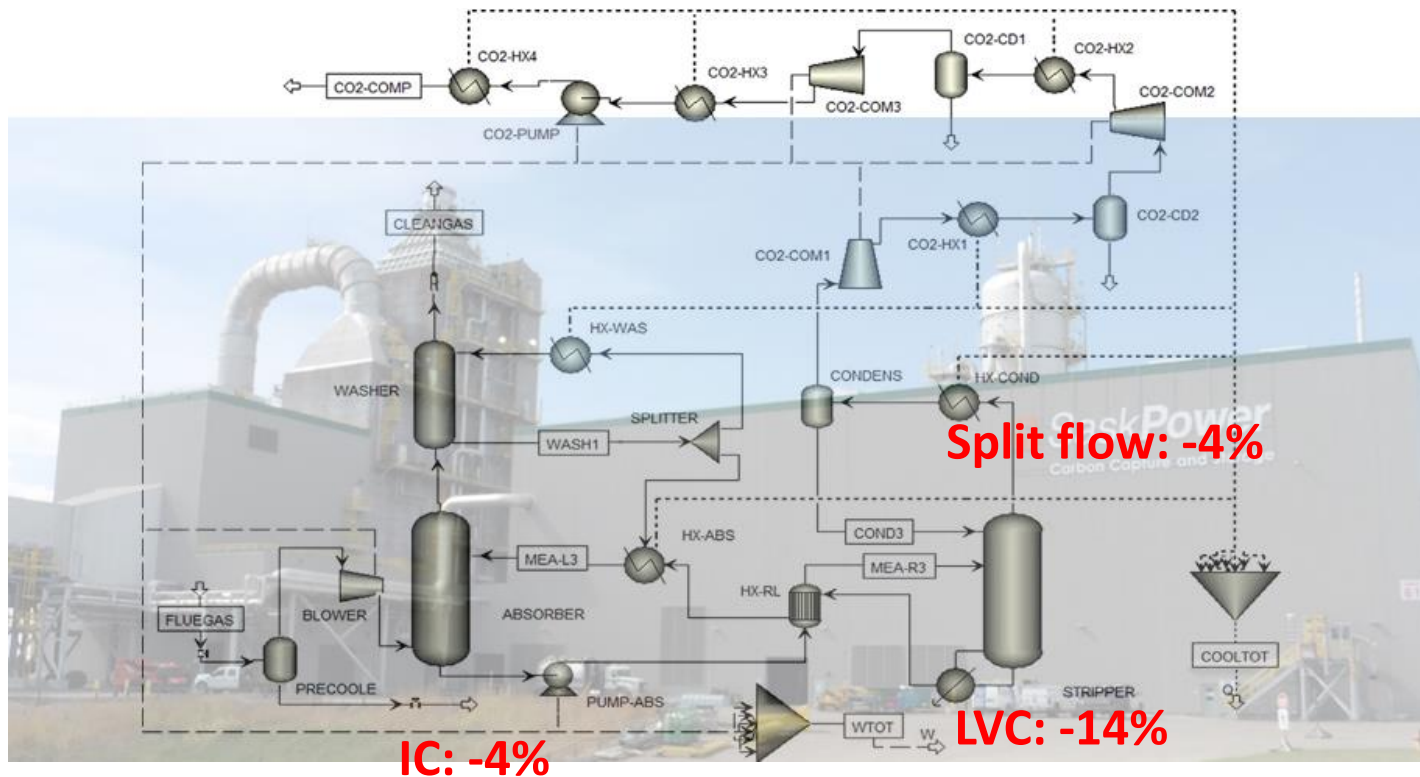
- 2 main focus at ULiège: Solvent stability
 - Viscosity change, decrease of solvent properties...
 - Corrosivity of amine systems
 - Emissions of VOC
- Operational issues
 - SO_x, NO_x ...
- Different types of degradation
 - Oxidative
 - Thermal



Post-combustion capture

2. Capture CO₂ from combustion gases

- 2 main focus at ULiège: Process modeling, including solvent degradation



Trends and challenges

- Small scale CO₂ capture
- CO₂ capture from air



Exclusive: Carbon Engineering CEO discusses recent funding for DAC technology

By Molly Burgess | 24 April 2019

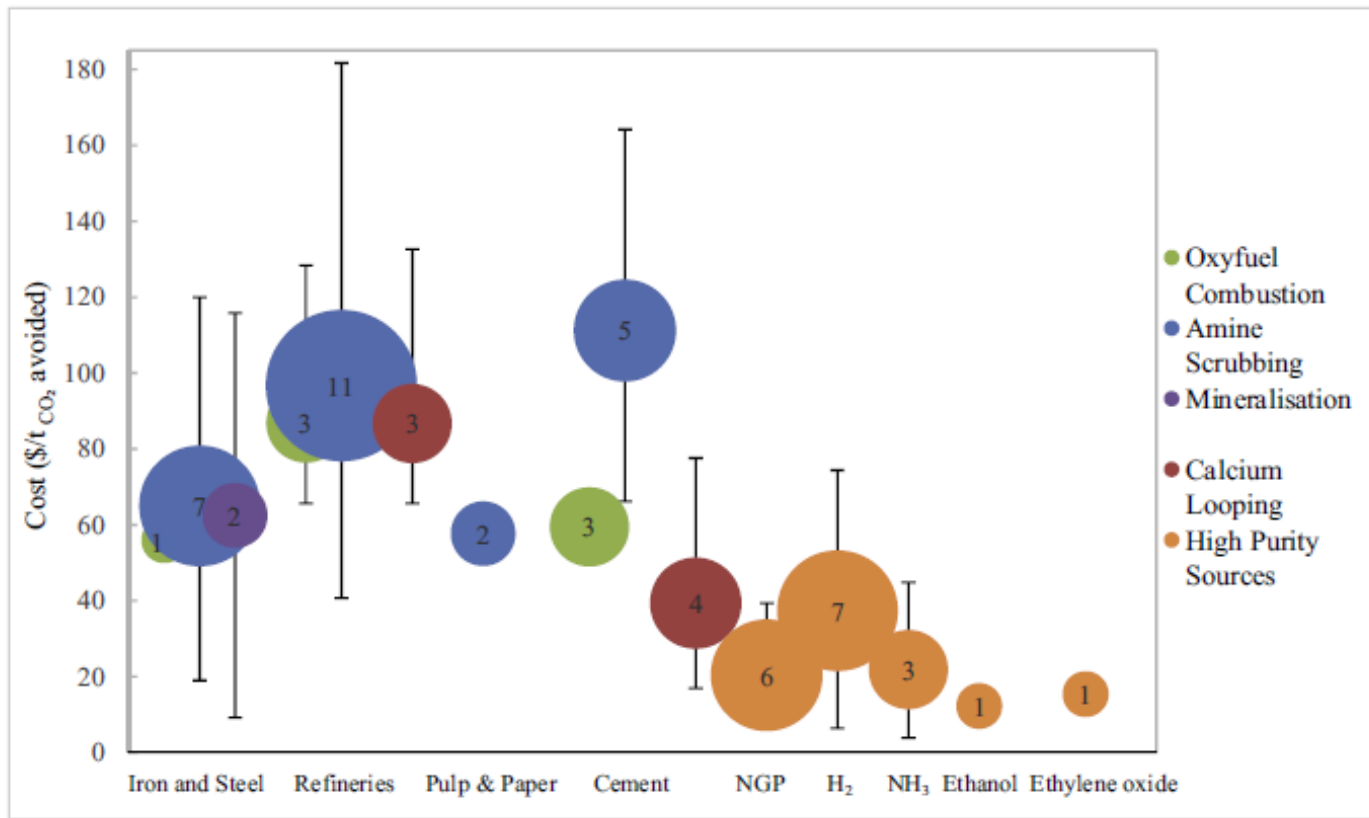


Last month, Carbon Engineering, a Canadian clean energy company announced the completion of an equity financing round of \$68m, marking the largest private investment made into a Direct Air Capture (DAC) company to date.



Cost of CO₂ capture

- Merit curve for CO₂ capture
- NB: DAC ~100\$/ton



CO₂ market

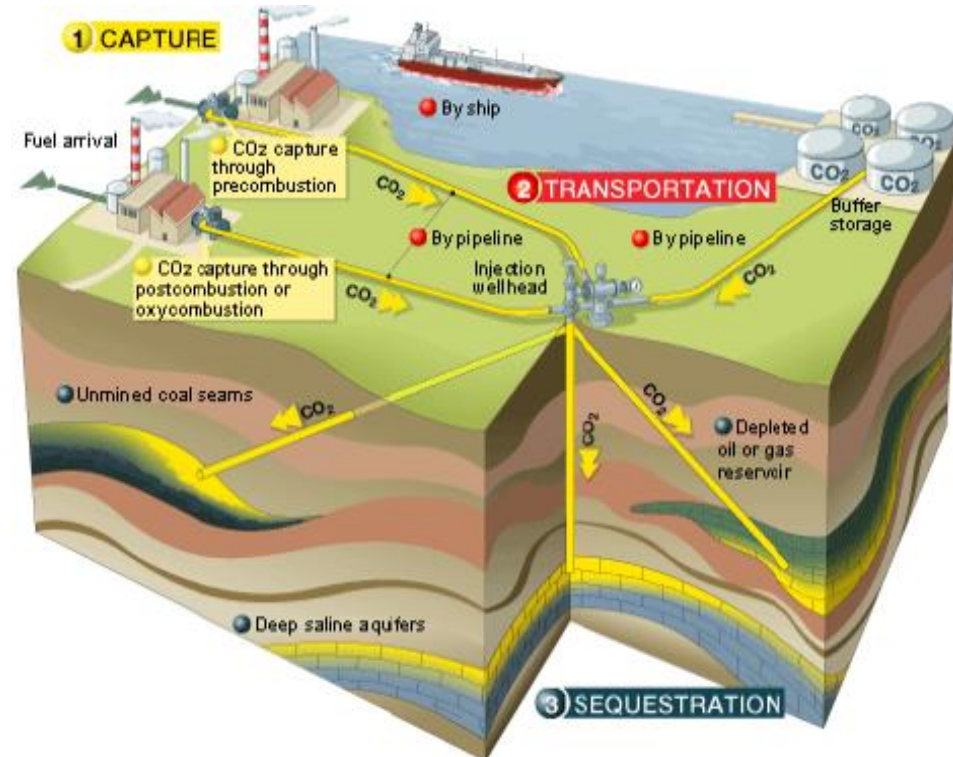
- European Emissions Trading System (ETS)
- CO₂ price now reaches 25 €/t!



3. CO₂ re-use technologies

A full supply chain... but cost only!

■ Capture – Transport – Storage...

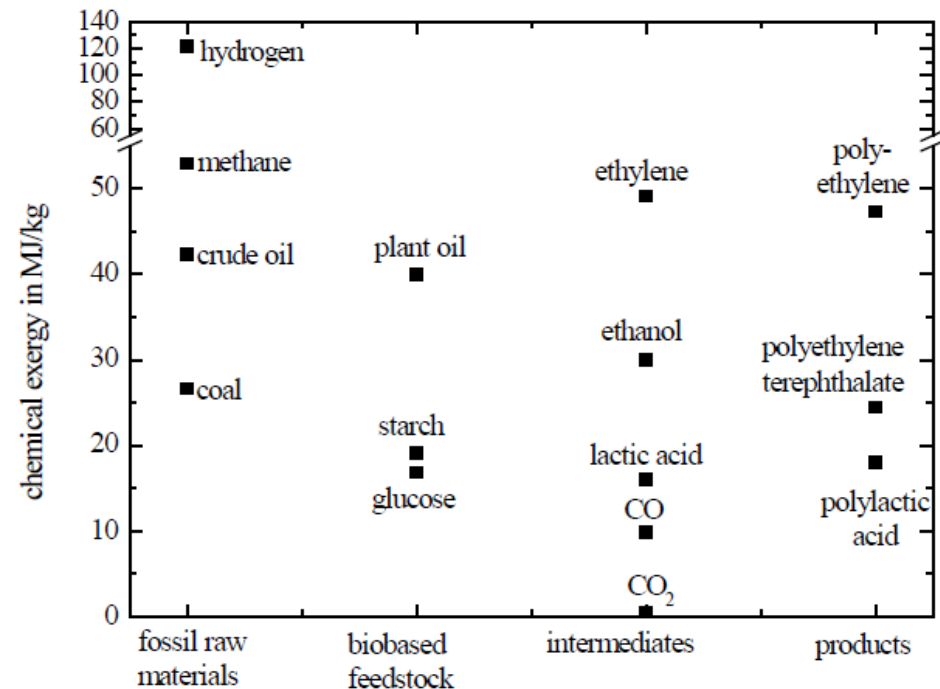


■ ... or re-use!

- 2016: ~ 250 Mt CO₂ reused (15% CCS, 50% Urea, 35% others)
- Large potential: ~ 4 Gtpa CO₂

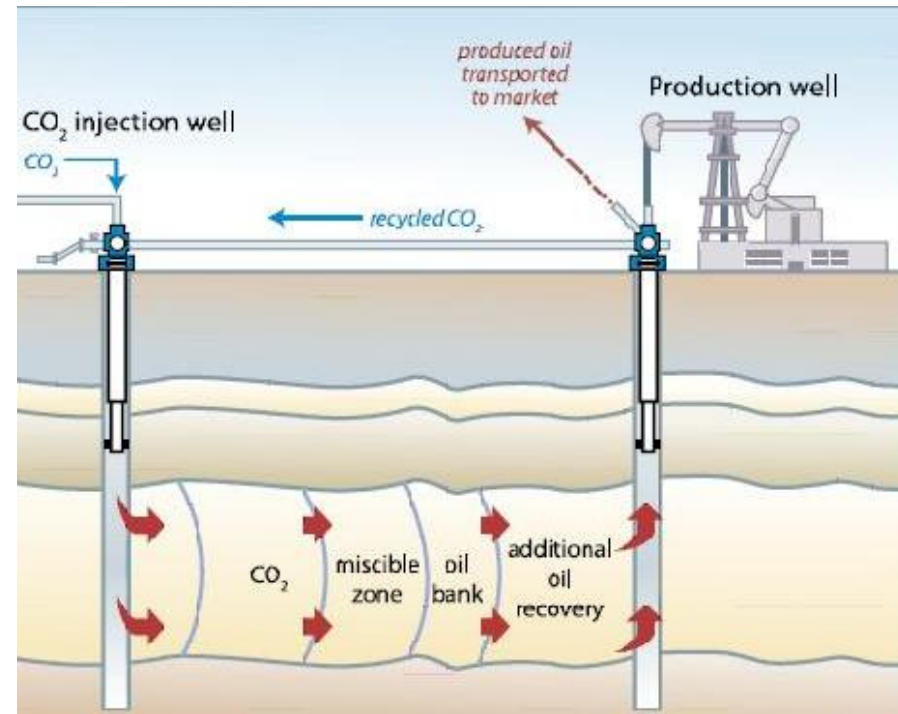
Main CO₂ re-use pathways

- Direct use, no transformation
- Biological transformation
- Chemical transformation
 - To lower energy state
 - To higher energy state



=> At large scale, need to make sure that energy comes from renewables!

Direct industrial use



Biological transformation

- Photosynthesis
 - Greenhouses
 - Microalgae

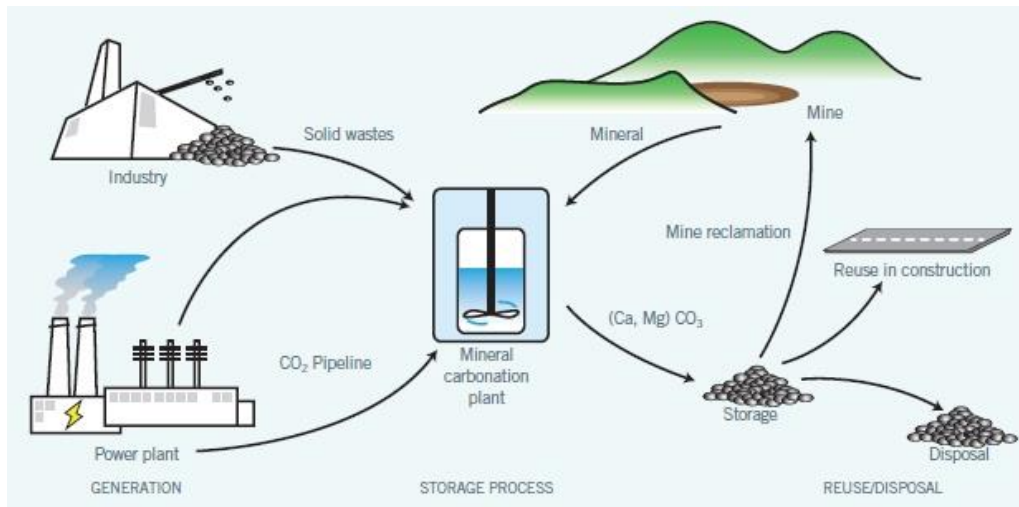


- Drawbacks:
 - Area for cultivation (+- 120 t CO₂/ha)
 - Energy for post-processing

Chemical transformation to lower energy

■ Mineralization - Carbonatation

- $\text{CaO} + \text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{CaCO}_3$
- $\text{MgO} + \text{CO}_2 \rightarrow \text{MgCO}_3$
- $\text{Mg}_2\text{SiO}_4 + 2 \text{CO}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{MgCO}_3 + \text{SiO}_2$



Carbstone, ORBIX, 2019



■ Spontaneous but slow reaction

CO₂ to chemicals: C source for petrochemistry

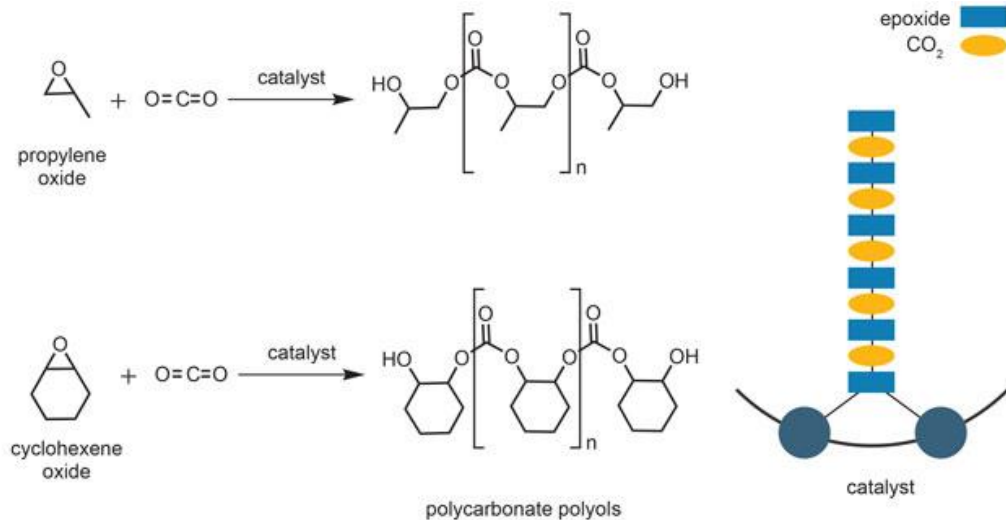
■ Urea

- $2 \text{NH}_3 + \text{CO}_2 \rightarrow (\text{NH}_2)_2\text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Already large use (~ 120 MtCO₂/an)



■ Polycarbonates

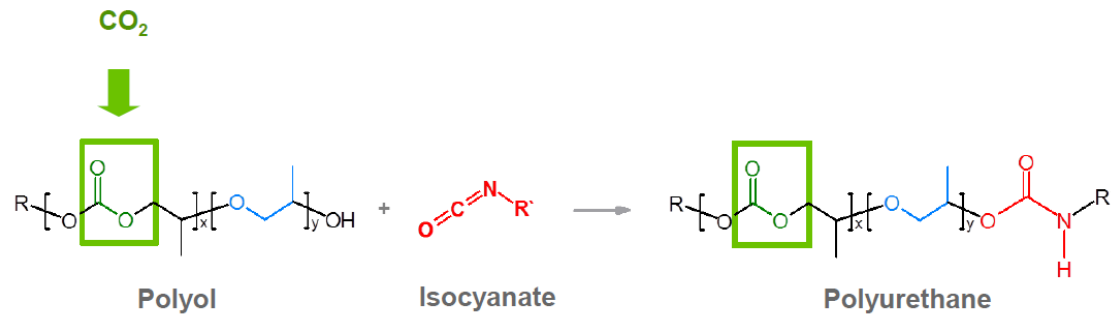
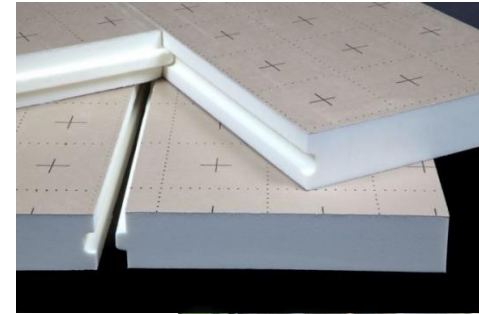
- CO₂ + epoxides
- Up to 40% CO₂ in the plastic!



CO₂ to chemicals

■ Polyurethanes

- 18 Mtpa market
- 20% CO₂ in the final plastic



- Covestro: 5000 t/a pilot reactor

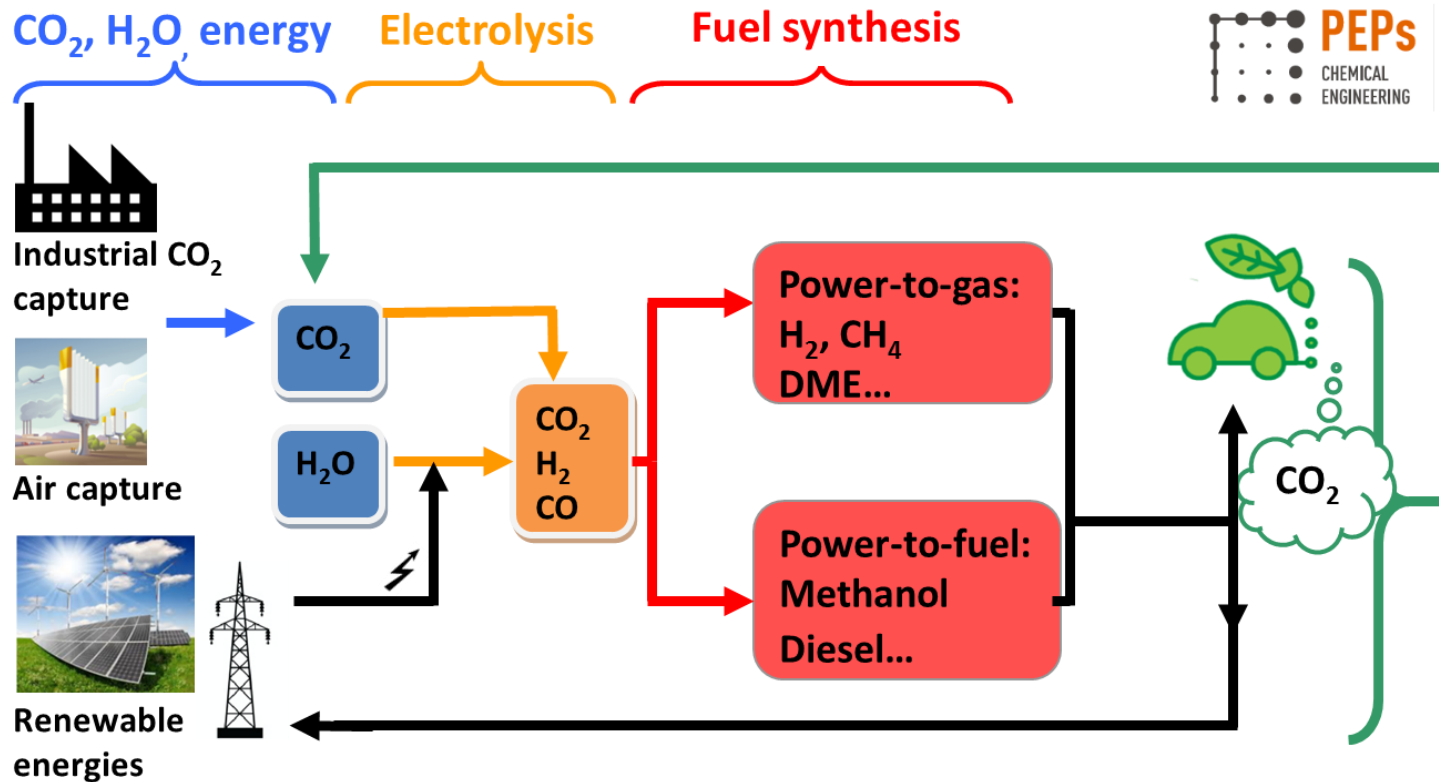


- Next step: remove isocyanates => NIPU

- Grignard B. et al., Green Chem., 2016, 18, 2206

CO₂ to fuels

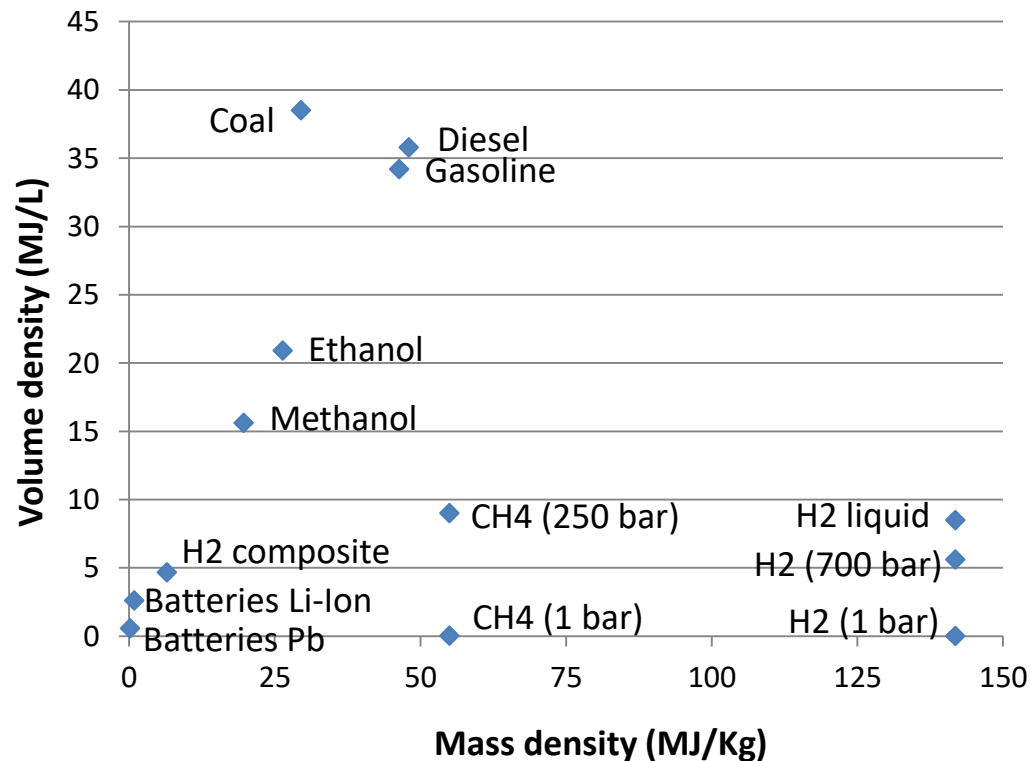
- CO₂ as energy carrier for renewable energies
- Power-to-liquid, power-to-gas



=> Sustainability is possible with carbonated fuels!

CO₂ to fuels

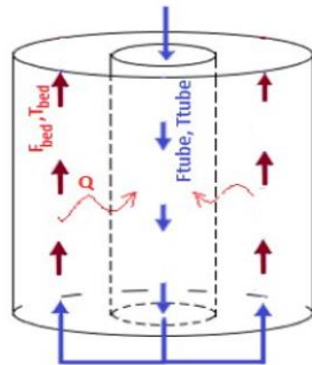
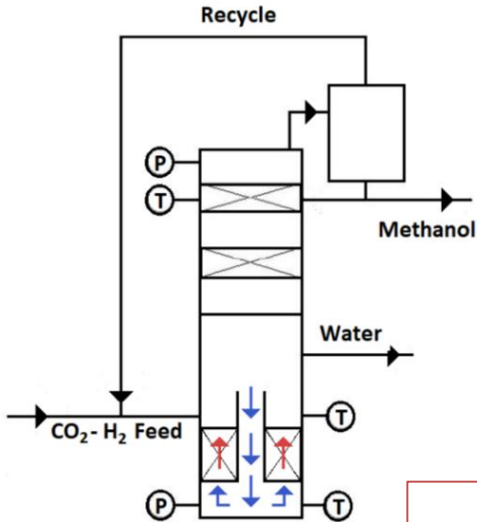
- Decisive advantage: a fantastic energy density!
 - Methanol (CRI), DME, Fischer-Tropsch (Sunfire)...
 - Interseasonal energy storage is possible!



Research ULiège at process scale

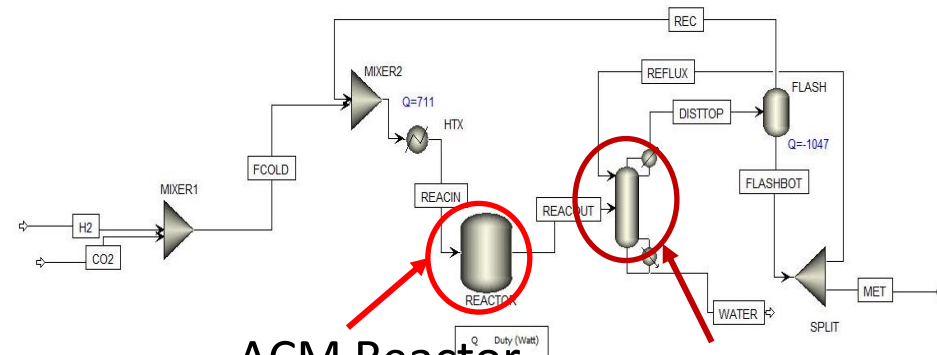
■ Novel methanol reactor design

- Intensification of synthesis reactor for CO₂ reduction to methanol



$$T_{MeOH} = \frac{k'_{5a} K'_2 K_3 K_4 K_{H_2} p_{CO_2} p_{H_2} [1 - 1/K^* (\frac{p_{H_2O} p_{CH_3OH}}{p_{H_2}^3 p_{CO_2}})]}{(1 + K_{H_2O}/K_8 K_9 K_{H_2}) (\frac{p_{H_2O}}{p_{H_2}} + \sqrt{K_{H_2} p_{H_2} + K_{H_2O} p_{H_2O}})^3}$$

$$T_{RWGS} = \frac{k'_1 p_{CO_2} [1 - K_3^* (\frac{p_{H_2O} p_{CO}}{p_{H_2}^3 p_{CO_2}})]}{(1 + K_{H_2O}/K_8 K_9 K_{H_2}) (\frac{p_{H_2O}}{p_{H_2}} + \sqrt{K_{H_2} p_{H_2} + K_{H_2O} p_{H_2O}})^3}$$



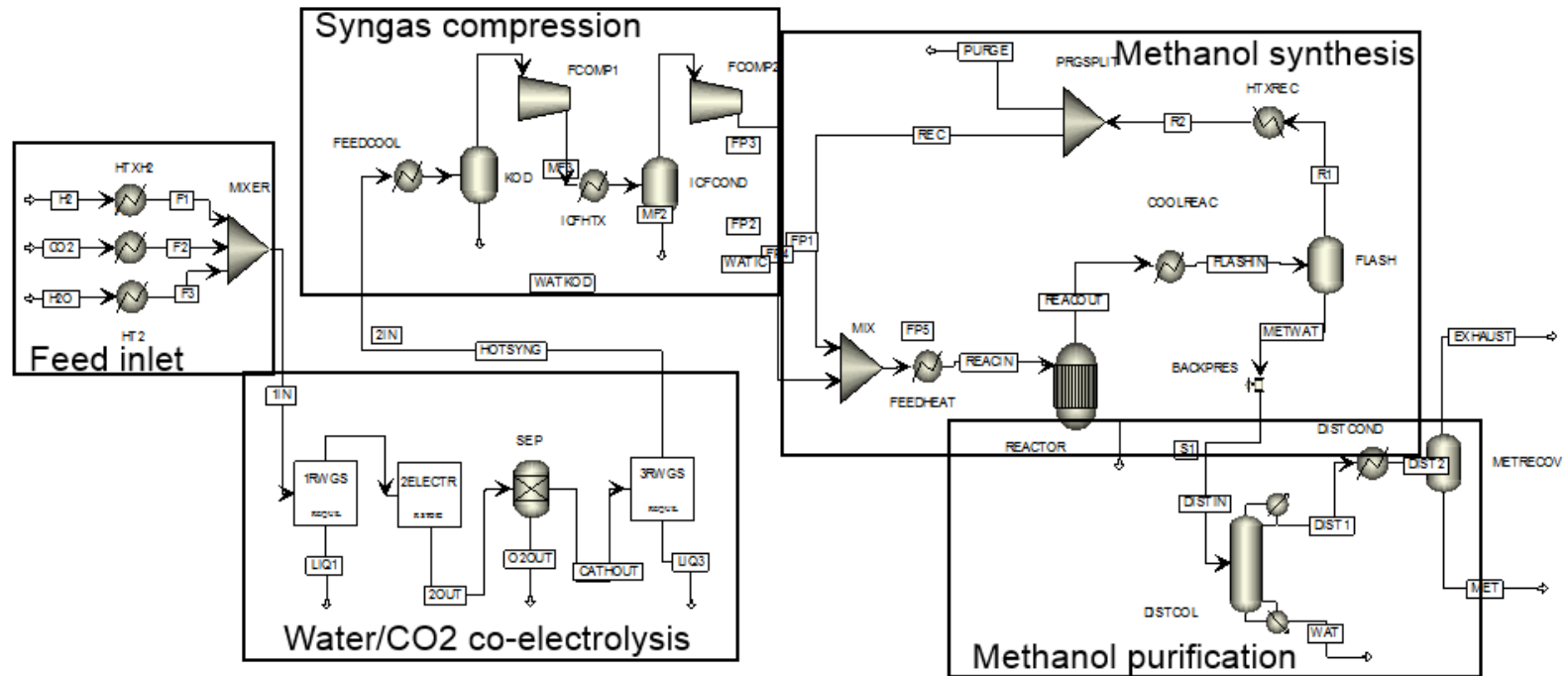
ACM Reactor

Distillation column

Research ULiège at process scale

■ Process integration

- Models for electrolysis, CO₂ capture and fuel synthesis
- Heat integration to increase efficiency from 40 to 53% !



4. The FRITCO₂T Platform at ULiege

www.chemeng.uliege.be/FRITCO2T

The FRITCO₂T Platform

Chemical Transformation

Synthetic Fuels



Monomers & Polymers



Mineralization



Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetology



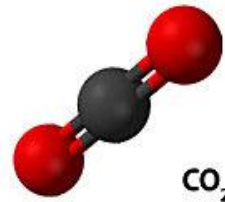
Direct CO₂ use
(solvent, foaming...)



Process sustainability
(LCA and economics)



Sourcing
Capture & Purification

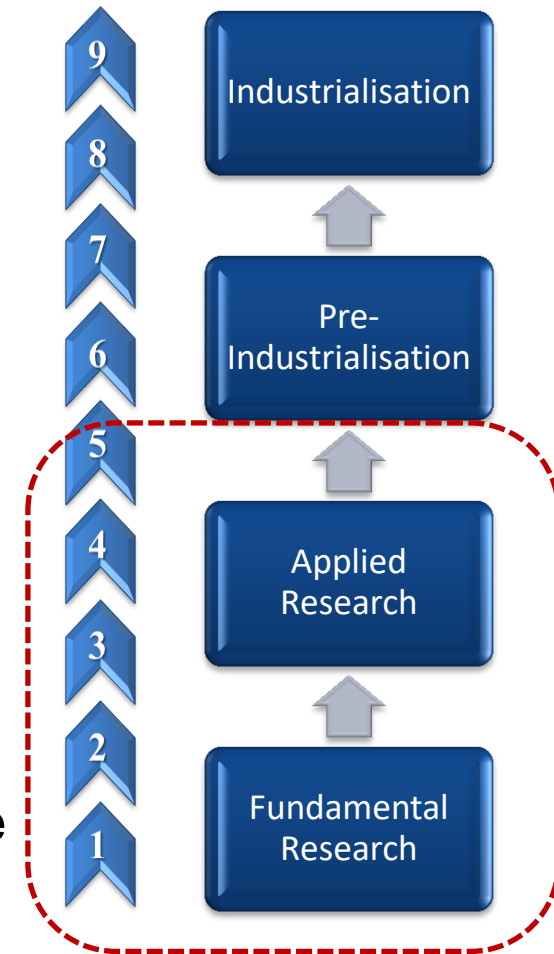


Physical Use

Transversal
WP

Missions of the platform

- Market needs, fundamentals pushes
 - Give rationals and scientific background to new ideas
 - Accelerate climbing of the TRL scale
- Lead large-scale research projects
 - From Regional to European projects
- Support technological developments
 - Support for operational issues
 - Holistic view: Circular economy and life cycle thinking



Success stories

- About 20-25 Researchers
- More than 45 research projects in the last 20 years, 10 on-going
- About 12 M€ funding achieved, > 3 M€ unique equipment

From lab to pilot scale



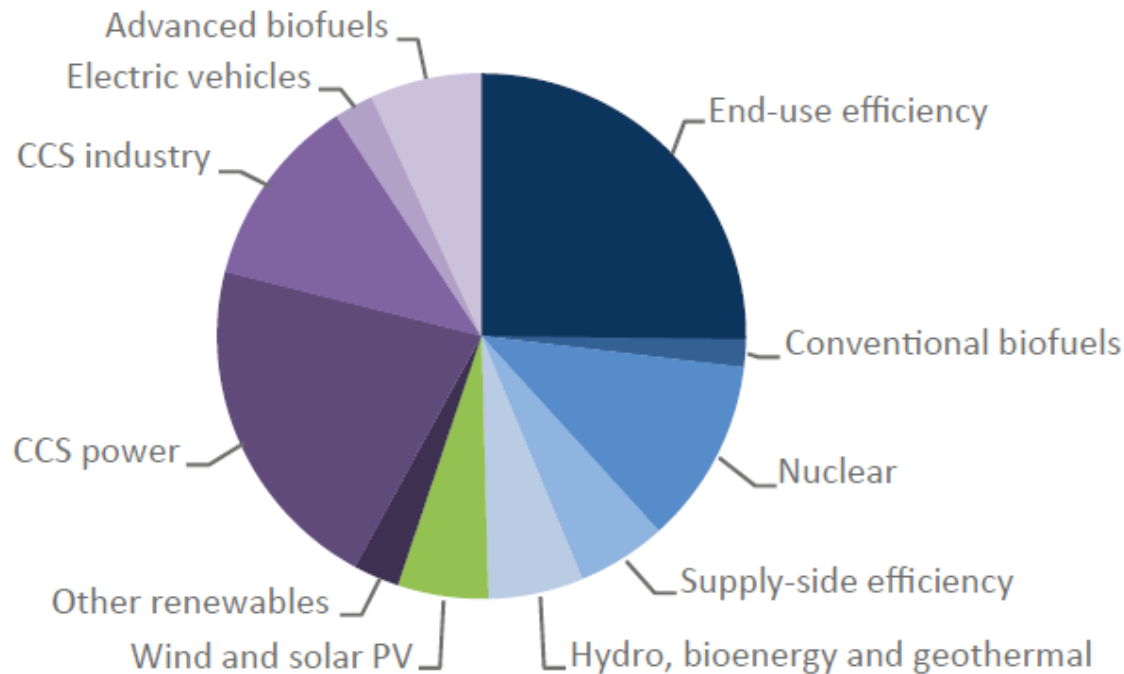
High performance analytical tools



CO₂-assisted processes



Conclusion: to store or to use?

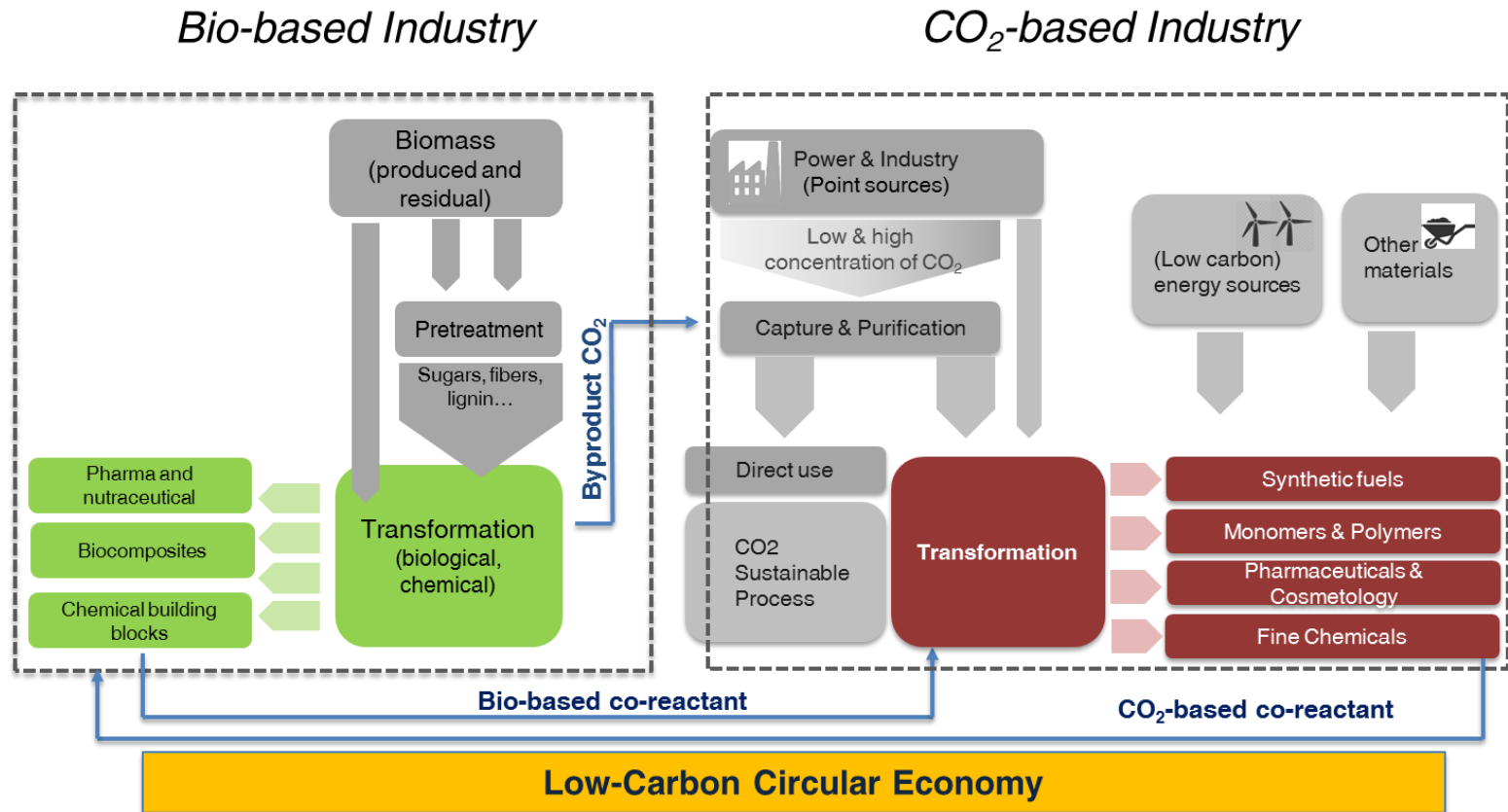


World CO₂ emissions abatement in the 450 Scenario (Bridge Scenario 2015-2040), IEA **2015**, WEO special report, Energy & Climate Change

- **CCS**: mature technology, but cost only!
- **CCU**: may help to create viable business

Conclusion

- Synergies to be developed



Thank you for your attention!

g.leonard@uliege.be