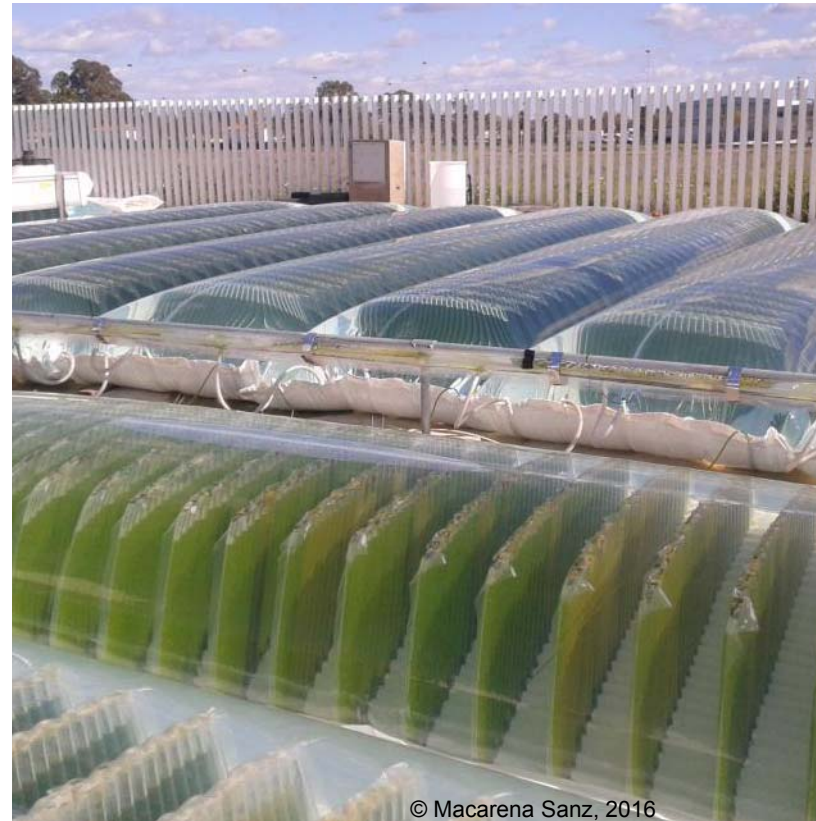


# Nachhaltigkeitsbewertung von Biotreibstoffen aus Mikroalgen

## Ergebnisse aus dem Projekt FUEL4ME



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Graz, Österreich  
3. April 2017



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# FUEL4ME

## Future European League for Microalgal Energy

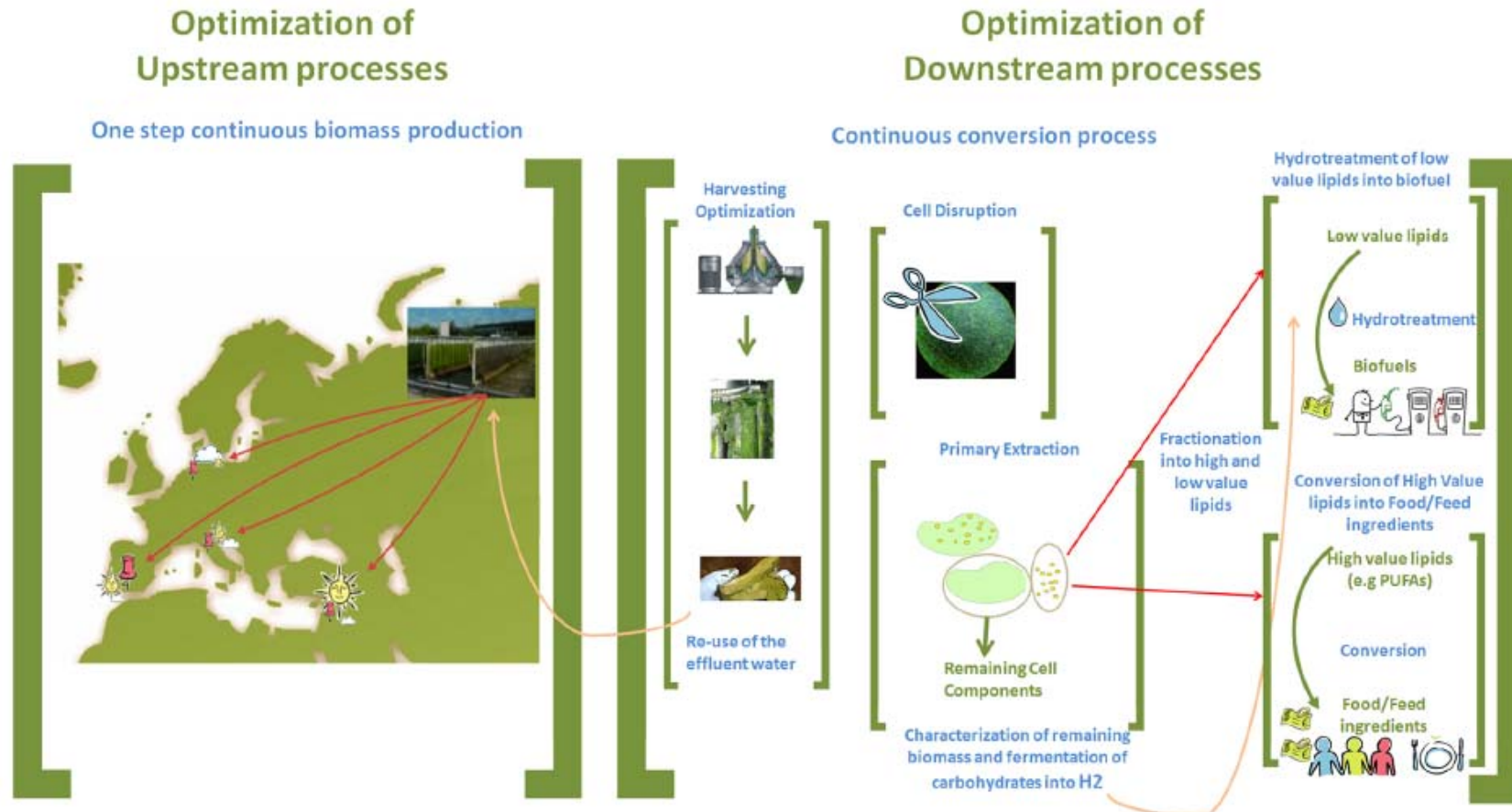
2

- Project funded by program FP7-ENERGY-2012-1
- Project coordinator:  
Wageningen University & Research (Wageningen, Netherlands)
- 10 project partners
- Project duration: January 2013 – December 2016
- Overall aim:
  - Establishing a sustainable chain for continuous biofuel production using microalgae as a production platform
  - Thereby making 2<sup>nd</sup> generation biofuels competitive alternatives to fossil fuels

<http://www.fuel4me.eu/>

# Production Process: From Algae Cultivation to Biofuel

3



# Sustainability Assessment

4

- Outline and assess the sustainability of a continuous production and conversion process
- Includes environmental, economic and social aspects
- Based on the whole value chain
- Compared to conventional systems
- Determine economic feasibility and environmental sustainability



# Selection of Sustainability Indicators in LCSA

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## ➤ Environment

- ✓ **GHG** emissions (t CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/a)
- ✓ **Primary energy** demand (GJ/a) (renewable, fossil, other)
- ✓ **Area** demand (ha/a)



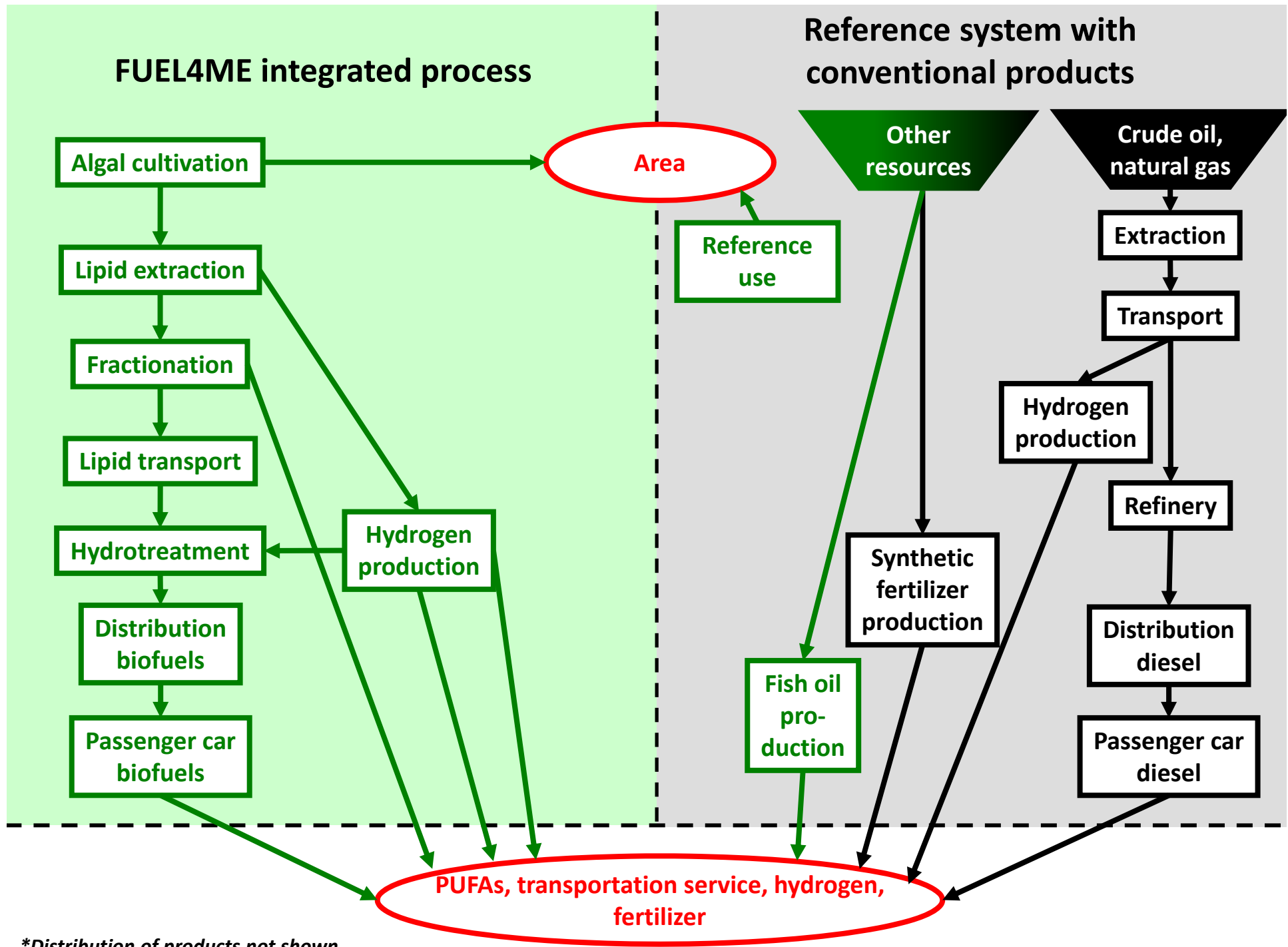
## ➤ Economy

- ✓ Production **costs** (€/a)
- ✓ **Revenues** from products (€/a)
- ✓ **Value** added (€/a)
- ✓ **Employment** (persons/a)
- ✓ **Trade** balance (€/a)



## ➤ Social

- ✓ **Workers**
- ✓ Consumers
- ✓ **Local community**
- ✓ Society
- ✓ **Value chain actors** (excl. consumers)



*\*Distribution of products not shown*



# Overview

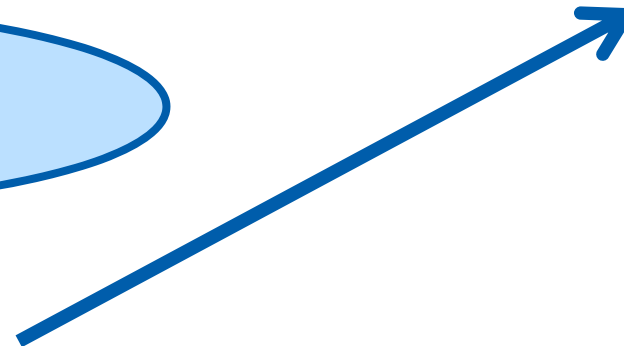
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**Conclusions**

**State of technology  
in FUEL4ME**

**Full-scale  
commercial plant**

**Introduction**

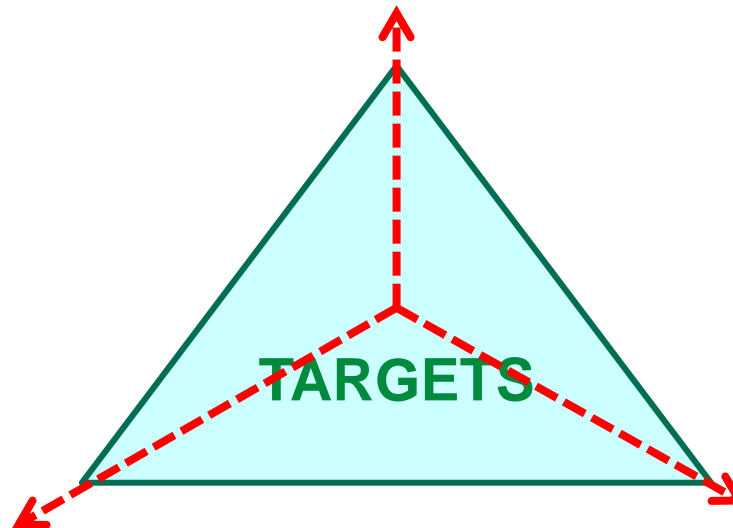


# Modelling to fulfill three Main Targets for Commercialization

8

## Production costs (possible revenues):

- Algal biomass:  $< 2,000 \text{ €} / t_{DM}$
- Algal oil for biofuels:  $< 900 \text{ €} / t_{oil}$
- PUFA:  $11,000 - 15,000 \text{ €} / t_{PUFA}$



## GHG reduction (according to RED):

- $\geq 60\%$  ( $\leq 33.5 \text{ g CO}_2\text{-eq/MJ}_{biofuel}$ )
- with transport  $2 \text{ g CO}_2\text{-eq/MJ}_{biofuel}$
- processing  $1.3 - 1.7 \text{ g CO}_2\text{-eq/MJ}_{biofuel}$  (with H<sub>2</sub> from algae residues)

## Cumulated fossil primary energy demand:

$$\leq 0.3 \text{ MJ}_{fossil} / \text{MJ}_{biofuel}$$



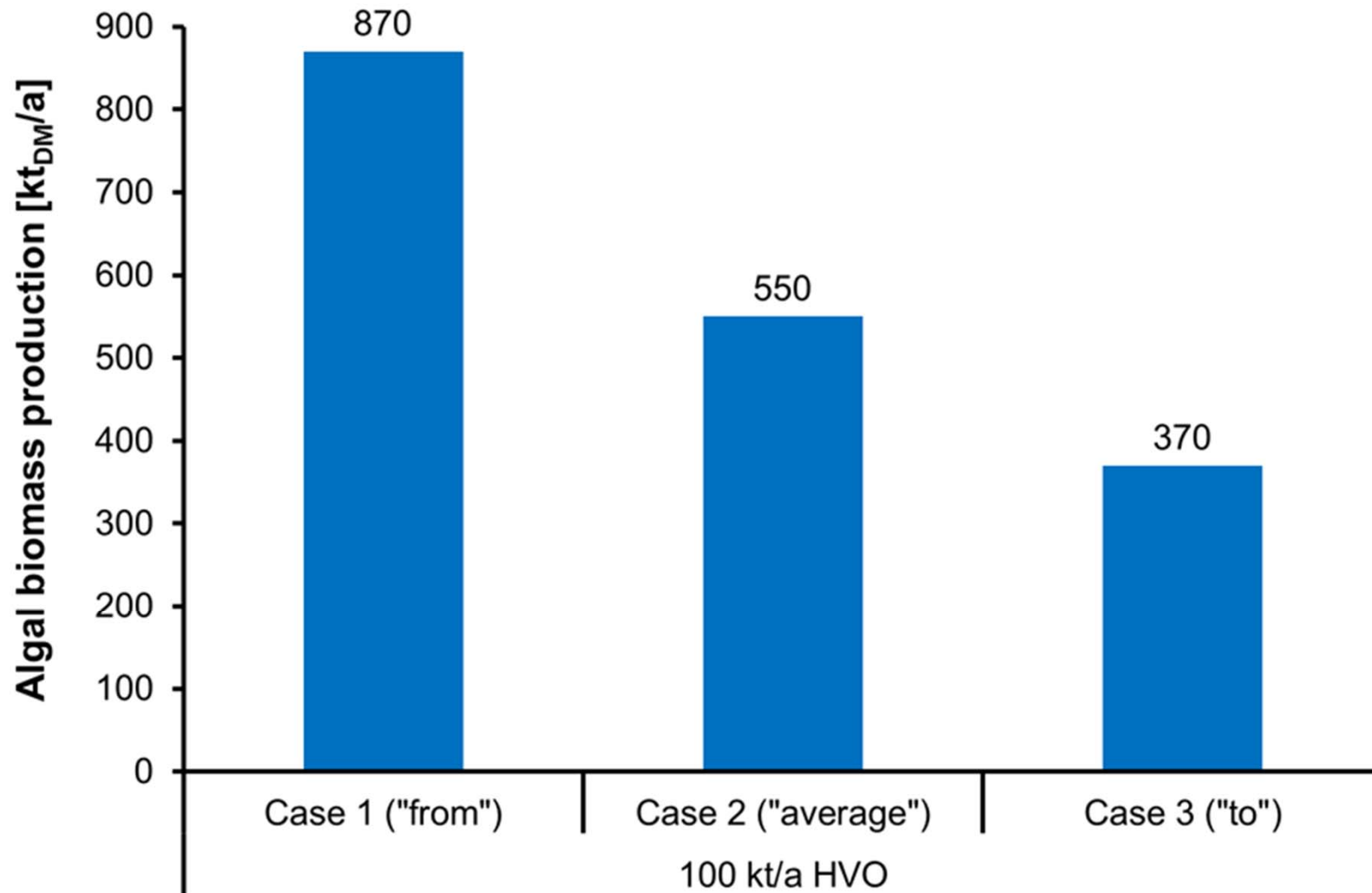
# Development of three Cases for 100 kt Biofuel Production

9

- **Definition** of 3 Cases based on the assumptions
  
- **Each Case has specific values** out of the assumed value ranges, e.g. lipid yield: 18 – 35 t/(ha\*a)
  - Case 1: favourable conditions, naming „from“
  - Case 2: average favourable conditions, naming „average“
  - Case 3: very favourable conditions, naming „to“
  
- To define **guiding values** and **sustainability indicators** for a full scale integrated microalgal-based process

# Estimated Algal Biomass Production

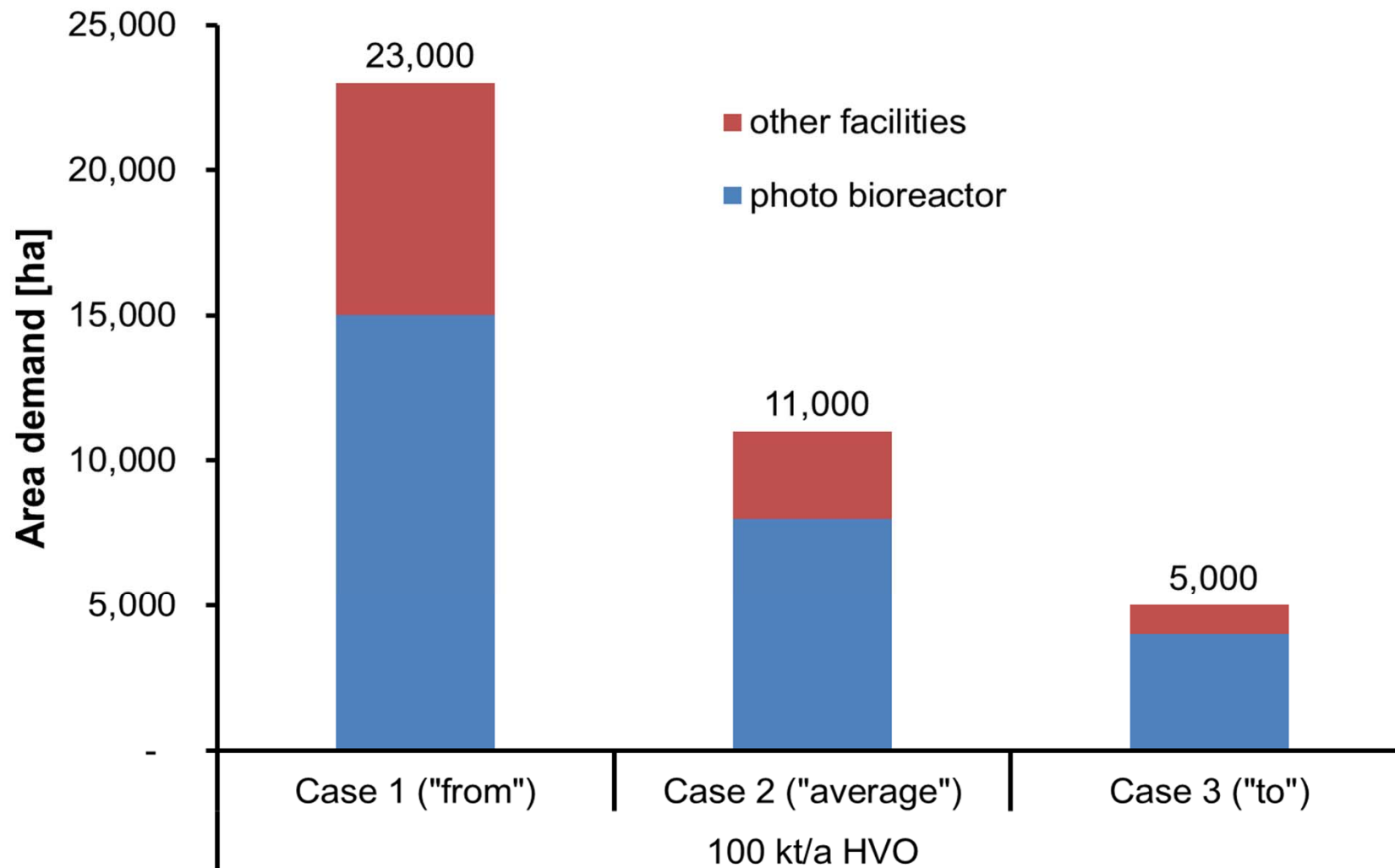
10



Modelled with ALGAE\_UPSCALE 1.0

# Estimated Area Demand

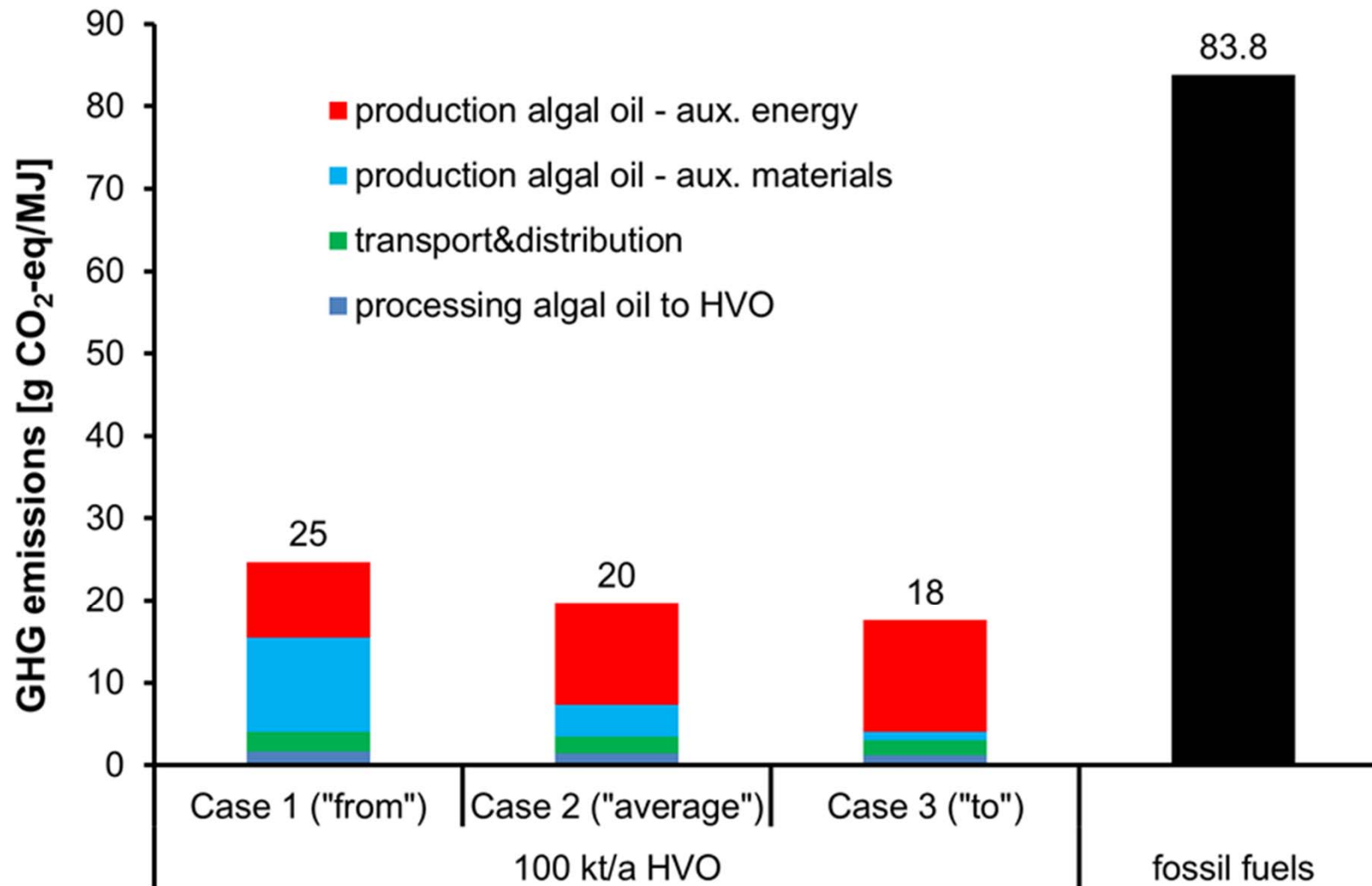
11



Modelled with ALGAE\_UPSCALE 1.0

# Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emissions of HVO (according to RED Methodology)

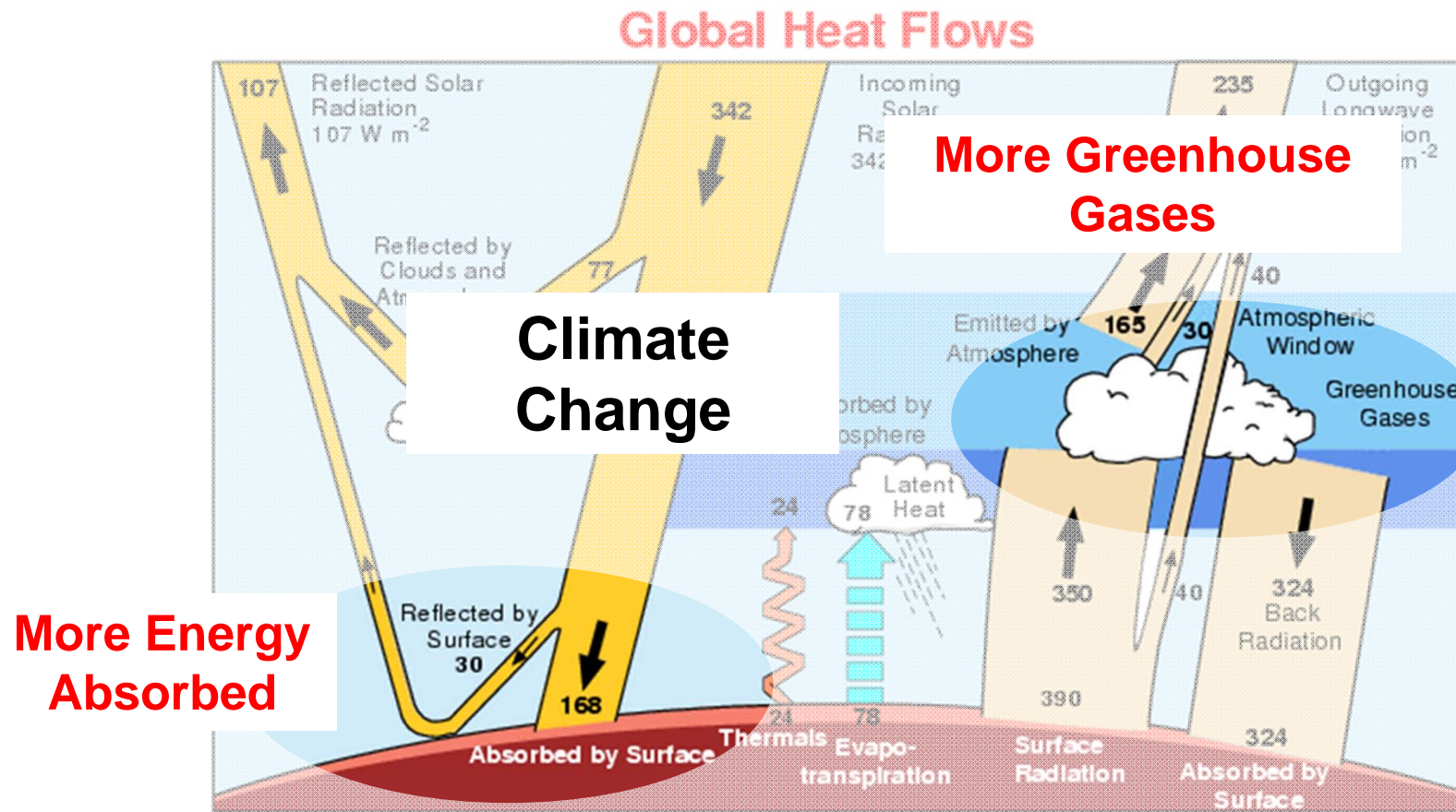
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Modelled with ALGAE\_UPSCALE 1.0

# Earth's Annual and Global Mean Energy Balance

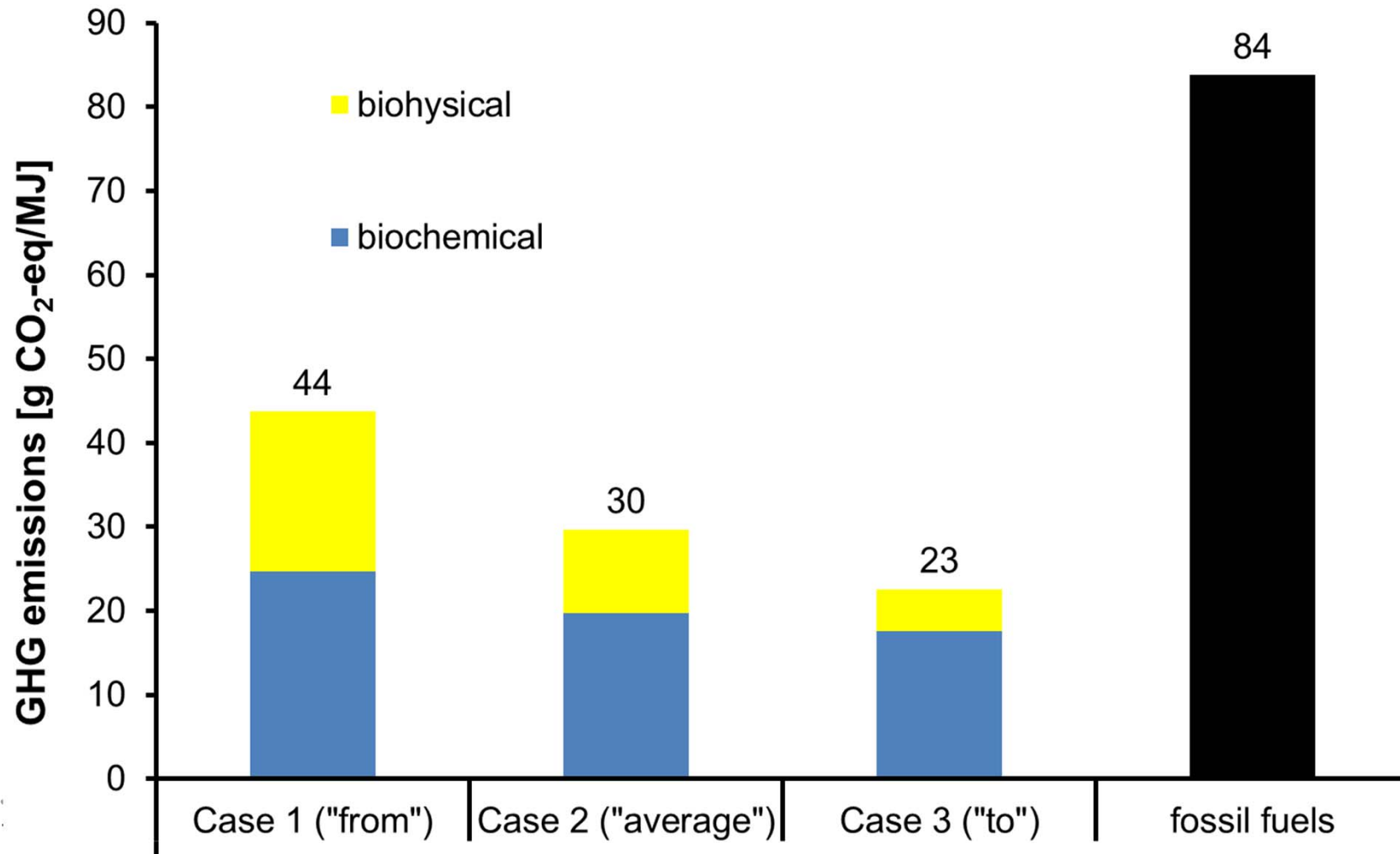
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from Windows to the Universe® (<http://windows2universe.org>)

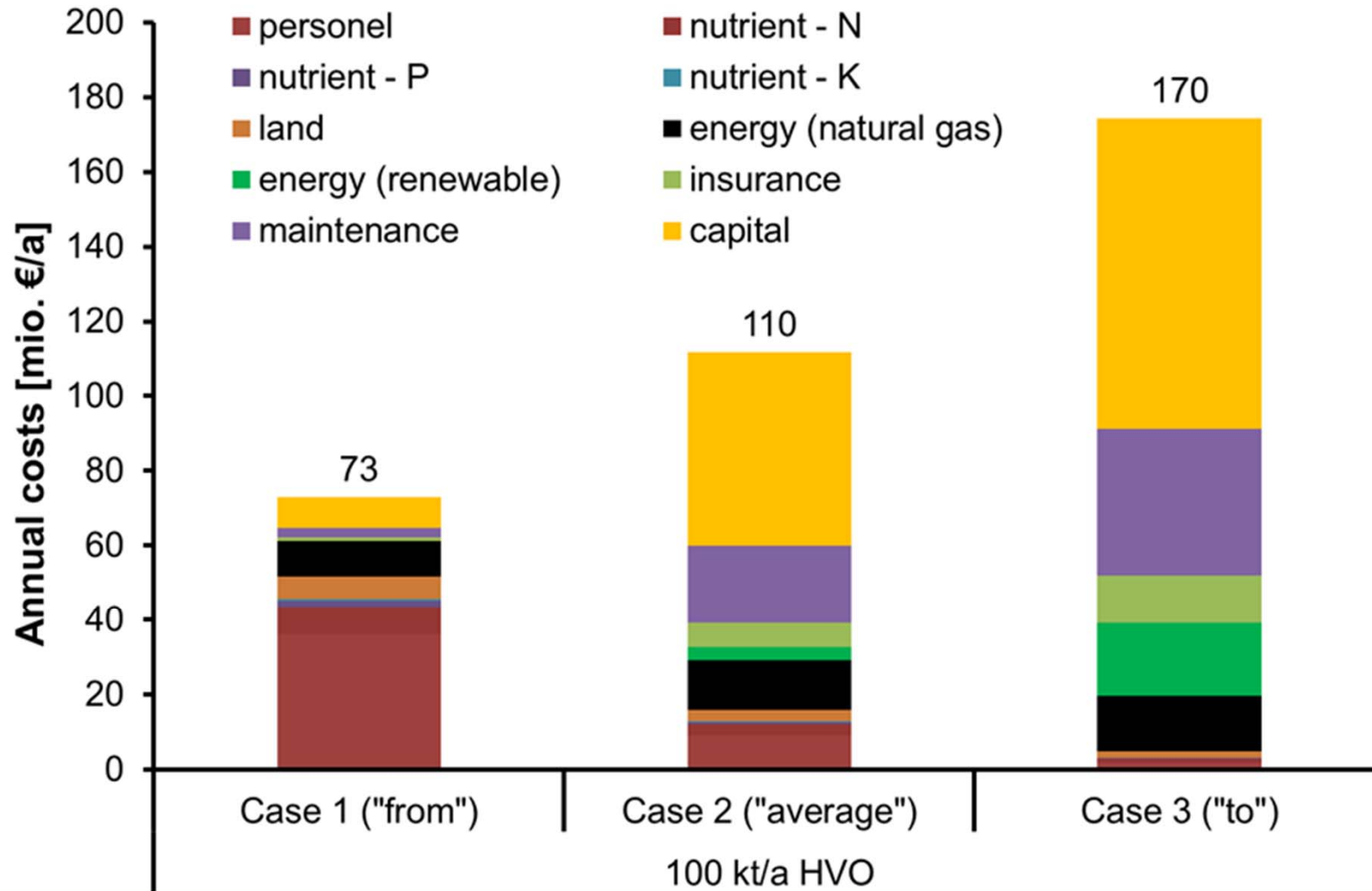
# GHG Emissions incl. Biophysical Impacts (Albedo)

14



# Estimated Share of Annual Costs of Algal Oil Production

15



Modelled with ALGAE\_UPSCALE 1.0



# Possible Social „Hot Spots“

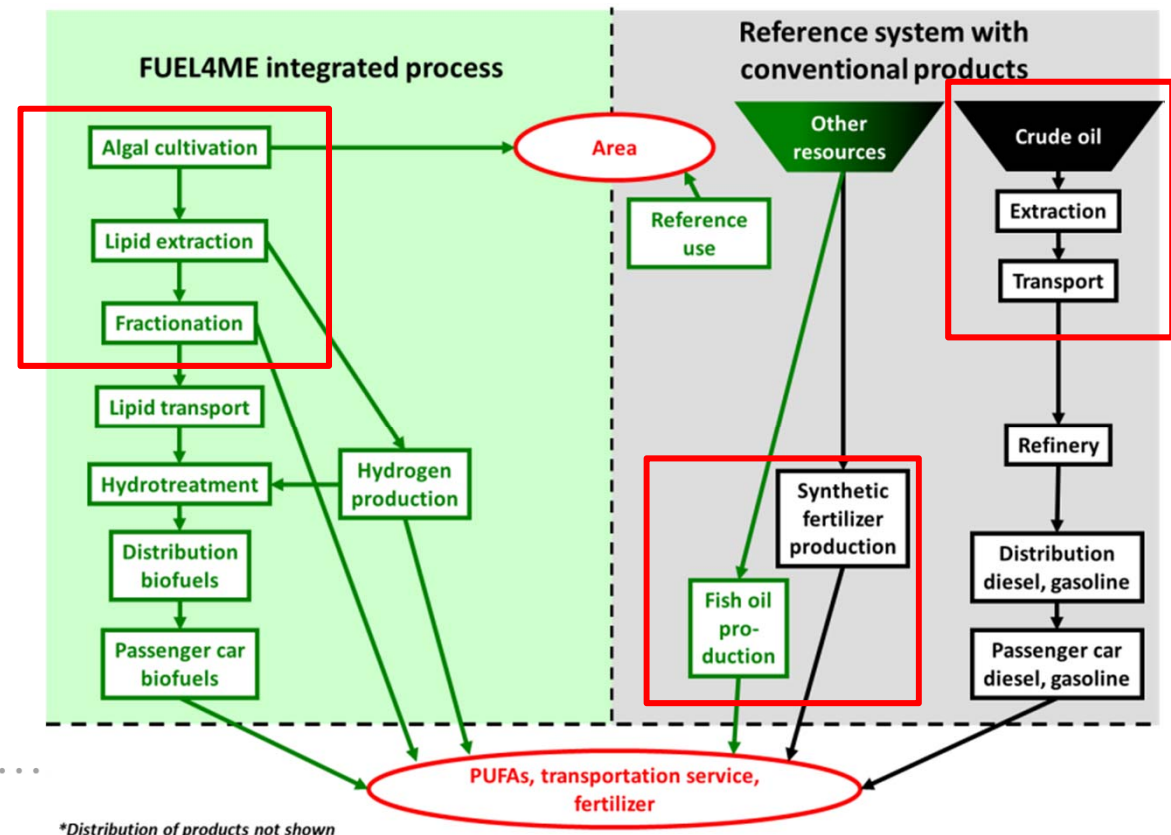
16

Process steps where social issues should be addressed:

- Cultivation and harvesting
- Lipid extraction and fractionation

“Hot spots”:

- Differences Europe – Outside Europe
- Engagement with local citizens
- Local employment
- Transparency to foster the acceptance



# Overview

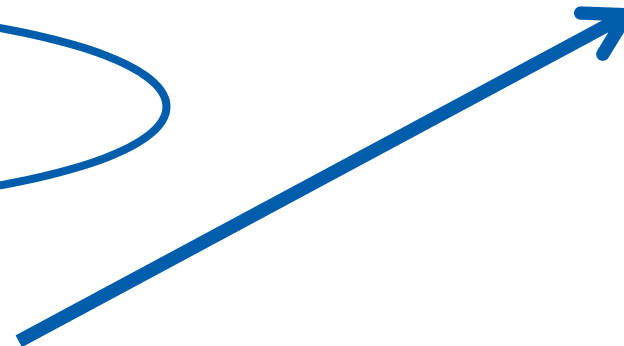
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**Conclusions**

**State of technology  
in FUEL4ME**

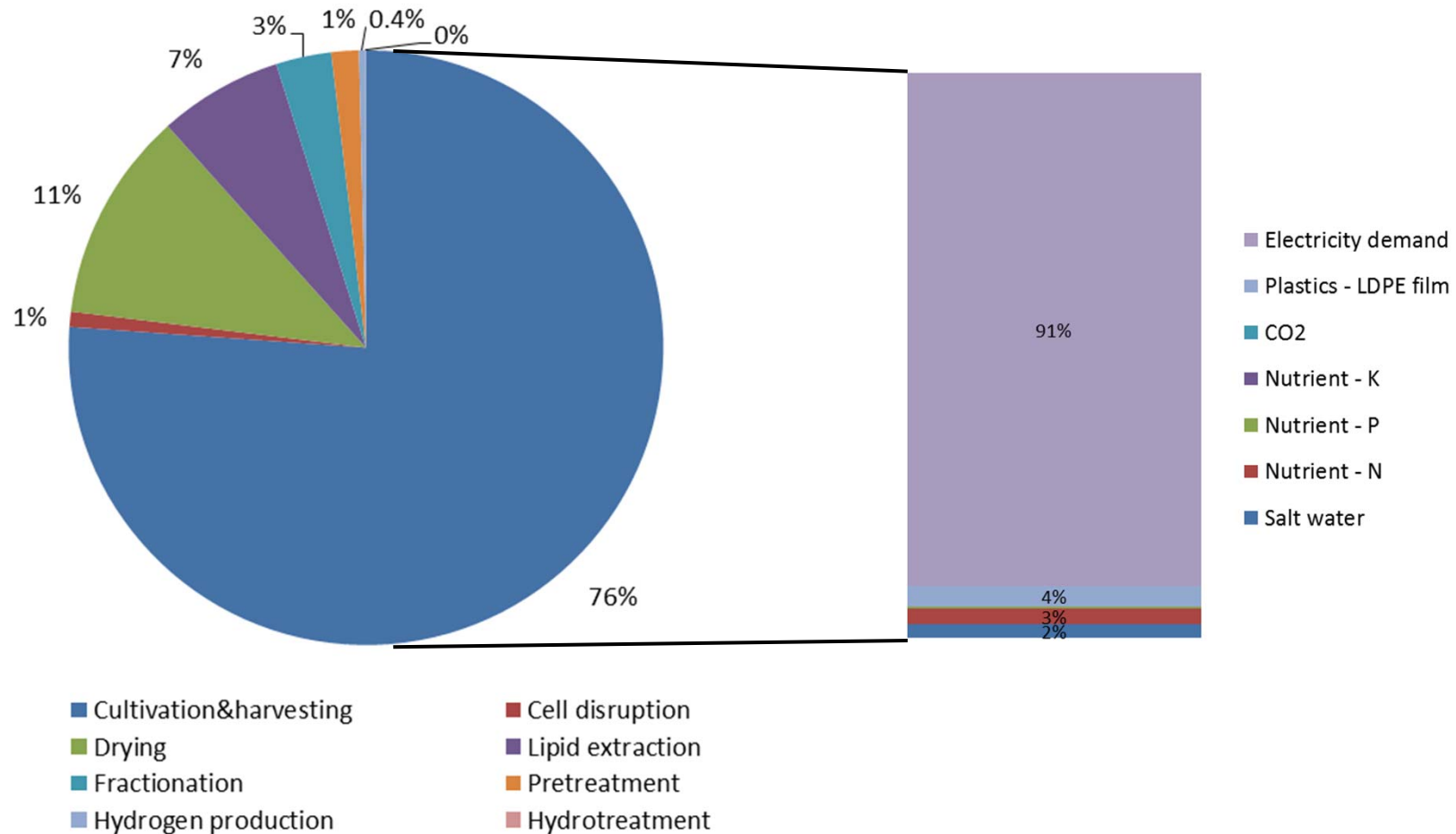
**Full-scale  
commercial plant**

**Introduction**



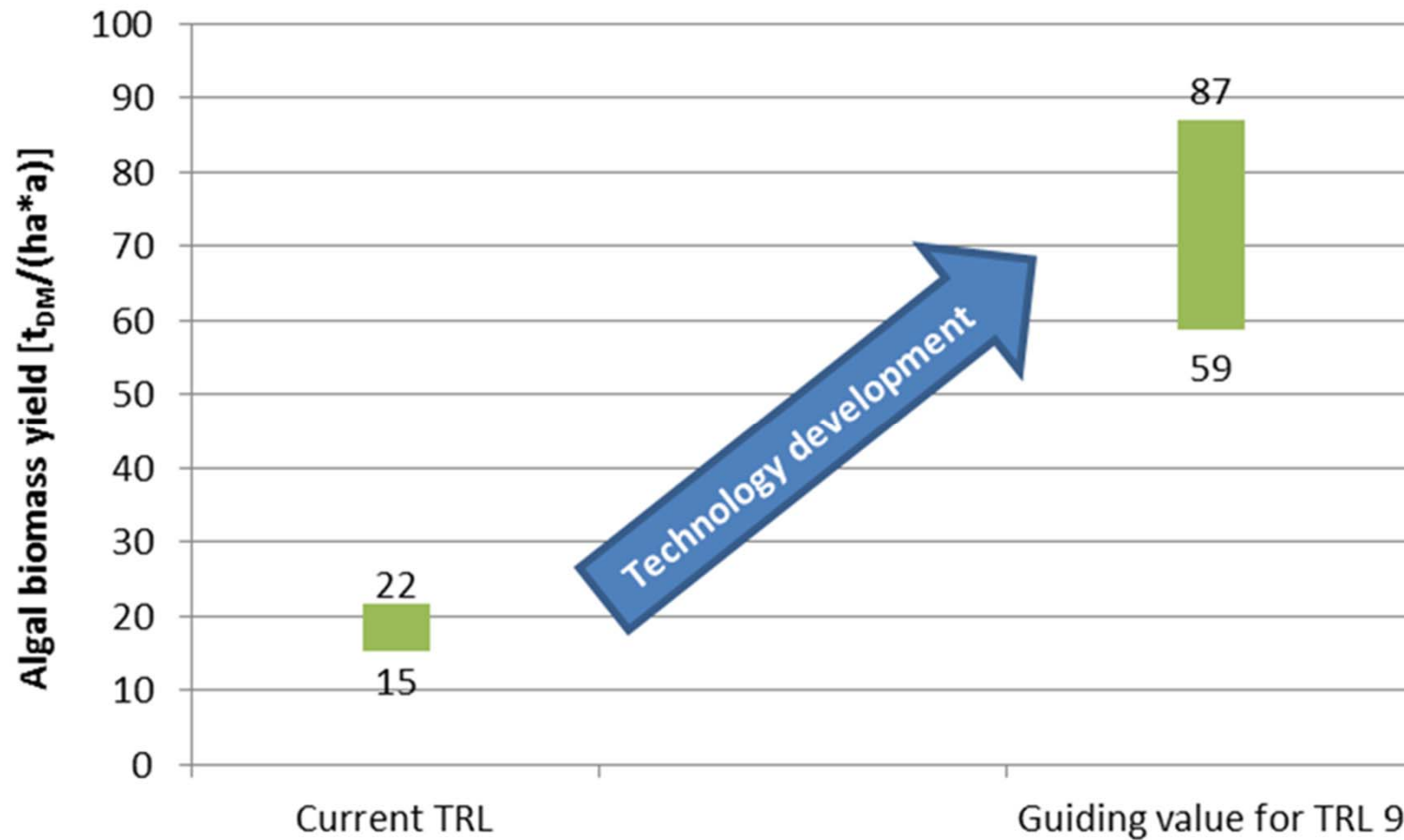
# GHG Emissions for FUEL4ME defined Concepts

18



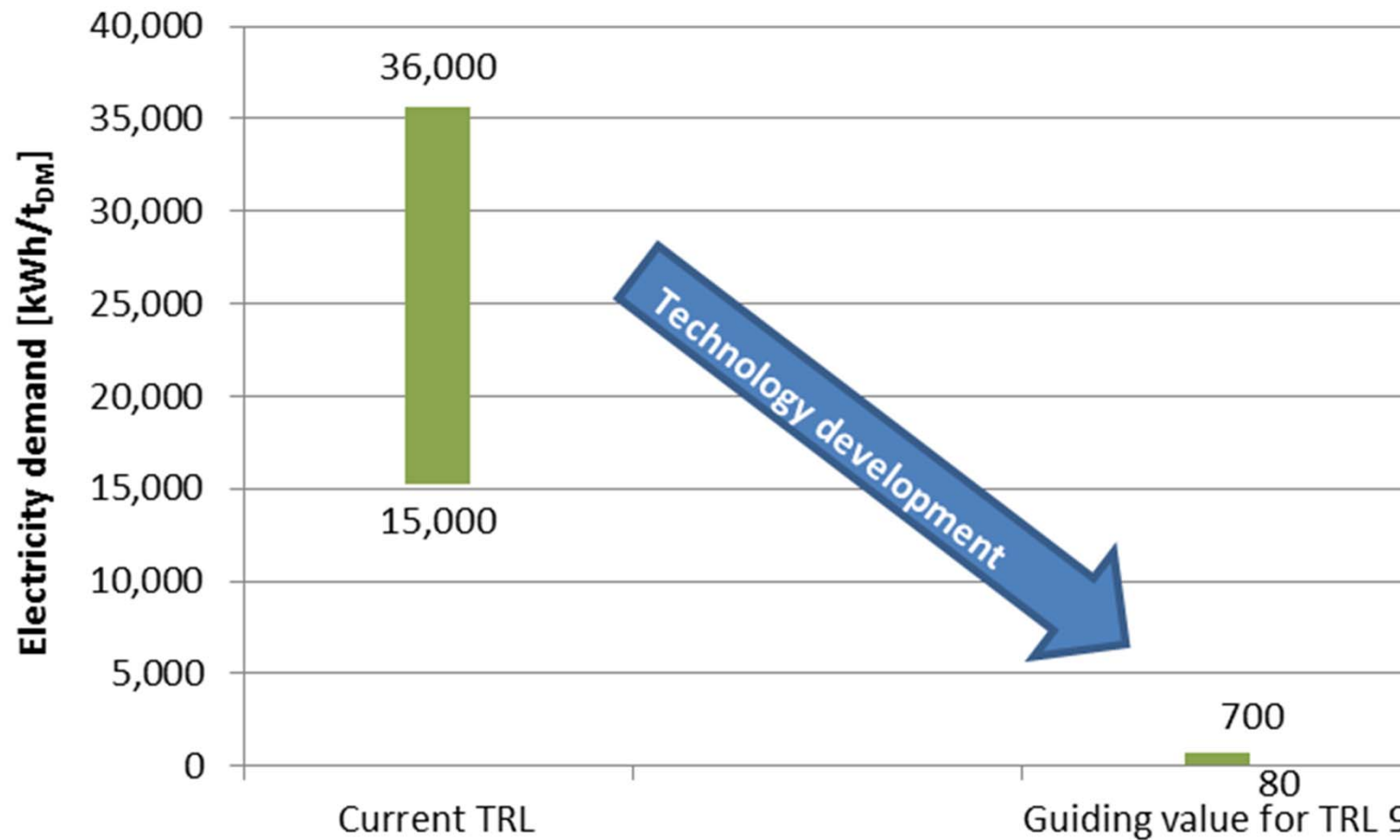
# Algal Biomass Yield

19



# Electricity Demand

20



# Overview

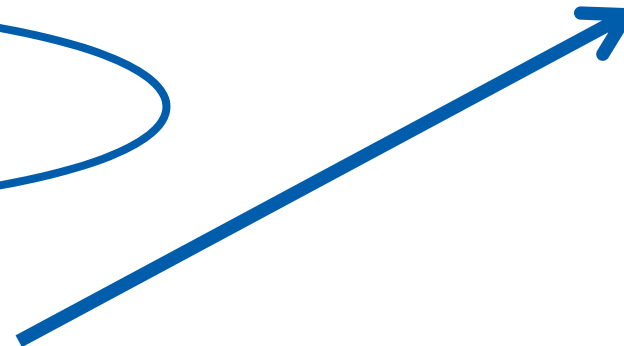
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**Conclusions**

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**Full-scale  
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**Introduction**



# Sustainability Indicators of a Full Scale Process

Technical values – cultivation	Average	Value range	Unit
algae oil yield	21	13 - 34	t_oil/(ha*a)
oil content algae	30	21 - 39	%_DM
PUFA content used	2	0 - 5	%_oil
algal biomass yield	71	59 – 87	t_DM/(ha*a)
nutrient recycling	70	60 – 80	%
<b>Technical values - production plant</b>			
production capacities	110	109 – 113	kt/a (algae oil, H <sub>2</sub> , PUFA)
algal biomass production	550	370 – 870	kt/a
CO <sub>2</sub> demand	280	210 – 390	kt/a
fuel power of CO <sub>2</sub> -source	180	100 – 340	MW_oil
	140	80 – 270	MW_wood
minimal hydrogen production	12	8 – 17	kg/t_residueDM
<b>Environmental indicators</b>			
cumulated primary energy demand	1.4	1.3 – 1.7	MJ_primaryenergy/MJ_HVO
electricity demand	240	80 – 700	kWh/t_DM
heat demand	320	100 – 1,300	kWh/t_DM
area demand	11,000	5,000 – 23,000	ha
GHG emissions	20	18 – 25	g_CO <sub>2</sub> -eq/MJ_HVO
GHG saving	77	71 – 79	%
GHG emissions of cultivation	16	15 – 21	g_CO <sub>2</sub> -eq/MJ_HVO
GHG emissions including albedo effect	30	23 - 44	g_CO <sub>2</sub> -eq/MJ_HVO
<b>Economic indicators</b>			
annual revenues	110	73 – 170	mio. €/a
annual costs	110	73 – 170	mio. €/a
investment costs	830	120 – 1,400	mio. €
specific investment costs	4,300	500 – 9,200	€/(t_oil&H <sub>2</sub> /a)
	1,500	141 – 3,700	€/(t_DM/a)
total specific costs	1,000	700 – 1,400	€/t_oil&H <sub>2</sub>
	200	80 – 420	€/t_DM
economic value added of FUEL4ME biorefinery	101	-	mio. €/a
economic value added: counter effects	-104	-101 - -107	mio. €/a
employment of FUEL4ME biorefinery	2,030	-	persons/a
employment: counter effects	-1,820	-1480 - -2000	persons/a



# Conclusions

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Further **technology development** needed to improve economic and environmental sustainability

**Main influences** on the sustainability: cultivation and harvesting, electricity demand, source of CO<sub>2</sub>, source of water, suitable land

**Biorefinery approach:** production of biofuels and high valuable co-products, for economic feasibility and environmental sustainability

**Guiding values** for future full-scale commercial algae oil cultivation are given by possible revenues, GHG & fossil energy reduction

**Elements:** environmental e.g. GHG emissions, energy demand, economic e.g. production costs, valued added, society e.g. employment, supplier relationships

**Sustainability assessment** in three dimensions:  
environmental, economic, society based on whole value chain

Thanks!

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