

# FOOD-ENERGY-WATER NEXUS

DECEMBER 5-6, 2019  
NYIT AUDITORIUM ON BROADWAY | NEW YORK, NY



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## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING



Say **hello** to everyone.  
You might make someone's day.



**Introduce** yourself to people you don't know.  
They may be your next good friends.



Stop and **smile**.  
You will brighten the room considerably.



Be **understanding**.  
Everybody makes mistakes.



**Help** those with less experience.  
We were all novices at some point.



**Respect** others.  
We all have something valuable to contribute.



**Value** staff and volunteers.  
They are here for you.



Be **kind**.  
You will never like everybody, but you can be cordial to all.



**Enjoy** the meeting!  
You can have fun while sharing, learning and networking.

*Abstracts appear as submitted by their authors. Neither the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and its entities, nor the employers affiliated with the authors or presenting speakers, are responsible for the content of the abstracts.*

# WELCOME ADDRESS

## Welcome!

We would like to personally welcome each of you to the 2019 Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Nexus brought to you by the Institute for Sustainability (IFS) of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT).

The FEW Nexus conference brings the greatest minds spanning multiple disciplines related to sustainability and climate change to network and share ideas for the improvement of sustainability in urban environments. It's an exciting time for environmental scientists and engineers as we continue to grow and adapt, remaining always motivated, responsive, and forward-looking.

In this conference, we are trying to address the critical concerns of how we provide and maintain the food, energy and water supplies in urban environments as the population continues to increase. Our conference topics provide deeper understandings into the key areas of this problem, which include, but are not limited to: the impact of climate change on the FEW Nexus, forecasting energy needs for increasing populations, hydrofracking and its impacts on the FEW Nexus, and food waste as an energy source in urban environments.

The Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment (RAPID), which is the modular chemical process intensification institute for clean energy manufacturing, will hold a problem-discovery brainstorming session to identify the role that modularization and distributed manufacturing will play in the context of the FEW Nexus. The session will include a presentation by the RAPID CEO, Bill Grieco, providing an overview of the RAPID manufacturing institute and the institute's roadmap, as well as projects that have relevance to the FEW Nexus.

A lot of work has gone into making this conference a success. We extend our thanks to the contributions of our expert steering committee. We would also like to thank each and every one of our distinguished speakers that made this conference possible.

Before we close, we would like to thank each of you for attending our conference and bringing your expertise to our gathering. You have the vision, knowledge and experience to help us pave our way into the future. You are truly our greatest asset today and tomorrow, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support and leadership. Throughout this conference, we ask you to stay engaged, keep us proactive, and help us shape the future of the world through sustainability and climate change initiatives. We hope your experience is a pleasant, educational, and inspiring one.

Sincerely,

Conference Chairs of FEW Nexus 2019



**Dr. David Nadler**, Chair  
Assistant Professor, Department of  
Environmental Technology and Sustainability  
New York Institute of Technology  
[dnadler@nyit.edu](mailto:dnadler@nyit.edu)



**Dr. Ziqian Cecilia Dong**, Co-Chair  
Associate Professor, Department of Electrical  
and Computer Engineering  
New York Institute of Technology  
[ziqian.dong@nyit.edu](mailto:ziqian.dong@nyit.edu)



# CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

## Conference Co-Chairs

**David Nadler**, *New York Institute of Technology*

**Ziqian Cecilia Dong**, *New York Institute of Technology*

## Organizing Committee

**Jack Starr**, *Cargill*

**Benson Pair**, *KBR*

**Serpil Guran**, *Rutgers University*

**Dale Keairns**, *Deloitte Consulting*

**Andy Mangan**, *US Business Council for Sustainable Development*

**Debalina Sengupta**, *Texas A&M Energy Institute/ TEES Gas and Fuels Research Center*

## Organized by



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NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Thursday, December 05, 2019

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	<b>Opening Ceremony - Babak D. Beheshti, Ph.D., Dean, College of Engineering and Computing Sciences, New York Institute of Technology</b>
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>590827: Plenary Talk I: John Lee, Deputy Director for Green Buildings and Energy Efficiency, NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability: OneNYC 2050.</b>
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Coffee Break
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	<b>Panel I: City-as-lab INFEW RCN: Research Gaps, Current Models and Tools Available for the Stakeholders (Moderator: Masoud Ghandehari)</b>
	590382: Weslyne Ashton, Illinois Institute of Technology Stuart School of Business, USA: Building transdisciplinary, multi-stakeholder partnerships to facilitate transitions to equitable and sustainable urban food systems
	590387: Yimin Zhu, Louisiana State University, USA: The Virtual Information Fabric Infrastructure (VIFI): Application Cases for Building Performance Simulations
	589295: Ursula Eicker, Concordia University, Canada: Evaluating the Food-Energy-Water Nexus in an Urban District
	590399: Bassel Daher, Texas A&M University, USA: Lessons Learned: Creating an interdisciplinary team to address a WEF nexus hotspot in San Antonio, Texas
	590402: Michael Flaxman, Geodesign Technologies, USA: Natural Language Processing and Spatiotemporal Visualization for Wildfire Event Reconstruction
	590771: Ahmed Mohamed, The City College of New York, USA: On the Role of Energy Storage in Future Energy Networks
	Q&A/Discussion
11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	<b>590829: Invited Talk: Dr. Rajesh Mehta, National Science Foundation, USA: Catalyzing Commercialization &amp; Societal Impact at NSF</b>
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:20 PM	<b>Keynote Talks</b>
1:30 PM - 1:55 PM	<b>589490: Keynote Talk: Dale Keairns, Deloitte, USA: Responding to the Food-Energy-Water Nexus Challenge</b>
1:55 PM - 2:20 PM	<b>588251: Keynote Talk: Serpil Guran, Rutgers EcoComplex, USA: FOOD-Energy-Water and Waste Nexus in Achieving Sustainable Circular Urbandevelopment (SCUD)</b>
2:20 PM - 3:10 PM	<b>Lightning Round I</b>
	588230: Joe Bozeman, Institute for Environmental Science and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA: A Study on Food, Energy, and Water Impacts of the Average American Diet By Demographic Group
	588110: Catherine Cho, New York Institute of Technology, USA: Is Organic Still Sustainable? an Investigation of Consumer Perceptions of Food Production Sustainability
	588361: Raghul Elangovan, New York Institute of Technology, USA: A Case Study of Dietary Pattern Change Impact on Carbon Footprint
	588379: Jatin Jain, New York Institute of Technology, USA: Land Use Analysis of Food Production Potentials to Feed a Growing Population
	588331: Justinus A. Satrio, Villanova University, USA: Utilizing Urban Organic Wastes Via Hydrothermal Carbonization Process for Energy Production
	588394: Stephan Brown, New York Institute of Technology, USA: Machine Learning Approach to Examine the Relationship between Residential Energy and Water Consumption with Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NYC
	587239: Lucy Mar Camacho, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, USA: Simultaneous Ammonia-Phosphate Recovery from Wastewater As Struvite Fertilizer for Food Quality
	588905: Hassnain Asgar, Cornell University, USA: CO <sub>2</sub> -Responsive Tunable Phase Changing Nano-Scale Fluids for Subsurface Energy Recovery
	588210: Muhammad Danish, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan: Upcoming Scenarios and Developing Trends in the Generation of Energy in Pakistan: Forecasting Supply and Demand
3:10 PM - 3:30 PM	Coffee Break
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>RAPID Manufacturing Institute Problem-Discovery Brainstorming Session</b>
	Keynote Speaker: Bill Grieco, CEO, RAPID, USA

# TECHNICAL PROGRAM

	Q&A/Discussion
<b>5:00 PM - 6:00 PM</b>	<b>Poster Session &amp; Welcome Reception</b> <b>Venue: The lounge at 26 W61st</b>

Friday, December 06, 2019	
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration
<b>9:00 AM - 9:45 AM</b>	<b>589538: Plenary Talk II: Jim Thebaut, Chronicles Group, Inc., USA: A Global Crisis - Beyond The Brink</b>
9:45 AM - 10:00 AM	Coffee Break
<b>10:00 AM - 12:10 PM</b>	<b>Technical Session 1 - FEW Case Study and Decision Making Tools</b>
10:00 AM - 10:24 AM	Keynote Talk: Alissa Park, Columbia University, USA: BioEnergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS): H2 production from food wastes with suppressed COx formation
10:24 AM - 10:41 AM	584128: Bruce Taylor, Enviro-Stewards Inc., Canada: How 50 Food & Beverage Manufacturing Facilities Improved Profitability By Reducing Food Loss
10:41 AM - 10:58 AM	588015: Bassel Daher, Texas A&M University, USA: Toward Creating an Environment of Cooperation between Water, Energy, and Food Stakeholders in San Antonio
10:58 AM - 11:15 AM	588288: Ryan S.D. Calder, Duke University, USA: Integrated Modeling of Food-Energy-Water Systems: Challenges and Opportunities of Quantitative Graphical Networks
11:15 AM - 11:32 AM	588370: Tasnuva Mahjabin, The Pennsylvania State University, USA: Investigating the Food-Energy-Water Nexus through Embedded Resource Accounting
11:32 AM - 11:49 AM	589005: Ashwin Dhanasekar, The Water Research Foundation, USA: Wrf's Transition from Water-Energy Nexus to the Food-Energy-Water Nexus
11:49 AM - 12:06 PM	584040: Jennifer Daw and Sherry Stout, NREL, USA: The Intersection of Urban and Rural Communities: Building Resilience through the Food Energy Water Nexus
12:06 PM - 12:10 PM	Q&A
12:10 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch (on your own)
<b>1:00 PM - 2:20 PM</b>	<b>Technical Session 2 - Food Waste</b>
1:00 PM - 1:24 PM	Keynote Speaker: Julia Valla, University of Connecticut: Food Waste As a Sustainable Resource for the Production of Carbons for Purification and Catalytic Processes
1:24 PM - 1:42 PM	584397: Ava Richardson, Baltimore City Government, USA: Topic: Food Waste in K-12 School: Food Waste Prevention and Reduction Pilot in Baltimore City Schools: Food Matters - for Students, Faculty and Staff
1:42 PM - 2:00 PM	584413: Sara Elnakib, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, USA: Food, Energy & Water: The Impact of a Food Waste Reduction Training Program for Food Service Workers in an Urban School District
2:00 PM - 2:18 PM	590269: Jack Starr, Cargill, USA: Focus on Food, Farming and Climate Change
2:18 PM - 2:20 PM	Q&A
2:20 PM - 2:55 PM	<b>Lightning Round II</b>
	588117: Linhan Su, NYIT, New York Institute of Technology, New York Institute of Technology, USA: The IMPACT of the Locally-Sourced FOOD Versus the MASS-Produced FOOD on Consumer Perceptions of Farm-to-Table and Carbon Footprint
	588377: Paniz Mohammadpour, Pennsylvania State University, USA: From National Indices to Regional Action-an Analysis of Food, Energy, Water Security in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru
	587865: Diana Rodriguez Alberto, RIT, USA: Treating Waste with Waste: Using Biochar to Recover Nutrients from AD Effluent
	588114: Wenxiang Wu, New York Institute of Technology, USA: To Meat or to Plant-Based Meat: The Impact of Consumer Resistance of Substitute Animal-Based Meat with Plant-Based Meat
	588723: Raghul Elangovan, New York Institute of Technology, City College of the City University of New York, USA: Impact of Electrifying Urban Food Delivery Trucks on the Environment and the Power Grid
	590517: Heather LeClerc, Worcester Polytechnic Institute: Food Waste to Energy: Leveraging Catalytic Hydrothermal Liquefaction
2:55 PM - 3:10 PM	Coffee Break
<b>3:10 PM - 5:20 PM</b>	<b>Technical Session 3 - Biogas and Infrastructure</b>
3:10 PM - 3:34 PM	Keynote Speaker: Nada Anid, New York Institute of Technology, USA

# TECHNICAL PROGRAM

3:34 PM - 3:54 PM	Invited Talk: Greeshma Gadikota, Cornell University, USA: Designing Multifunctional Processes to Direct the Synthesis of Clean Energy Carriers with Inherent CO <sub>2</sub> Capture and Conversion from Heterogeneous Carbonaceous Feedstocks
3:54 PM - 4:11 PM	589349: Sarah J Wolfson, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, USA: Anaerobic Wastewater and Environmental Microbial Communities Readily Demethylate Methoxy Aromatic PPCPs
4:11 PM - 4:28 PM	584427: Emily A. Beagle, UT Austin, USA: An Analytical Framework for Assessing Biogas Potential from Consumer Food Waste in US Cities
4:28 PM - 4:45 PM	584428: Styliani Avraamidou, Texas A&M University, USA: Infrastructure Expansion Planning Under Food-Energy-Water Nexus Considerations
4:45 PM - 5:02 PM	584280: Jennifer Daw, NREL, USA: Transforming Wastewater Systems As Community Resource
5:02 PM - 5:19 PM	584425: Yael R. Glazer, UT Austin, USA: Employing Decision Analysis to Evaluate Nontraditional Management Pathways for Produced Water from Oil and Gas Extraction
5:19 PM - 5:20 PM	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>5:20 PM - 5:30 PM</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

# POSTER SESSION

Poster #	Abstract #, Name, Affiliation, Poster Title
1	588302: <b>Todd Davidson</b> , <i>United States Military Academy, USA</i> , Meal-Kit Delivery: The Trade-Offs of Food Waste and Energy Consumption
2	586641: <b>Vishwas Gupta</b> , <i>Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, India</i> , Carbon Dioxide Solubilities in Decanoic Acid-Based Hydrophobicdeep Eutectic Solvents
3	588104: <b>Nkulu Mkhonto</b> , <i>New York Institute of Technology, USA</i> , Do Americans Have a Misguided Interpretation of American Raised Food
4	588239: <b>Fanxin Meng</b> , <i>Yale University, USA</i> , Understanding and Conceptualizing How Urban Green Blue Infrastructure Affects the Food, Water, and Energy Nexus: A Synthesis of the Literature
5	584442: <b>Ciny Natalia Peñaranda Palacios and Laura Daniela Pinzón Bustamante</b> , <i>EAN University, Colombia</i> , Alternative Approach to the Design of Toilets for Optimal Water Consumption
6	583554: <b>Corey Rossen</b> , <i>Ecoverse, USA</i> , Food Waste Separation & Depackaging: Capturing Organic Residuals for Nutrient Repurposing, Compost and/or Renewable Energy
7	586635: <b>Nehil Shreyash</b> , <i>Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, India</i> , Carbon Capture Using Industrial Hydroxides for EOR- Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Ahead
8	588352: <b>Yuheng Cai</b> , <i>New York Institute of Technology, USA</i> , Chinese Food in China Vs. Chinese Food in America: Chinese and American Perceptions of Healthiness
9	586505: <b>Ronald Ssebadduka</b> , <i>Kyushu University, Japan</i> , An Analysis of the Possible Financial Savings of a Carbon Capture Process through Carbon Dioxide Absorption and Geological Dumping
10	586636: <b>Saurabh Kr Tiwary</b> , <i>Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, India</i> , Mitigating Polymer Absorption in Porous Silica Formations with Surfactants & Silicananofluids: A Viscosity, Temperature and Rheology Study Investigation
11	589012: <b>Muhanad Omar</b> , <i>University Of Khartoum, United Arab Emirates</i> , "Chromash": Adsorping Challenges, Desorping Sustainability
12	589057: <b>ANA M Rosso-Ceron</b> , <i>Universidad Industrial De Santander, Colombia</i> , Soft Computing Tool for Aiding the Integration of Renewable Energy Systems in Isolated Areas of Colombia
13	589944: <b>Sven Karlović</b> , <i>Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb, Croatia</i> , Utilizing Novel Technologies for Extraction of Bioactive Compounds from Mandarin Juice Production Waste . S. Karlović, T. Bosiljkov, F. Dujmić, M. Brnčić, M. Marelja, M. Škegro, and D. Ježek
14	590764: <b>Rushikesh Padsala</b> , <i>University of Applied Sciences - Hft Stuttgart, Geomatics, Surveying and Computer Science, Germany</i> , GIS-Based Assessment of Regional Biomass Potentials for Heat and Power Generation at the Example of Ludwigsburg County, Germany . R. Padsala, K. Bao, C. Kesnar, V. Coors, and B. Schröter
15	589618: <b>Julie Cook</b> , <i>Texas A&amp;M University, USA</i> , Optimal Allocation of Renewable Energy Generation and Storage Systems

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Keynote Speaker Biographies



**Nada Marie Anid**  
*New York Institute of Technology*

Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D., is vice president for Strategic Communications and External Affairs, a new office created by NYIT in May 2018 dedicated to articulating NYIT's mission as a premier polytechnic that fosters technology innovation and entrepreneurship. A results-oriented leader with astute business acumen, Anid served as the first female dean of the NYIT School of Engineering and Computing Sciences since 2009. As dean, she spearheaded the creation of NYIT's NSA/DHS National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education, its federally and state-funded Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation Center (ETIC), and its Empire State Development's Division of Science, Technology, and Innovation (NYSTAR)-certified business incubator. Globally, she led the U.S.-China EcoPartnership with Peking University, which was sponsored by the U.S. State Department, and the Pathways for Cleaner Production in the Americas projects with seven higher education institutions across Latin America. Long an advocate for women pursuing education and career opportunities in STEM fields, Anid's efforts in this area include her recent book, *The Internet of Women: Accelerating Culture Change*, a "Salon Talk" interview on Silicon Valley's gender culture for Salon.com, and opinion articles in Forbes, Fox, University Business, and the Huffington Post, among others. In March 2019, Anid was instrumental in launching the Women's Corporate Council, a group of female leaders whose goal it is to empower and inspire others within the NYIT community and beyond. She is also the recipient of numerous awards, including the Long Island Software and Technology Network (LISTnet) Diamond Award, which recognizes her significant contributions toward the advancement of women in technology on Long Island and her professional achievements in the technology field. In 2015, she received a 100 Inspiring Women in STEM Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. Long Island Business News three times named her as one of the Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business in recognition of her achievements in workforce and economic development. Anid serves as chair of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Public Affairs and Information Committee (PAIC) and is a member of the Managing Board of the Institute for Sustainability of AIChE. She also is a member of the Board of Directors of LISTnet, the Riverdale Nature Preservancy, and the Girl Scouts of Nassau County. Additionally, she is an active member of the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE) and its Public Policy, Diversity, Data, and K-12 committees; the New York Academy of Sciences; the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council's Education and Workforce Committee; the Long Island STEM Hub; and the New York State STEM Education Collaborative. Anid is an accomplished scholar and expert reviewer for the federal government and several engineering journals. She is a member of the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of Environmental Progress and Sustainable Energy* and served as guest editor of its January 2018 issue on the Food Energy Water Nexus. She earned her Ph.D. in environmental engineering from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), and bachelor's and master's degrees in chemical engineering from KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. She is among the first engineers to study the role of vitamin B12 and other organometallic coenzymes in the dechlorination of important toxic molecules such as carbon tetrachloride and polychlorinated biphenyls.



**William J. Grieco**  
*RAPID*

William (Bill) Grieco is the Chief Executive Officer of AIChE's RAPID (Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment) Manufacturing Institute. Most recently, William (Bill) Grieco was the Vice President of Energy & Environment at Southern Research, a 501(c)3 nonprofit research institute in

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

the Southeastern U.S. In this role, he defined and implemented strategies to transform and grow the business from one serving only the fossil energy sector to a boutique innovation testing, development, and consulting organization focused on reducing the environmental footprint of energy generation and chemicals production. Among his key accomplishments were building new businesses in photovoltaics and energy storage, growing a sustainable chemistry and process development group and readying multiple technologies for licensing, and developing a public-private partnership to foster innovation-based economic development in Alabama. Prior to joining Southern Research, Bill spent five years leading innovation and technology for Owens Corning, the building materials and composites company, where he built a Front End of Innovation team and led research and development for the \$3 billion Building Materials Group. Among his notable successes were winning \$13 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot program to develop and commercialize a building integrated solar photovoltaic roofing shingle for residential use. Earlier in his career, Bill was Managing Director and CTO of Gardenia Ventures, an innovation commercialization and consulting firm. In this role, he led investment due diligence, technology strategy development, and opportunity search and selection efforts for clients ranging from private equity investors to new ventures to F500 firms. For ten years prior to leading Gardenia Ventures, Bill held senior level innovation roles, primarily focused on process development across multiple industries. He was Vice President of Research and Development for the biofuels startup PetroAlgae, where he and his team built the first-of-a-kind intensive biomass production process to grow and convert aquatic plants to purified proteins and energy feedstocks. He was Director of Process Development for the biopharmaceutical firm Alkermes, where he led development and commercialization for the VIVITROL® and RISPERDAL® CONSTA® product lines. He started his career at the specialty chemicals firm Rohm and Haas Company, now part of Dow Chemical, where led both corporate level and business unit initiatives to develop new processes for monomers and chemical intermediates production. In addition to these roles, Bill serves on the external advisory boards for Florida Solar Energy Center and the Georgia Tech Energy Policy Innovation Center. He has been an active member of AIChE for 25 years, and chaired the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum in the mid 2000s. He holds a PhD and Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.



**Serpil Guran**  
*Rutgers University*

Serpil Guran serves as the Director of Rutgers EcoComplex “Clean Energy Innovation Center”. She also manages the new “Ecolignite: Clean Energy Proof of Concept Center and Accelerator” program. She serves as Assoc. Teaching Prof. and currently teaches Bioenergy technologies, sustainability and critical thinking in science classes. Dr. Guran is trained on thermochemical conversion (pyrolysis and gasification) of biomass and waste materials for production of fuels and chemicals and she specializes in research, development and assessment of sustainable biofuel and recycling technologies, and life cycle analysis of clean energy systems alternative fuel production systems. Currently, she is working on Circular Carbon Systems, Food-Energy-Water Nexus and Waste synergy by promoting integration of organic waste into development of circular carbon economy.



**Dale L. Keairns**  
*Booz Allen Hamilton*

Dr. Keairns has over 40 years experience in industry, consulting, teaching and service through professional society initiatives. The last ten years have focused on energy systems analysis and

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

planning activities to guide technology research and development needs for the Nation's energy future, supporting energy research programs, management responsibility for strategic energy projects, and supporting the development of technology roadmaps for future energy systems. This work was carried out through a support contract to the Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory and commercial projects. Prior to this, he had 32 years experience with Westinghouse as a senior executive leading the development and commercialization of technology to meet emerging energy and environmental needs. Responsibilities included corporate technical and financial responsibility for energy and environmental research and development, responsibility for business planning, and management of a commercial business. Dr. Keairns has over 200 publications reporting on research, commercial development and systems analysis. Accomplishments were realized through multidisciplinary project teams and effective relations with private, university and government customers in the U.S. and the international community. Dr. Keairns served as the 2008 President of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers – the centennial year of AIChE. He chairs the AIChE Center for Energy Initiatives, serves on the Board of the American Association of Engineering Societies and serves as chair for a cooperative professional engineering society initiative on technologies for carbon management. Dr. Keairns has served the larger engineering community through his initiatives to engage multi-disciplines to address technical and societal challenges for the past 35 years. Dr. Keairns is a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE).



**Ah-Hyung Alissa Park**  
*Columbia University*

A.-H. Alissa Park is the Lenfest Chair in Applied Climate Science of Earth and Environmental Engineering & Chemical Engineering at Columbia University. She is also the Director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy at the Earth Institute. Her research focuses on sustainable energy conversion pathways with emphasis on particle technology and integrated reaction schemes of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS). The current efforts include the fundamental studies of chemical and physical interactions of natural and engineered materials with CO<sub>2</sub> such as the development of novel nano-scale hybrid materials for integrated CO<sub>2</sub> capture and conversion. Founded on these new materials and reaction schemes. Park received a number of professional awards and honors including the NSF CAREER Award (2009), James Lee Young Investigator Award (2010), American Chemical Society WCC Rising Star Award (2017), Janette and Armen Avanesians Diversity Award at Columbia University (2017), International Partnership Award for Young Scientists of Chinese Academy of Sciences (2018), American Chemical Society Energy and Fuels Division - Emerging Researcher Award (2018), and U.S. C3E Research Award (2018). Park received her B.A.Sc. and M.A.Sc. in Chemical Engineering at University of British Columbia, and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the Ohio State University.



**Ioulia (Julia) Valla**  
*University of Connecticut*

Dr. Ioulia (Julia) Valla is an Associate Professor at the Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering Department at the University of Connecticut (UConn). Prior to joining UConn, she held a leadership position at Rive Technology, Inc., for the development and commercialization of mesoporous zeolites for refinery applications. She received her BS and PhD in Chemical Engineering from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece. Dr Valla's research is focused on the production of clean and renewable energy and fuels. She has been studying the thermochemical conversion and upgrading of lignocellulosic biomass to energy and fuels, the development of mesoporous zeolites for various

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

catalytic and adsorption applications and the removal of sulfur from liquid and gas fuels. Recently, Dr Valla is working on the transformation of food waste into energy and valuable products. She has numerous peer-reviewed journal publications, 2 granted patents and 1 book chapter. Dr. Valla is the recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the American Chemical Society - Petroleum Research Foundation Young Investigator Award and the European “Recovery & Utilization of Carbon Dioxide” Young Investigator Award.

# PLENARY SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Plenary Speaker Biographies



**John Lee**

*Mayor's Office of Sustainability - New York City*

John Lee is the Deputy Director for Green Buildings and Energy Efficiency at the NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability. In this capacity, he is leading the city's policy and legislative efforts driving the built environment to unprecedented energy efficiency standards. John's previous public sector service was with the NYC Department of Buildings as Senior Architect in the codes development division, and with the Department of City Planning where he served as an Urban Designer. During his early career, John was a design architect in private sector architecture and engineering firms working on institutional buildings, transit facilities, and master plans for universities. He is a licensed architect and a graduate of Rice University and Harvard University.



**James Thebaut**

*Chronicles Group, INC.*

2019 - Recently Finished two productions on the critical necessity of implementing comprehensive Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada Mountains Watershed. This includes a 13 min video (Our California Watershed) which is presented regularly at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California and a 27 min production titled, California's Watershed which will be broadcast on California PBS stations.

2018 - Creating videos associated with the production and distribution of the 92 min BEYOND THE BRINK documentary. This includes a 25 min "Call To Action" summary of the feature for classrooms, community meetings, conferences, forums, legislative staffs, elected officials business and government leaders, church groups, civic organizations, television and internet viewers.

Also creating a 20 min video for West Hills Community College for enlisting students into their agriculture program. Also will create a 7 min summary and a 1 min promo version.

2017 - Creator, producer, executive producer and conducted 30 on camera interviews for BEYOND THE BRINK a 92 min feature documentary focused on the water and food nexus and the international security ramifications. The film specifically presents the reality of the evolving water crisis in California's San Joaquin Valley and evolving food security concerns throughout the world. The documentary feature is currently being distributed throughout the world by Freestyle Digital Media, a subsidiary of Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures.

2012 - Was writer, producer, director and executive producer and conducted oncamera interviews in Israel, Qatar and Washington DC for RENEWABLE ENERGY DESALINATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA. A short documentary produced for the World Bank.

2012 - Was executive producer for THE ICEMAN (movie), based on Bruno's book and Thebaut's HBO Documentary THE ICEMAN TAPES: CONVERSATIONS WITH A KILLER.

2008 - Was creator, writer, producer, director, executive producer and conducted on-camera interviews with scientists, governmental leaders and members of the United States Congress for THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST: ARE WE RUNNING DRY? – A documentary feature focusing on National Security, science, ecological and human rights issues, associated with water availability within the seven Western States dependent on the Colorado River Watershed. The documentary was broadcast on PBS Stations throughout the United States.

2005 - Was writer, producer, director and executive producer and conducted oncamera interviews in Africa, Middle East, India, Singapore, China, Russia and the United States for RUNNING DRY. The documentary feature was based on former United States Senator Paul Simon's book Tapped Out. The documentary generated global awareness of the dangerous international security ramification resulting from the global water crisis. The film resulted in the United States Congress passing and President George W. Bush signing into Law the 2005 Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. The Legislation has been updated to the 2015 Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act, passed by Congress and signed into Law by President Barack

# PLENARY SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Obama. RUNNING DRY continues to be screened at film festivals, conferences and special events throughout the world.

2002 - Was co-writer, producer, director and co-executive producer and conducted on-camera interviews with individuals describing their historical roles and observations during the world's most dangerous era for THE COLD WAR AND BEYOND. A documentary feature which describes the historical events and decisions which accelerated the Arms race during the Cold War era and its legacy on today's post 9/11 World. An updated version entitled CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT is currently in development. THE COLD WAR AND BEYOND was honored at the Hollywood Film Festival.

In 1998 Jim Thebaut co-founded the Chronicles Group Inc., a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Corporation and became its president and executive producer. Thebaut is an experienced regional environmental planner and also a creator, producer, director and executive producer of educational international media.

1994 - Was creator, writer, producer and director and conducted on-camera interview with law enforcement officials and convicted corrupt police officers for BAD COPS, a two-part documentary feature for the A&E Network. The film exposed specific cases of police corruption in Philadelphia, Sea Girt, New Jersey, New York City and Boston. The A&E documentary resulted in Thebaut producing segments and conducting on-camera interviews for a 1994 ABC News Turning Point documentary on the historical culture of police corruption in New York City. BAD COPS has been distributed throughout the world. In 1994 Thebaut was invited to the FBI Academy in Northern Virginia to present BAD COPS at an internal affairs conference.

1993 - Was creator, writer, producer and director and allowed to conduct on-camera interviews behind the walls at the Potosi Correctional Center in Mineral Point, Missouri for EXECUTION AT MIDNIGHT, a two part A&E documentary. Thebaut interviewed seven death row inmates and prison officials, and also featured interviews with victim families, Missouri State Officials, prosecutors and death row attorneys. The films intent was to provide a visual journalistic inside view, of the emotional impact of the death penalty as well as its legal process. The documentary was distributed throughout the world. EXECUTION AT MIDNIGHT resulted in Thebaut participating in the production of an ABC News' Nightline Death Penalty segment.

1992 - Was creator, producer, executive producer and conducted 17 hour on-camera interviews at the New Jersey State Prison in Trenton, New Jersey with Richard Kuklinski (The ICEMAN) for the HBO American Undercover Documentary series entitled THE ICEMAN TAPES: CONVERSATIONS WITH A KILLER. Thebaut also conducted interviews with New Jersey State and Federal Law Enforcement as well as the wife of the ICEMAN. The film was nominated for a Cable Ace Award. The documentary resulted in a book by Anthony Bruno entitled The Iceman, The True Story of a Cold Blooded Killer.

1986 - Was producer and executive producer for the CBS dramatic special entitled A DEADLY BUSINESS. The film starring Alan Arkin and Armand Assante told a dramatic inside story of organized crimes involvement in the illegal disposal of toxic waste materials business in New Jersey/New York environs. The movie was filmed in Toronto Canada and the New York/New Jersey region.

## CORPORATE - ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

1986 - 1988 - Thebaut was vice president of development for Johnny Carson Productions. Responsible for the development of television and theatrical film productions.

## ORGANIZED WATER EDUCATION EVENTS

### CAPITOL HILL

2005 and 2007- Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act.

2009 - National Water Policy

2010 - Drought, Water Scarcity and International Security in the 21st Century.

2013 - Water and Wastewater Forum

### UNITED NATIONS

2011 - International Water Educational Summit

During the 1970's:

1979 - Created, wrote, produced and executive Produced a two-part documentary series for KING TV (Seattle NBC Affiliate) and PBS Stations in Seattle and Tacoma, entitled A REGION AT THE CROSSROADS. The documentary explored the evolving growth in the Puget Sound Region and made comparisons to the Southern California region. The film highlighted regional environmental planning as an important solution. The educational efforts included the distribution of a Magazine entitled Citizens Forum and the organization of Educational Events throughout the Puget Sound Region.

1970 - While attending the University of Washington, created and produced a documentary feature for KIRO TV (Seattle CBS Affiliate) entitled A TALE OF TWO CITIES. The documentary feature analyzed and compared Southern California to the Seattle/Puget Sound region. The intent of the investigative

# PLENARY SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

documentary was to determine if the Seattle/Puget Sound region was making the same regional planning errors which occurred in Southern California. Specifically the loss of prime agriculture land in Orange County and the San Fernando Valley, and comparing it to the Green River Valley south of Seattle.

## THEBAUT FOR MAYOR

1977 - Thebaut was a candidate for Mayor in Seattle and created a 30 min documentary. The film focused on energy policy, urban growth and lack of planning in the Seattle region. It was broadcast on both KIRO and KING TV.

## REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

1972 - 1980 - Was the director of environmental systems for Richard Carother Associates, vice president for Northwest Environmental Technology Laboratory (NETL) and principal at Jim Thebaut Associates.

1972 - Upon congressional Passage of the National Environmental Policy Act, Thebaut created an environmental impact statement decision-making methodology and proceeded to project manage the first environmental impact statement written in the United States. The project focused on I-15W, a proposed interstate highway expansion project in Idaho, which had serious environmental consequences. Based on the impact statement, the Idaho State Department of Highways agreed to desist and build the expansion in a less ecologically sensitive location. This project paved the way for Thebaut to project manage hundreds of Impact Statements, energy, transportation and regional planning projects throughout the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

1975 - 1976 - Project manager for Seattle's Energy 1990 study (the nation's first programmatic environmental statement). Seattle City Council agreed to participate by purchasing power from two Washington Public Power System (WPPS) proposed nuclear power plants. The decision was challenged by Washington State environmental organizations which resulted in the City of Seattle being required to prepare a comprehensive environmental impact statement. Seattle City Light retained NETL to prepare the study. Findings and conclusions from the Impact Statement resulted in the Seattle City Council voting not to participate in the nuclear power purchase, resulting in collapse of the WPPS project. Results of the Study also include the City of Seattle implementing new energy and planning policies.

1978 - 1979 - Was project manager for a public information/education project on the proposed development of a Super Tanker Port in Port Angeles, WA. The project was to be built in conjunction with the construction of the proposed Northern Tier Pipeline Project, which was designed to transport oil from the Port Angeles Port to Minnesota. The State of Washington and Federal Government eventually denied the project because of serious environmental risks.

## PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

1965 - Bachelor of Arts, San Francisco State University

1972 - Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington

1967 - Master of Science, University of California, Los Angeles

## MILITARY-ARMY

1957 - 1960 - Honorably Discharged after serving three years in Germany with the Seventh Cavalry, Third Infantry Division.

# INVITED SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Invited Speaker Biographies



**Babak D. Beheshti**  
*New York Institute of Technology (NYIT)*

Babak D. Beheshti is professor and dean of the College of Engineering and Computing Sciences at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT). The School has approximately 3000 students, including undergraduate and graduate programs in two New York campuses, as well as in Vancouver, BC, Canada. Babak has been a full-time faculty member at NYIT for more than 30 years. Over the last 20+ years, Beheshti has worked in R&D with companies in the embedded systems and wireless technology industry. He has successfully managed joint R&D programs with Asian, European, and U.S. companies, including Siemens Mobile, Nokia, Samsung, KDDI, and LG. An active member of IEEE since 1991, Beheshti is currently a member of the IEEE Board of Directors, having held positions at section, region, and major board levels. He has been a member of the IEEE's Publication Services & Products Board (PSPB), as well as the Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Board. Beheshti is a recipient of the IEEE MGA Leadership Award; the IEEE Millennium Medal; the IEEE Long Island Section Athanasios Papoulis Outstanding Educator Award, given for noteworthy contributions to engineering education; and three IEEE Region 1 Awards, including a 2008 IEEE Northeastern Region Technical Innovation Award "For Providing Technical Leadership in the Development of State-of-the Art Reconfigurable Wireless Technologies." Beheshti received his Ph.D. in electrical engineering at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and master's and bachelor's degrees at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.



**Greeshma Gadikota**  
*Cornell University*

Dr. Greeshma Gadikota is an Assistant Professor and Croll Sesquicentennial Fellow in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University where she directs the Sustainable Energy and Resource Recovery Group. She is the recipient of the DOE CAREER award and serves as the thrust lead for dynamic characterization for the DOE EFRC Multi-Scale Fluid-Solid Interactions in Natural and Architected Materials (MUSE). She was selected as the Rising Stars in Civil and Environmental Engineering by MIT. Prior to Cornell, Dr. Gadikota served on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and was a postdoctoral research associate at Princeton University and Columbia University, with a research appointment at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). Dr. Gadikota received her PhD in Chemical Engineering and earned her MS degrees in Chemical Engineering and Operations Research, all from Columbia University. Her BS in Chemical Engineering is from Michigan State University. Dr. Gadikota studies multi-scale reaction kinetics by connecting nano- and meso-scale measurements with process-scale developments and field-scale observations using advanced synchrotron characterization methods, computational tools, and laboratory scale reaction systems. Key areas of interest include developing natural and engineered materials for acid gas storage and CH<sub>4</sub> recovery, advanced carbonate and clay chemistry and morphology, tracers for gas migration, drilling fluids, recovery of high value materials from low value substrates, and functionalization of materials for sustainable energy and resource recovery coupled with integration with the built environment.



**Rajesh Mehta**  
*National Science Foundation*

## INVITED SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Rajesh Mehta joined National Science Foundation in 2012 after a 26-year career in R&D at Kodak in Rochester, NY. He has served as Program Director for Advanced Manufacturing & Nanotechnology, and Education Technologies & Applications portfolios in the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program in the past and is currently serving as Program Director for Sustainable Environmental Engineering portfolio. He has an undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from IIT-Bombay, M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Penn State, a post-doctoral fellowship at Imperial College, London, and a Masters of Product Development from RIT.

# PANEL SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## Panel Speaker Biographies



**Weslyne Ashton**

*Illinois Institute of Technology, Stuart School of Business*

Weslyne Ashton is an Associate Professor of Environmental Management and Sustainability at the Illinois Institute of Technology Stuart School of Business. Dr. Ashton's research focuses on industrial ecology and the circular economy, or how to optimize energy, water, and material resource flows as well as human benefits in socio-ecological systems. Her work also examines developing entrepreneurial solutions to social and environmental challenges and the adoption of socially and environmentally responsible strategies in business, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs). For the last four years, she has focused her research on these topics within the urban food systems and industrial networks in and around Chicago.



**Bassel Daher**

*Texas A&M University, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering*

Bassel Daher is a Research Associate at the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department of Texas A&M University (since 2014) and a Fellow at the Institute for Science, Technology & Public Policy at The Bush School of Government and Public Service. He served as Project Coordinator at Texas A&M's Water-Energy-Food Nexus Initiative (2015-2018). Daher's research focuses on developing tools to catalyze evidence-based multi-stakeholder dialogue around trade-offs associated with technological, policy, and social interventions to address interconnected water, energy, and food (WEF) security challenges. He is particularly interested in bridging natural and social sciences methods, with the goal of unlocking new potential for addressing these interconnected challenges. He focuses on doing so guided by circular economy principles, and in the context of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Daher has more than 30 contributions (journal articles, book chapters, UN reports and policy briefs) relating to the interconnected water-energy-food securities and nexus assessment tools. His professional experience includes diverse themes, multiple types of stakeholders, and jobs and internships in Lebanon, Qatar, Poland, France, and the USA (Indiana and Texas). Daher holds a B.Sc. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the American University of Beirut (2010), an MSE in Biological and Agricultural Engineering from Purdue University (2012), and a PhD in Water Management and Hydrological Sciences from Texas A&M University (2019).



**Ursula Eicker**

*Concordia University Montréal*

Prof. Ursula Eicker is the new Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) for Next Generation Cities at Concordia University Montréal. A German physicist, Eicker has held leadership positions at the Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences and its Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies. She has been leading international research projects in the fields of energy efficiency in buildings and sustainable energy supply systems for more than two decades. At Concordia, she leads an ambitious research program to establish pathways toward new tools, technologies and strategies for zero-carbon cities.

# PANEL SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**Michael Flaxman**  
*Geodesign Technologies*

Dr. Michael Flaxman's primary research interest is in participatory tools for spatial simulation modeling as applied to the planning and design of cities and regions. He has served on the faculties of MIT, Harvard and the University of Oregon. Dr. Flaxman has practiced GIS-based planning in 17 countries, including one year as a Fulbright fellow in Canada. Dr. Flaxman previously served as industry manager for Architecture, Engineering and Construction at ESRI, the world's largest developer of GIS technology. Dr. Flaxman received his doctorate in design from Harvard University in 2001 and holds a master's in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon and a bachelor's in biology from Reed College.



**Ahmed Mohamed**  
*City College of the City University of New York (CUNY)*

Ahmed Mohamed is an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at the City College of the City University of New York (CUNY), and the director of the CUNY Smart Grid Interdependencies Laboratory (SGIL). He has been leading several research projects that are centered around Smart Grids, Renewable Energy Systems, and Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies. He has over 80 publications in these fields as book chapters and articles in premier journals and conference proceedings. Dr. Mohamed received several awards including the 2019 NSF CAREER award, and several of his IEEE papers received best-paper awards.



**Yimin Zhu**  
*Louisiana State University, Bert S. Turner Department of Construction Management*

Dr. Yimin Zhu is a full professor and holder of the Pulte Homes Endowed Professorship in the Bert S. Turner Department of Construction Management at Louisiana State University. He has more than 20 years of academic teaching, research, and industry experiences. Throughout his career, he has taught a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses including building information modeling, construction information systems, and sustainable construction. Dr. Zhu's research focus is on computing for built environment design and engineering. His research was funded by various state and federal agencies including the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. He has published more than 130 peer-reviewed technical articles. He is a specialty editor of the Journal of Computing in Civil Engineering and an editorial board member of the International Journal of Construction Management.

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## ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

### THURSDAY INVITED TALKS

#### Opening Talk.

##### ***Babak D. Beheshti***

*College of Engineering and Computing Sciences, NYIT, New York, NY*

#### Plenary Talk: OneNYC 2050.

##### ***John Lee***

*Green Buildings and Energy Efficiency, NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability, New York, NY*

New York City's Green New Deal is a long-term strategy to secure our city's future. The ambitions of the plan to strengthen our democracy and achieve equity as we confront our climate crisis are grounded in empirical understandings of the impacts of the built environment and the activities of our citizens.

#### Invited Talk: Catalyzing Commercialization & Societal Impact at NSF.

##### ***Rajesh Mehta***

*SBIR/STTR, NSF, Washington, DC*

NSF's Industrial Innovation and Partnership Division in the Engineering Directorate has number of grant programs to support translational R & D on highly innovative and technically risky projects. This presentation will provide a brief overview of these programs. The reader would benefit from previewing a recent article in this context: <https://www.iche.org/resources/publications/cep/2019/september/nsf-funding-planting-seeds-innovation>

#### Keynote Talk: Responding to the Food-Energy-Water Nexus Challenge.

##### ***Dale Keairns***

*Deloitte Consulting LLP, Pittsburgh, PA*

The Food-Energy-Water (FEW) Nexus of resources is directly linked to the UN Sustainability Development Goals. The interdependence of the FEW Nexus is a complex, dynamic, engineering, and social challenge. Disruptions, technology innovation, climate change, and social change are common international factors that require consideration in responding to the Nexus challenges. While there are significant differences in each nation or community, there are common themes to incorporate in an approach to addressing the challenges. An international perspective is presented.

#### Keynote Talk: FOOD-Energy-Water and Waste Nexus in Achieving Sustainable Circular Urbandevelopment (SCUD).

##### ***Serpil Guran***

*SEBS, Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ*

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Food- Energy and Water Nexus is a complex system that requires additional understanding of the ways in which these three pillars function as an integrated system. For instance, there is energy embedded in every gallon of water, there is water embedded in every kWh (or joule) of energy used and every mile travelled, and there is water and energy embedded in every calorie of food humans consume. Currently most urban systems deal with energy, water and food matters as separate issues and do not consider the intra-impacts of these sectors when trying to achieve their daily operations. Additionally, urban systems has to deal with ever increasing waste matters, decaying urban infrastructure i.e. energy, transportation, water, housing, and climate change related problems. 21st Century urban systems have to be economically and environmentally sustainable while providing social justice to the residents. In order to transform current old cities to tomorrow's more efficient urban locations, these locations can be treated as city-labs to create efficient frameworks that include food, energy water, waste and other material flows. FEW nexus can serve as a tool to achieve Sustainable Circular Urban Development (SCUD).

## **PANEL 1: CITY-AS-LAB INFEW RCN: RESEARCH GAPS, CURRENT MODELS AND TOOLS AVAILABLE FOR THE STAKEHOLDERS**

**Panel Talk: Building Transdisciplinary, Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships to Facilitate Transitions to Equitable and Sustainable Urban Food Systems.**

***Weslynn Ashton***

*Illinois Institute of Technology, Stuart School of Business, Chicago, IL*

US urban food systems are dominated by large corporate forces and are riddled with social, economic and environmental challenges. Socially and economically, low income and minority communities often face disproportionate health burdens as they lack access to healthy, nutritious food, due to low availability and affordability of such food in their neighborhoods. Equally challenging, small producers, particularly minority-owned businesses, in urban and peri-urban areas face challenges with access to capital and formally entering in the food supply chain. Environmental challenges include high energy and water use during production, large carbon footprints in transportation and large volumes of waste throughout the system. Transitions towards equitable and sustainable urban food systems require an in-depth understanding of multi-level and cross sector dynamics in production-consumption chains, including local policies, institutional buying power, local production capacity, and community involvement. Actors across US cities and their surrounding "foodsheds" are developing new and innovative production, distribution and consumption processes, but they face challenges in scaling up and thus increasing their contribution to and impact on local and regional food systems. While demand for local food is increasing, policy mechanisms for scaling local food production and bolstering economic growth were established without considering structural inequalities, consequent environmental degradation, and market dynamics.

**Panel Talk: The Virtual Information Fabric Infrastructure (VIFI): Application Cases for Building Performance Simulations.**

***Yimin Zhu***

*Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA*

Although contemporary information and computer technologies have enabled researchers, designers, and engineers to collect large amounts of data, current approaches for sharing data remain limited by concerns such as interoperability, shareability, data size, transport costs, and privacy. These concerns often prevent or confound the development of reliable and accurate building performance simulations. In an effort to overcome these concerns, we envisioned a complementary approach, called the Virtual Information Fabric Infrastructure (VIFI) approach, where data owners share distributed, fragmented data in a manner that does not require the movement of raw data and data users utilize these data for analysis by transporting analytic computation to the data. The VIFI approach presents new opportunities to conduct building performance simulations. Through two case studies, we demonstrated a new computational framework based on VIFI to support an open and collaborative cyberinfrastructure for building performance simulations. Such a computational framework represents a systematic view toward building performance simulations, in which essential components of simulations are coherently integrated.

## **Panel Talk: Evaluating the Food-Energy-Water Nexus in an Urban District.**

***Ursula Eicker<sup>1</sup>, Juergen Schumacher<sup>2</sup>, Reiner Braun<sup>3</sup>, and Masoud Ghandehari<sup>4</sup>***

*(1)Buildings, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada, (2)CIISE, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada, (3)Research Lab for Digital Business, Reutlingen University, Reutlingen, Germany, (4)New York University, New York, NY*

The work examines how urban data and urban models helps to characterize the food, energy and water Nexus on an urban district level. A bottom up approach is used to model urban system development. To assess the energy-saving potential in the food sector in Borough Hall district, the status quo is analyzed. Open data from OpenStreetMap, NYCOpenData and PLUTO were used to locate the food related usages and to determine the size of each location.

The calculations show, that the electricity demand for the food sector in Borough Hall is 70 GWh/a. With a total electricity consumption of 1.33 TWh/a (2013), 70 GWh/a equals 5.2% of the whole electricity demand of the district of the total consumption (1% for food sales and 4.2% food services). For food refrigeration, almost 32 GWh/a electrical power is used, therefore refrigeration bears the most potential in terms of energy saving.

From all the organic waste in Borough Hall, 14 427 tons annually are digester usable. This amount can be converted into 1 313 000 m<sup>3</sup>/a of biogas, and then used in a combined heat and power plant to produce 3.9 GWh/a heat and 3.2 GWh/a electricity. Another possibility is to transform the whole biogas quantity into 787 713 m<sup>3</sup>/a of methane and add it into the gas grid. Finally, biomethane can work as a fuel and the amount is enough to fuel 1 040 cars for a year.

## **Panel Talk: Lessons Learned: Creating an Interdisciplinary Team to Address a FEW Nexus Hotspot in San Antonio, Texas.**

***Bassel Daher***

*Texas A&M University, College Station, TX*

San Antonio is home to a rapidly urbanizing population, with major agricultural activity surrounding the city, and a growing production of oil and natural gas in its underlying Eagle Ford shale play. The region of San Antonio represents a resource hotspot whose stakeholders compete across sectors for the same limited water, land, and financial resources and whose projection trends indicate continued growth across those sectors. This presentation will include lessons learned from the experience of creating a

# ORAL ABSTRACTS

campus wide interdisciplinary group to address the resource challenges facing the San Antonio region at Texas A&M's Water-Energy-Food Nexus Initiative (WEFNI). The presentation will also present a brief overview of the questions and research conducted under thematic foci that include data and modeling, trade-off analysis, water for food, water for energy, and governance.

Panel Talk: Natural Language Processing and Spatiotemporal Visualization for Wildfire Event Reconstruction.

## **Michael Flaxman**

Geodesign Technologies, Berkeley, CA

Fire management is at a crisis point. A century of fire suppression, extensive urban wildland interface development, and climate change have led to nearly unstoppable fires. Attempts to avoid some of these fires using public power supply shutoffs have adversely affected tens of millions of citizens and cost billions of dollars. Major wildfire events have for many decades been documented with "after action reports." More than 3,000 such reports are publicly available. These describe the chronology of events, including weather, fire behavior, people and equipment deployed. The impacts of each fire on lives, properties and the environment are carefully documented. Historically, such reports have included only very limited spatial data. This makes it very difficult to comprehend narrative references to fuels, topography and local landmarks. But elsewhere within State and Federal databases, extensive spatial data are available, detailing environmental condition before, during and after both prescribed fires and wildfires. Our project is using a Natural Language Processing approach to extract relevant entities from free text, automatically linking them to spatial data, and using the combined datasets to parameterized historical fire scenarios within standard fire simulation models. We use a machine learning model (SpaCy BERT) to perform "named entity recognition," including the identification of weather, people, equipment, institutions and geographic places as objects. Geographic places are cross referenced to fire names, dates and states within GeoMac and MTBS fire perimeter databases. These perimeters are in turn used to extract information from Landfire and analysis-ready satellite data archives suitable for fire modeling.

On the Role of Energy Storage in Future Energy Networks.

## **Ahmed Mohamed**

Electrical Engineering, City College of the City University of New York, New York, NY

Urban systems, including food, water, and transportation, heavily depend on the energy network for energy supply. Energy Storage Systems (ESS) are poised to radically change the way the energy network, and consequently other urban systems, are designed and operated. This talk will highlight some of the benefits and barriers of ESS, and will provide some real-world NYC-specific examples of ESS applications, initiatives and demonstration projects.

## **PLENARY TALK II**

**Plenary Talk: A Global Crisis - Beyond The Brink.**

## **James Thebaut**

*Chronicles Group, Redondo Beach, CA*

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The U.S. National Intelligence Council's and other authoritative voices predict a dangerous future for the world, including unprecedented consequences of warming temperatures, explosive population growth, massive water and food shortages, global pollution, widespread human migration, armed conflict involving national and subnational groups, and the mounting threat of nuclear war. Human civilization is at a crossroads to survive; and the challenge is to establish world-wide educational initiative that will energize citizens to take positive action. Chronicles Group, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) corporation, proposes to create a 13-part, 30-minute episodic television series and a theatrical documentary feature that will first, place a spotlight on the evolving global crisis, and second, highlight immediate solutions for the growing food, energy and water humanitarian crises. In order to maintain the highest journalistic integrity, the Chronicles Group will conduct on-camera interviews with distinguished scientists, experts, and solutions-focused stakeholders. The production will be designed to be entertaining, compelling, provocative, and accurate. The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Ira Helfand stated in a recent article that America confronts a long list of critical problems that all require urgent attention. Among them, two drivers of global climate disruption stand out. Fossil-fuel use and nuclear war are unique in the threat they pose to global climate, and thus to the very survival of human civilization. In recent remarks UN Secretary-General António Guterres' called climate change the defining issue of our time, with now being a defining moment. Meeting the challenges brought on by climate change requires many movements around the world to call leaders to account to address the current and looming crises. As of 2019, 195 nations have signed the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, pledging to limit 21st century global warming by limiting greenhouse-gas emissions. Opponents in the United States represent some of the most powerful private-sector and political forces. However, polls show that the vast majority of the American public, including majorities in every state, say that the United States should participate in the Paris Agreement. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists recently registered the Doomsday Clock to TWO minutes to Midnight. Tensions between nations, plus the threat of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of nonstate actors are both of concern. The last time the world was this close to nuclear annihilation, in the 1980s, the need to prevent nuclear war was front and center in the nation's political discourse. A vast popular movement formed that demanded and won a freeze in the nuclear arms race. The production's creative approach will be from a historical and ecological perspective, examining the world from the Cold War era to the present, plus future concerns. This will include the Cold War legacy as well as other significant international social, scientific, engineering and geopolitical historical events that have evolved during the past 74 years, and laid the foundation for our world future. The production will be told from a storytelling perspective, will examine the past and explore the present, and will scrutinize how and why the world is in its present state. It will be examined from a nonpartisan and objective global ecological, socioeconomic, geopolitical, scientific, and technological historical perspective. It will consider life-threatening scenarios, and positive, logical solutions that can avert future but realistic global catastrophes. Discussion draft 2 of 2 Sept 2, 2019 The production will highlight findings from the 2017 U.S. National Intelligence Council Global Trend 2035 Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, and other credible studies that warn our planet's leaders and public of the dire consequences of environmental change. It will also feature scalable solutions to these challenges, and interviews with solutions leaders. Some of the proposed content follows.

1. Cold war, historical. The production will establish the primary legacy of the Cold War era from 1945 thru 1991, when the United States and former Soviet Union produced over 60,000 nuclear weapons. This builds on Chronicles' Group 2015 film *The Cold War and Beyond*.
2. Growing and interconnected stresses. The focus will be on the time since the Cold War, with nuclear threats accelerating as a result of modernizing technology and nuclear forces, growing inequality between nations, population growth, and environmental stresses.

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3. Global food security. The production will spotlight global food security, with particular attention to the five Mediterranean-climate food-basket regions, with attention to California's globally important San Joaquin Valley and its vulnerability to catastrophic demise. This builds on Chronicles' Group 2017 film *Beyond the Brink*.
4. Water security. The production will focus on climate impacts on surface and groundwater sustainability, and its nexus with energy and food production, and altering of the world's ecological balance, plus links to public health and the global economy. This builds on Chronicles' Group films *Beyond the Brink*, and *Running Dry*.
5. Ecological disruption. The production will further examine ecological crises, which will lead to widespread migration and risk of global conflict among major powers, further terrorist threats, continued instability in weak states, and the spread of lethal and disruptive technologies.
6. Population growth. The production will highlight the fact Earth has never before had a projected 2050 population of 10 billion inhabiting the planet and will provide the international security ramifications and consequences.
7. Soil degradation. The production will present the reality that more than a third of the world's soils producing 95% of the world's food supply are currently degraded. The production will discuss the dangerous international security and humanitarian consequences.
8. Accidental war. The production will address assessments of an accidental war occurring as a result of mistake or breakdown in command and control occurring among the expanding list of nuclear weapon countries.
9. Migration. The production will provide a historical context on migration as a component of the inter-linked global challenges around climate, population growth, and increasing inequality. It will frame the issue in terms of the drivers of current and projected migration.
10. Communication. The production will examine the historical and continuing role of private, public, religious, and other non-profit sector voices in shaping the debate around climate solutions, with particular emphasis on the United States and associated cultural norms.
11. Climate solutions. The production will provide logical and rational geopolitical conceptual solutions to the evolving international security calamity. It will address both barriers and opportunities.

## SESSION 1: FEW CASE STUDY AND DECISION MAKING TOOLS

**Keynote Talk: BioEnergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS): H<sub>2</sub> production from food wastes with suppressed CO<sub>x</sub> formation.**

***Ah-Hyung Alissa Park***

*Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering and Department of Chemical Engineering, Columbia University, New York, NY*

Biomass is considered a carbon-neutral energy source and can even be carbon-negative if combined with a carbon capture and storage (CCS) scheme. The main challenges with bioenergy include the limited availability of biomass compared to fossil resources and the change in land use leading to net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Food wastes and seaweeds offer an advantageous alternative biomass for biofuel production. They are widely available in many parts of the world. Thus, the use of food wastes, seaweed or algae growing in seawater would allow many countries with limited land and fresh water to produce

bioenergy. Unfortunately, the bioenergy technologies that can convert wet and salty biomass such as food wastes and seaweed are very limited, representing a significant untapped opportunity for biofuels. The alkaline thermal treatment of biomass provides a unique reaction pathway to produce H<sub>2</sub> while in-situ capturing CO<sub>2</sub>. By directly reacting wet and salty biomass with alkaline metal hydroxide, high purity H<sub>2</sub> is generated while capturing and storing CO<sub>2</sub> as solid carbonate.

## **How 50 Food & Beverage Manufacturing Facilities Improved Profitability By Reducing Food Loss.**

***Bruce Taylor***

*Enviro-Stewards Inc., Elmira, ON, Canada*

One third of food produced is presently wasted. And if food loss were a country, food loss would be the third largest GHG emitter (after USA & China). However, even if we succeeded at diverting 100% of this food from landfill, one third of food would still be wasted and it would remain the third largest GHG emitter.

Enviro-Stewards and Provision Coalition completed a pilot food loss prevention assessment for Campbell Soup that identified practical measures to prevent \$706,000/yr of food loss. This project was selected as the top clean capital project in Canada. Subsequently, the Walmart Foundation provided project funding to The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity to further demonstrate prevention opportunities at 50 food & beverage manufacturing facilities across Canada. The facilities assessed by Enviro-Stewards for this project included bakeries, dairies, breweries, vegetable processors, meat processors, seafood companies, among others.

The 50 assessments averaged \$230,000/yr of savings per facility with less than one year payback period. This presentation outlines Enviro-Stewards' project approach used to identify and quantify these savings as well as illustrations (with case studies) of practical measures implemented to secure the economic, social and environmental benefits available through food loss prevention.

## **Toward Creating an Environment of Cooperation between Water, Energy, and Food Stakeholders in San Antonio.**

***Bassel Daher<sup>1</sup>, Kent Portney<sup>1</sup>, Rabi Mohtar<sup>2</sup>, and Bryce Hannibal<sup>1</sup>***

*(1)Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, (2)Texas A&M University; American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon*

The San Antonio Region is home to a rapidly growing population with developing energy and agricultural sectors competing for water, land, and financial resources. Despite the tight interconnectedness between water, energy, and food challenges, little is known about the levels of communication and coordination among the various officials responsible for making the decisions that affect the management and planning of the three resource systems. It has been postulated that efficient communication is a prerequisite to developing resource allocation strategies that avoid potential unintended negative consequences that could result from inefficient allocation of natural resources and competing demands. Factors that may impact communication are identified and their potential roles are considered in improving existing levels of communication between San Antonio's water officials and those at other energy, food, and water institutions in the San Antonio Region. A questionnaire designed

to gather information on stakeholder concerns, frequency of communication, and participation in engagement forums was sent to public water officials in the Region. Using social network analysis and bivariate Ordinary Least Square regression analysis, the authors conclude that while modest levels of communication exist among water institutions, a very low level of communication exists between water institutions and those responsible for food and energy. Improving this level of communication could be partly be achieved through investing in cross-institutional mechanisms which promote higher levels of cooperation, and that work toward improving the compatibility of differing planning horizons, and common goal setting activities across sectors.

## **Integrated Modeling of Food-Energy-Water Systems: Challenges and Opportunities of Quantitative Graphical Networks.**

*Ryan S.D. Calder<sup>1</sup>, Kyle Bradbury<sup>2</sup>, Jordan M. Malof<sup>3</sup>, Lydia P. Olander<sup>4</sup>, Marc Jeuland<sup>5</sup>, and Mark E. Borsuk<sup>1</sup>*

*(1)Civil and Environmental Engineering, Duke University, Durham, NC, (2)Energy Initiative, Duke University, Durham, NC, (3)Electrical and Computer Engineering, Duke University, Durham, NC, (4)Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, Duke University, Durham, NC, (5)Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University, Durham, NC*

Food, energy and water systems are under increasing stresses from population growth, development and depletion of natural resources. There is ample modeling capacity for energy-food, water-food and energy-water relationships, but each of these pairwise relationships makes strong assumptions about the others and neglects the role of interacting social and environmental variables. Consequently, interventions in food, energy and water systems have tended to have unpredictable and unintended outcomes. Our work explores the capacity of graphical network approaches to characterize tightly coupled human-natural systems, resolve paradoxes and better anticipate the impacts of policies and investments. We aim to then leverage these approaches into quantitative decision-support tools. We find that evidence synthesis and interpretation can be improved by decomposing high-level associations of interest (e.g., the relationship between crop yield and investments in irrigation) into a graphical structure that accounts for interacting socio-environmental variables. However, the ability to parameterize such detailed models is highly influenced by availability, quality and scale of data. We hypothesize that emerging methods in remote sensing and machine learning can be deployed to develop address these needs and that the resulting models will improve decision-making in the realm of food, energy and water systems.

## **Investigating the Food-Energy-Water Nexus through Embedded Resource Accounting.**

*Tasnuva Mahjabin and Caitlin Grady*

*Civil and Environmental Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA*

Food-energy-water (FEW) nexus frameworks can enhance our understanding of interconnections, feedback, and dependencies in the FEW systems. Complex, connecting stressors such as increasing population, urbanization, climate change, and economic development will all influence the sustainable usage of food, energy, and water. This presentation will highlight a variety of techniques from the field of embedded resource accounting, including water footprint and nitrogen footprint tools, to build knowledge around the FEW nexus. These embedded resource estimation or footprint methods allow for a comparison between water, food, and energy under one unit of measurement. To investigate the water footprint efficiency across the US, this research examines the scaling properties of water footprint

production and consumption with various sociodemographic information. Using network science approaches, we also investigate the structure and characteristics of the virtual water networks embedded in US food and energy transfers. This study also develops an interstate network of virtual nitrogen (N) transfer embedded in food production and compares network characteristics of the virtual N to the virtual water transfer network. Finally, the study examines uncertainty in the footprint values due to the variability in the commodity trade across the US. These research pursuits provide tools and techniques using open-source information to inform understandings across the FEW nexus.

## **Wrf's Transition from Water-Energy Nexus to the Food-Energy-Water Nexus.**

***Ashwin Dhanasekar***

*The Water Research Foundation, Denver, CO*

Energy has always been an important aspect as far as water is concerned. The Water Research Foundation (WRF) has had a research area solely focused on energy efficiency and resource recovery for more than a decade now. With the increasing availability of efficient and economic technologies, now is the time to develop new ways to increase energy efficiency at water and wastewater utilities as well as optimizing the use of energy for operations. WRF's portfolio of energy research has increased considerably to include all different methods of solving issues related to energy as a puzzle. Initially, the research was focused on providing effective strategies to reduce water utility energy consumption and cost, developing strategies for multi-sector, regional, integrated water-energy planning, and providing sound approaches for energy generation by water utilities. Resource recovery is now more important than ever, and the implementation of distributed energy resources and renewables is more convenient and possible with more supportive policy and incentives that help economic implementation. This presentation will highlight the direction of energy research that WRF is heading towards which includes increased sustainability, optimized energy management, big data in water and wastewater utilities and innovative technologies to enhance resource recovery, leading into the Food-Energy-Water Nexus. The primary objective of this presentation will be to showcase the latest trends in Energy Research and how WRF is leading the efforts with an overview of some its latest research findings.

## **The Intersection of Urban and Rural Communities: Building Resilience through the Food Energy Water Nexus.**

***Jennifer Daw and Sherry Stout***

*National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO*

This presentation will highlight integrated strategies and policies to build resilience across energy, water and food systems using case studies from NREL's work in islands, remote communities, urban, and rural areas to highlight the intersection and opportunity for improved urban-rural system resilience. While urban resilience strategies are not necessarily applicable to rural settings, they are inherently interrelated. The majority of America's agricultural production occurs in rural areas, and urban centers are dependent on energy, water, and food systems that exist and intersect in rural areas outside of their jurisdictional boundaries.

Key differences between urban and rural contexts, including distinct built environments (e.g., building types, density, transportation networks, energy and water infrastructure), economic drivers, and other physical and demographic factors highlight the need for integrated planning of urban and rural energy-water-food systems. These strategies are important for rural

communities themselves, and the urban populations that depend on rural areas for energy, water, and food services.

Extreme events have highlighted weaknesses in energy, water, and food systems as a result of supply chain disruptions and cascading system failures. These events have challenged both urban and rural communities to adopt policies that improve their resilience and to seek new strategies to ensure continued security of energy, water, and food resources. Continued access to energy, water and food is not just essential in post disaster scenarios, it also fuels the socioeconomic growth and prosperity of rural communities, where the mindful management of energy, water and food systems is increasingly critical to their survival.

## SESSION 2: FOOD WASTE

### **Keynote Talk: Food Waste As a Sustainable Resource for the Production of Carbons for Purification and Catalytic Processes.**

*Lei Yu<sup>1</sup>, David P. Gamliel<sup>2</sup>, Brianna Markunas<sup>1</sup>, Katherine M. Saltzgeber<sup>1</sup>, and Julia A. Valla<sup>1</sup>  
(1)Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, (2)Physical Sciences Inc., Andover, MA*

Food waste can be considered as a renewable resource for energy and/or materials production. In this study, biochars were prepared via pyrolysis of food waste and then used as precursors for production of activated carbons via physical and chemical activation. Pyrolysis and activation conditions were varied to optimize the properties of biochar and activated carbons, respectively. Activated carbons were characterized by N<sub>2</sub> sorption-desorption, scanning electron microscope (SEM), energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDX), elemental analysis, inductively coupled plasma atomic emission spectroscopy (ICP-OES), X-ray powder diffraction (XRD), <sup>13</sup>C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) and Raman spectroscopy. Adsorption experiments of aromatic hydrocarbons were conducted to evaluate the feasibility of using biochars and activated carbons derived from food waste for the adsorption of aromatic hydrocarbons (benzene and naphthalene) from water. The activated carbon with the highest adsorption capacity was prepared via steam activation at 950°C/1 h. The BET surface area, micropore and total pore volume of the activated carbon were 745 m<sup>2</sup>/g, 0.185 cm<sup>3</sup>/g and 0.594 cm<sup>3</sup>/g, respectively. The benzene and naphthalene sorption capacity was 460 mg/g and 150 mg/g, respectively. The physicochemical properties and adsorption capacities of the activated carbons prepared from food waste were also compared to the corresponding properties and capacities of the activated carbons derived from miscanthus, as well as commercial carbons. Our study revealed that activated carbons prepared by physical activation of biochars derived from food waste are promising candidates for water purification with capacities for aromatic hydrocarbons similar to the ones observed using commercial activated carbons.

### **Topic: Food Waste in K-12 Schooltitle: Food Waste Prevention and Reduction Pilot in Baltimore City Schools: Food Matters - for Students, Faculty and Staff.**

**Ava Richardson**

*Sustainability, Baltimore City Government, Baltimore, MD, MD*

Wasted food has gained much attention in recent years both nationally and globally. Despite this recent focus, excessive food waste has been a burgeoning issue for decades. Food insecurity and hunger -

# ORAL ABSTRACTS

perplexingly - continue concomitantly while landfills are increasingly fed opposed to people. Many organizations are focusing on K-12 schools to help curb rampant food waste as both significant contributors to food waste and vehicles for food waste prevention education among students. To appreciate the totality of resources lost when food is wasted, the authors uses the food-energy-water (FEW) nexus framework to assess the total cost of resources lost when food is wasted. FEW has become part of the food systems lexicon used to describe food activity in the current anthropogenic era. This framework is a useful tool for assessing regional food waste challenges and opportunities. Breaking the nexus down into three components - water/food; food/energy and water/energy, can help local, state and Federal governments achieve more efficient management of natural resources. With an estimated 40% of all food grown in the U.S. going to landfills and incinerators, the management of FEW systems leaves much to be desired. A FEW framing can connect with various curriculum elements from math to science to reading - weaving in FEW constructs can help students gain an appreciation for the environmental impact of our food system at an early age. These learnings can foster a food waste reduction and prevention culture among students that shapes their perspective and behaviors into adolescence and adulthood

## ***Food, Energy & Water: The Impact of a Food Waste Reduction Training Program for Food Service Workers in an Urban School District.***

***Sara Elnakib<sup>1</sup> and Amy Rowe<sup>2</sup>***

*(1)Family & Community Health Sciences, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, New Brunswick, NJ,*

*(2)Agriculture & Natural Resources, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Newark, NJ*

Food waste is a major issue in the United States. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that 30-40% of the food produced in the United States is wasted.

15 Paterson, NJ, schools that cook their own meals were randomly chosen to participate in the study, with the intervention based on USDA's offer vs. serve model. Lunch food waste data collection occurred prior to the intervention, then the food service workers and lunchroom monitors were trained. Finally, the post-intervention food waste was measured. Training for the school foodservice workers was based on behavioral economics "nudges" to improve the cafeteria environment which led to reduced food waste.

Of the food and beverages served during our 60 visits to schools 2,473 pounds were wasted before the intervention and 2,123 were wasted after the intervention. Overall, 350 pounds of food was saved which was a 14 % reduction in food waste due to this intervention. That is approximately 12 pounds of waste saved per school per day and a total of 90,720 pounds of food waste saved for the whole district for the year. The estimated savings of food cost for the 90,620 pounds of food is \$76,452. Additionally, an estimated 41,932 gallons of water were saved due to the intervention. Overall, the intervention showed the impact of a food service training program on reducing food waste.

## **Focus on Food, Farming and Climate Change.**

***Jack Starr***

*Cargill, Minneapolis, MN*

In looking at the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the food on your table, much of those emissions are a result of activities on the farm. Given the large number of farmers in the US and worldwide, it is a significant task to change farming practices to more sustainable methods. These more sustainable methods may look more expensive than their current practices to a farmer who is seeing low prices for his current crop. It will take innovation and good science to align farmers, food processors, brand owners and consumers to improve the sustainability as we go from "Farm to Fork".

## SESSION 3: BIOGAS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### **Invited Talk: Designing Multifunctional Processes to Direct the Synthesis of Clean Energy Carriers with Inherent CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Conversion from Heterogeneous Carbonaceous Feedstocks.**

**Greeshma Gadikota<sup>1</sup>, Tianhe Yin<sup>2</sup>, and Xun Gao<sup>2</sup>**

*(1)Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, (2)School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY*

Rising need to treat carbonaceous food waste in the urban environment calls for advancing the science of multifunctional processes to direct the synthesis of clean energy carriers such as H<sub>2</sub> with inherent carbon removal. One such process involves combining gasification of these carbonaceous feedstocks with the water gas shift reaction to produce a clean energy carrier such as H<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>. The reactive separation of CO<sub>2</sub> from H<sub>2</sub> is achieved by using earth abundant sorbents being calcium or magnesium to produce water insoluble calcium or magnesium carbonate, also known as carbon mineralization. Integrating these reactions directly with the water gas shift reaction has been shown to be thermodynamically favorable. Further, the presence of water kinetically favors these reactions. In this study, we discuss pathways to aid the reactive separation of CO<sub>2</sub> and direct the synthesis of H<sub>2</sub>.

### **Anaerobic Wastewater and Environmental Microbial Communities Readily Demethylate Methoxy Aromatic PPCPs.**

**Sarah J Wolfson<sup>1</sup>, Abigail W Porter<sup>2</sup>, and Lily Y Young<sup>2</sup>**

*(1)Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY, (2)Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ*

Pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) can be metabolized by microbes during wastewater treatment, releasing both intact PPCPs and their metabolites to the environment. There is an urgent need to understand PPCP transformation however the multitude of chemicals makes studying each microbial metabolism an arduous task. We propose that predicting microbial PPCP metabolism during wastewater treatment is best understood in the context of shared chemical structure. We recently described a methanogenic enrichment culture from anaerobic wastewater sludge that readily demethylates the common pharmaceutical naproxen to 6-O-desmethylnaproxen, with no loss of the metabolite observed. In this culture, methane was generated at stoichiometric amounts to naproxen demethylation, indicating that the methyl group removed from naproxen stimulates a complex microbial community. The natural methoxy aromatic compounds syringic and vanillic acids were also readily demethylated, and this shared metabolism prompted an examination of other methoxy aromatic xenobiotic compounds. In the present study we challenged the methanogenic wastewater culture with the methoxy aromatic UV filter oxybenzone and observed demethylation to benzophenone<sub>1</sub>, which itself is an estrogenic contaminant. A second culture from sulfidic marine sediment was established to simulate anoxic environmental sediment receiving pharmaceutical contamination. Again, the natural

and PPCP methoxy aromatic compounds were readily demethylated with accumulation of the metabolites. This study provides experimental support to a systematic understanding of methoxy aromatic PPCP transformation, those investigated here and those not yet investigated. It suggests that methoxy aromatic PPCPs are transformed to demethylated metabolites during anaerobic wastewater treatment and the environment, and their metabolites may accumulate.

## **Transforming Rural Community Economy from Linear to Circular One Using Biogas Production Technology.**

**Abiodun S. Momodu<sup>1</sup> and Tofunmi D. Adepoju<sup>2</sup>**

*(1)Centre for Energy Research and Development, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria,*

*(2)Department of Chemical Engineering, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria*

Twin sources - fossil fuel usage and poor waste management – that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions can be combated using the concept of circular economy through using biogas technology. This approach will allow waste conversion to meet rural energy demand and also reduce dependence on fossil fuel use. This study presents technical and business model approaches to upscale a laboratory experimental procedure for biogas production through anaerobic digestion using vegetal wastes at mesophilic temperature of 35°C – 40°C. Inoculated substrate is up-scaled using molarity concept. Waste required is 13.3 tons for 67m<sup>3</sup> digester for 30-day hydraulic retention time to produce 39.13 m<sup>3</sup>, with daily organic loading rate is 0.44 ton of total solids. Avoided CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from liquefied petroleum gas, kerosene, diesel, fuel wood is 9.69kg, 37.49kg, 23.147kg, 181.65kg respectively. Total investment cost is estimated at \$83,123. Life cycle cost (LCC) and return streams are estimated based on three scenarios with a 20-year life-cycle. LCC for digestate in Scenarios A and B is the same at \$0.13/kg and Scenario C at \$0.09/kg. For electricity generation, LCC is \$0.008/kBTU and \$0.01/kBTU in Scenario B and C respectively, cooking is \$0.14/kg and \$0.19/kg in Scenario A and C respectively. Return streams for each of the three scenarios are estimated at \$116,373.36. User-centered design is used to develop the business model. The project fits well as a means to transform rural community economy from linear to circular system through producing clean and renewable energy, managing natural resources and providing jobs.

## **An Analytical Framework for Assessing Biogas Potential from Consumer Food Waste in US Cities.**

**Emily A. Beagle, Yael R. Glazer, and Michael E. Webber**

*Mechanical Engineering, UT Austin, Austin, TX*

Consumer-side food waste—cited anywhere from 20% to 40% of all food production—is a potential renewable fuel source that could offset significant energy needs in urban areas. Anaerobic digestion is a proven method by which biogas can be produced from food scraps. Currently, logistical challenges and costs make implementing city-wide consumer food waste collection and use limited.

However, many US cities already have composting programs which collect food waste and compost it to make fertilizer and high quality soil. In addition, many cities have ambitious goals and initiatives to significantly reduce their waste and greenhouse gas emissions in the upcoming decades. The use of food waste to produce biogas would help cities to simultaneously meet both of these objectives. In this study we establish an analytical framework for assessing the energy availability from consumer food waste in US cities and

examine the potential for displacing existing natural gas usage with biogas derived from consumer food waste through anaerobic digestion. Results will include an estimation of available consumer food waste, potential to meet demand using produced biogas via a comparison with existing natural gas usage, and potential emission reductions from both reducing food waste in landfills and displacing consumer natural gas usage. Results will help inform city policies for establishing various food waste collection and use programs.

## **Infrastructure Expansion Planning Under Food-Energy-Water Nexus Considerations.**

***Styliani Avraamidou<sup>1</sup>, R. Cory Allen<sup>1,2</sup>, Julie Cook<sup>1,2</sup>, Marcello Di Martino<sup>1,3</sup>, Bassel Daher<sup>1,4</sup>, and Efstratios N. Pistikopoulos<sup>1,2</sup>***

*(1)Texas A&M Energy Institute, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, (2)Artie McFerrin Department of Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, (3)Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, Germany, (4)Texas A&M University, College Station, TX*

Due to global population growth, economic development, and urbanization, the demands for food, energy, and fresh water are rapidly increasing, exerting pressures on existing supply chains and urban infrastructure. These pressures are exacerbated by climate change impacts and delayed policy response. As these demands grow, the stresses and interdependences between these resources become more apparent. A holistic approach for the optimal decision-making for energy and water infrastructure planning that build on a Food-Energy-Water Nexus (FEW-N) framework is essential to meet the increasing utility demands. Such a decision-making approach is complex and involves challenges related to: (i) involvement of different stakeholders with often conflicting objectives, (ii) the intrinsic intermittent nature of renewable energy sources; and (iii) stochastic energy and water demand profiles.

In this work, we present a novel FEW-N superstructure-based representation and multi-objective optimization framework for energy and water infrastructure planning. The FEW-N problem is posed as a two-stage stochastic mixed-integer linear program that minimizes the capital expenditures, operational cost, water usage and land competition of the FEW-N system. Planning decisions taken into consideration include the ability to construct new power plants, energy storage units and water treatment plants, while scheduling decisions involve the operating level of the plants, how the energy is allocated within the system, and when energy is stored and released from storage devices. We illustrate the effectiveness of the infrastructure expansion framework through the use of a case study that spans the ERCOT region of Texas.

## **Transforming Wastewater Systems As Community Resource.**

***Sherry Stout and Jennifer Daw***

*Integrated Applications Center, NREL, Golden, CO*

Wastewater systems exemplify the intersection of energy, water, land-use, and food production and are increasingly being viewed for the resources they provide. These systems are unique in that they possess opportunities to reduce community energy use and generate on-site energy as a byproduct of their operations. Further, biosolids generated as a result of the wastewater process have beneficial uses as land amendments for agriculture and landscaping purposes, providing additional value streams that can further reduce utility operating costs.

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Energy use can account for as much as 10% of a local government's annual operating budget. While communities closely track costs associated with treating wastewater, more granular information on the specific energy, transportation, and land use implications associated with these costs is less understood. There is also poor availability of data to assess the effect of policy and operational decisions related to water conservation and reuse, treatment process optimization, new technologies, on-site energy generation, transportation, and land application of biosolids.

In this work, NREL brought together a diverse energy dataset from organizations such as the Water Environment Federation, Water Research Foundation, Electric Power Research Institute, NYSERDA, EPA, and universities to understand the broader implications and opportunities related to wastewater systems. This study considered the impact of domestic trends such as population growth, urbanization, new industries, aging infrastructure and climate change on wastewater systems and their broader implications on energy, water, land and food production. The resulting tool that was developed can be used to help inform policy and operational decisions for communities

## **Employing Decision Analysis to Evaluate Nontraditional Management Pathways for Produced Water from Oil and Gas Extraction.**

*Yael R. Glazer, Emily A. Beagle, and Michael E. Webber  
Mechanical Engineering, UT Austin, Austin, TX*

Produced water is a common byproduct of oil and gas (O&G) production that must be properly managed to avoid damage to the environment and human health. Currently, the majority of produced water is disposed underground via deep well injection. In addition, O&G development can be limited when there is insufficient disposal capacity or wastewater management strategies. Over time, treatment and reuse of the produced water for beneficial uses has become more commonplace yet the majority of produced water is still disposed downhole.

In this study, we built a framework employing decision analysis methodology to determine the economic tradeoffs of several produced water management pathways. Nontraditional pathways including piping and selling treated water to a municipality, irrigating terrestrial energy crops onsite, irrigating greenhouse crops, among others, were compared to more typical management strategies of discharging to a nearby stream or underground injection. To assess the water management pathways, the model incorporates key parameters including CAPEX, OPEX, potential revenue, and uncertainty for each option. The methodology is illustrated using data found in literature along with field data and conditions from an oil and gas site in central Wyoming. We determined that the management pathway with the highest expected value is discharging to a nearby stream followed closely by irrigating an onsite energy crop. This result is primarily due to the lower treatment and brine disposal costs associated with these two options. This work also determined the commodity prices required for each of the management pathways to achieve profitability.

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## POSTER SESSION

### **Meal-Kit Delivery: The Trade-Offs of Food Waste and Energy Consumption.**

*Isabella Gee<sup>1</sup>, Todd Davidson<sup>2</sup>, Brittany Speetles<sup>3</sup>, and Michael Webber<sup>3</sup>*

*(1)Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX,*

*(2)Civil and Mechanical Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY,*

*(3)Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX*

This work shares a model that was developed to compare the energy requirements of meal-kit delivery systems to conventional grocery shopping. Meal-kit services can reduce food waste because the kits pre-portion ingredients for each recipe, thereby saving energy. However, the supply chain and packaging requirements of meal-kit delivery are different than those for grocery stores, potentially offsetting any energetic benefits of reduced food waste. If meal-kit delivery replaces some trips to the grocery store, then transportation-related savings might be significant. The tradeoffs of these competing effects are non-obvious, so mass and energy balances were used to assess embedded energy in both pathways. The model was illustrated under representative operating conditions for a consumer in Austin, Texas using Monte Carlo simulation. Both per-meal and per-week, a meal-kit delivery service meal is more energy intensive than procuring the same meal from conventional grocery stores primarily due to single-use packaging. Consumer transportation to the grocery store was also found to be particularly energy intensive. These results suggest that the energetic requirements of meal-kit delivery services could be reduced such that they are less than conventional grocery shopping if reusable or low-impact packaging is used, and if the delivery services are able to reduce the number of weekly trips to the grocery store. This work was published in the Journal of Cleaner Production, Volume 236, 1 November 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.07.062>.

### **Carbon Dioxide Solubilities in Decanoic Acid-Based Hydrophobic Deep Eutectic Solvents.**

*Vishwas Gupta*

*Petroleum engineering, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Jaipur, India*

To alleviate drawbacks like high toxicity, high cost, non biodegradability etc, deep eutectic solvents (DES's) were found and are the modern solvents that have the caliber to ameliorate these fallibilities and we use these solvents to examine the potential of CO<sub>2</sub> as a capturing agent. The preparation of DES takes mixing of decanoic acid and quaternary ammonium salt with variegated halide anions and alkyl chains. Varying temperature from 298 to 323 K and at a maximum pressure of 2MPa, six unique hydrophobic DES's were put in to be discerned and outcomes have been innumeraled after solubility data with existent hydrophilic DES's, contemporary physical solvents and fluorinated ionic liquids have been tallied. All this has been done with a motivation to wander into a new arena of measuring CO<sub>2</sub>'s solubility in DES's and such experiments prove the potency of CO<sub>2</sub> as a capturing agent. The measured CO<sub>2</sub> solubilities have nuance differences with those of fluorinated ILs but CO<sub>2</sub> absorption lies in the bracket of those of nonpolar solvents.

### **Do Americans Have a Misguided Interpretation of American Raised Food.**

*Andrew Chery<sup>1</sup>, Nkulu Mkhonto<sup>2</sup>, Sergio Fernandez<sup>2</sup>, and Veneta Sotiropoulos<sup>3</sup>*

*(1)NYIT, Old westbury, NY, (2)NYIT, Old Westbury, NY, (3)NYIT, Manhattan, NY*

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

DO AMERICANS HAVE A MISGUIDED INTERPRETATION OF AMERICAN RAISED FOOD?

Andrew Chery

Sergio Fernandez

Nkulu Mkhonto

Veneta Sotiropoulos PhD

## ABSTRACT

The number of food deserts in America has increased. Food deserts are defined as parts of the country void of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods, usually found in impoverished areas such as low-income neighborhoods. Areas that are heavily composed with non-nutritional food options like fast food and highly processed food. (paraphrase) The lack of nutritional food options in these areas can have negative health consequences such as obesity, heart problems, diabetes to name a few. Nonetheless, it is unclear if the people that reside in such areas are aware just how nutritionally deficient their environment is. Furthermore, it is unclear if these areas are so nutritionally deficient that they rival or even worse than areas in of more impoverished nation. Therefore, the goal of this study is to investigate food nutritional deficiency between Americans who live in food deserts with people in a developing nation (i.e., South Africa). In the present study, we expect to find that individuals who reside in food deserts have food options that are so nutritional deficient that even people who reside in less developed nations have more nutritional options. Using a qualitative interview approach 15 participants will be interviewed to determine if there is evidence to support this claim. The results, findings, implications, limitations, and future research will also be discussed.

## **Understanding and Conceptualizing How Urban Green Blue Infrastructure Affects the Food, Water, and Energy Nexus: A Synthesis of the Literature.**

***Fanxin Meng***

*School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, Yale University, new haven, CT*

The interactive dynamics in the food, water, and energy system as a nexus (FWEN) are critical to the sustainable development of global cities, which can be mediated by green and blue infrastructure (GBI) in the urban area. Here we provide a comprehensive literature review to examine how GBI affects FWEN in urban centers which is lacking current literature. In order to do this, we undertake a systematic review of the literature using a meta-analytic approach and topic modelling. Based on our synthesis, we develop a conceptual framework of the key links between urban GBI and FWEN and the direction and magnitude of the relationship. We found that GBIs can have positive and negative effects on urban FWEN. The negative effects can and should be addressed by policy making. In cities with different size/income/in different regions, GBIs can have heterogeneous effect on FWEN and should be adapted to specific localized policy targets. Finally, current analysis focuses on isolated analysis, lacking integrated analysis in develop decision making supporting tool which should be addressed in the future research.

# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## **Alternative Approach to the Design of Toilets for Optimal Water Consumption.**

***Ciny Natalia Peñaranda Palacios<sup>1</sup> and Laura Daniela Pinzón Bustamante<sup>2</sup>***

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Recent studies and reports by the United Nations Program (UN) according to the environment, reports the water resource is one of the most critical resources. Colombia is made up of 238 municipalities, where 28% of the national territory has water rationing. For example, different countries look for alternatives to work on the improvement of systems for urban prevention and planning in order to create sustainable cities with water quality. The capital of Colombia, Bogotá, has losses of up to 42% of the water according to the studies of the Department of National Planning. Because of this, relevant alternatives are required to achieve the city's water consumption and thus, move towards a smart city model. In Colombian households it is estimated that the average consumption of a household is 10.76 cubic meters of water, strata 4,5 and 6, the areas where there is a greater consumption are in bathrooms and showers, where it is estimated that 40% of household drinking water is spent on sanitary discharges. Due to this, ConIntA research seedbed has worked on the models of affected toilets to meet the needs of the population and the relevant characteristics for the design and invention of a new design of the toilets, where it is proposed to make use of the fundamental physical principle, the vacuum, to handle the discharges together with pressure systems.

## **Food Waste Separation & Depackaging: Capturing Organic Residuals for Nutrient Repurposing, Compost and/or Renewable Energy.**

***Corey Rossen***

*Sales, Ecoverse, Cleveland, OH*

Food waste separation of organic material from its packaged containment is no longer being overlooked, but rather becoming a necessity for companies, municipalities and other organizations. Food (and other organic) waste depackaging leads to the maximization of animal nutrition, composting and anaerobic digestion while minimizing dependency on landfills, therefore satisfying regulatory compliance. Specifically, depackaging systems are seeking to make a significant contribution to industries by:

- Increasing the capacity for animal nutrition, composting and anaerobic digestion of source segregated, prepackaged food and organic waste
- Encouraging the demand for quality food and organic waste outputs in the marketplace
- Identifying and opening new markets for animal nutrition, composting and anaerobic digestion outputs
- Recycling organic waste streams for continued repurposing
- Reduce environmental impact of discarded organic waste

Separation technology and equipment have made it possible to remove organic contents from its packaging for recycling/repurposing. This separation of materials leads to the increased utilization of animal nutrition, composting and anaerobic digestion. My presentation will explore the ability to separate organics from its packaging onsite at food manufacturing, retail, municipalities, stand alone facilities and transfer stations as a means to divert organic waste from landfills and repurpose/recycle the material through animal nutrition, composting and anaerobic digestion.

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## **Carbon Capture Using Industrial Hydroxides for EOR- Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Ahead.**

***Nehil Shreyash***

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To alleviate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the most dominating factor towards increasing global warming, carbon capture and storage (CCS) proves to be promising. Combining various CCS technologies, the use of cheaper and abundant fossil fuels still elevate the industrial growth. In the meantime, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions also witness a decrement. Out of various amine-based solvents, mono-ethanol-amine (MEA) is the only one in use in various post-combustion plants for carbon capture from flue gases. The regular refilling and repacking of MEA to make up for losses as a result of high volatility and solvent degradation is one limitation of MEA.

Hydroxides like sodium hydroxide can rectify the existing drawbacks because NaOH is known to have higher CO<sub>2</sub> absorption than MEA. But NaOH has its deficiencies like it cannot be regenerated post-capture and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> is the reason for it as at 160-degree-Celsius it decomposes to give Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>. At very severe conditions, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> forms Na<sub>2</sub>O. The severity of these conditions is as high as providing 800-degree-Celsius temperature.

Usage of NaOH is preferred for flooding and oil recovery in reservoirs after the capture because it doesn't require recovery. NaOH provides suitable milieu for micelle formation when used in alkali-surfactant-polymer. By injecting CO<sub>2</sub> laden NaOH, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration is eased and extra oil is produced due to alteration of oil miscibility because of the presence of bubbled CO<sub>2</sub>. Further substitution of NaOH with other hydroxides is also a possibility which can be examined based on oil-field conditions. Exploring these possibilities may enhance CO<sub>2</sub> capture and oil recovery.

## **Chinese Food in China Vs. Chinese Food in America: Chinese and American Perceptions of Healthiness.**

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## **Chinese Food in China vs. Chinese Food In America: Chinese and American Perceptions of Healthiness**

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## **ABSTRACT**

American has an obesity problem. As a result, they often look for healthier food options. One such option is Chinese food. Some research suggests that Americans may erroneously think Chinese food is healthier than it may actually be. They equate the lack of obesity in Chinese as a product of their diet. This can lead Americans to adopt a Chinese diet as a healthier alternative. But in fact, the Chinese food made in America may not be as healthy as it is perceived. The presence of saturated fats and sugar can make such food unhealthy. The present study investigates this assumption using a survey approach of 50 participants (i.e., 25 Americans, 25 Chinese) in the United States. The expectation in this study is to show that most Americans view Chinese food made in American as healthier than

it actually is and also, to show that Chinese view Chinese food made in

America as less healthier than Americans views it. The results, findings, implications, limitations, and future research will be also be discussed

## **An Analysis of the Possible Financial Savings of a Carbon Capture Process through Carbon Dioxide Absorption and Geological Dumping.**

***Ronald Ssebadduka***

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Herein, we discuss possible ways to reduce the cost of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) sequestration with a special focus on the process and the solvent used. Modifications to the process to eliminate the stripper section and focus on just the CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbing and geological dumping (CAGD) can lead to significant reductions in the sequestration cost per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> compared with ordinary CO<sub>2</sub> capture and geological storage

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(CCS) processes. In the case of CAGD, savings of steam used in the ordinary CO<sub>2</sub> capture process can go up to US\$12.7 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> captured and additional savings on the waste disposal cost of US\$175/tonne of waste can be made. More savings on the energy costs for compression and cooling of the captured CO<sub>2</sub> gas can be realized if the absorbent and flue gas/CO<sub>2</sub> slurry is directly dumped in a geological formation. A change of the capture solvent can also make this process better economically by using the proposed substitute. Many commercially available alternatives to monoethanolamine (MEA) have been presented in this report by mainly focusing on how their loading capacity and cost compare. Aqueous Sodium carbonate (Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) has been proposed as the best material for use in the CAGD CO<sub>2</sub> absorbing process based on the economic advantages it presents.

## **Mitigating Polymer Absorption in Porous Silica Formations with Surfactants & Silicananofluids: A Viscosity, Temperature and Rheology Study Investigation.**

**Saurabh Kr Tiwary**

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While the use of nanotechnology has been explored in many applications and of late, the application of nanotechnology in the various upstream petroleum activities like exploration, drilling, production and distribution. It has been observed that on the addition of nanoparticles to the fluids alter the properties of the fluid causing wettability alternation and impacting advanced drag reduction, strengthening sand consolidation, reducing the interfacial tension and increasing the mobility of the capillary-trapped oil. The focus of our current study has been the use of silica nanoparticles to mitigate the absorption of polymer in a porous silica formation. Conventionally used polymers to increase the viscosity the injection water are PAM, HPAM and Xanthan Gum. The use of polymer in an injection fluid causes the increment of oil from a formation. However, the polymer has been found to adsorb onto reservoir rocks, causes precipitation, and results in the changes to the rheological properties of the fluid. Hence, we have explored the use of nanoparticles in mitigating the adsorption of water-soluble polymers on the solid surfaces of sandstone has been investigated. Our study has focused on the role of polymer and its resulting absorption in a porous media on the viscosity, temperature and salinity of solutions of polyacrylamide polymers with different nanoparticle & surfactant concentrations. Our studies have shown that the use of polymer solutions containing silica nanoparticles have significantly less adsorption based on weight percent than conventional samples. This attribute is hence desirable for surface absorption.

Keywords: Polymer Absorption, Enhanced Oil Recovery, Nanoparticles, Surfactant, Clays, Sandstones

## **"Chromash": Adsorbing Challenges, Desorbing Sustainability.**

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"ChromAsh" is an invented powder product from treated petroleum coke bottom ash that has been scientifically proven to adsorb waste contaminants from tannery effluents with 99.99% effectiveness under variable process conditions. The process is non-complicated including only, filtration, adsorption and desorption columns. Extremely reduced fixed and operational cost when compared with current

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technologies. The Process offers opportunity to recycle 100% of tanning dye, tanning water and sure the adsorbent itself. In last September, the new technology is approved by Sudanese Standards Metrology Organization (SSMO).

"**ChromAsh**" is expected to be tomorrow's solution for continuous tannery discharges harming both humans and environment, specially when regarding the traditional tanning process which is the dominant in 78% of African and Asian countries. "**ChromAsh**" with countless economic, environmental and health-protection advantages to both producers and consumers in the energy and tanning industries is searching for a sponsor for more scientific development and large-scale implementation.

## **Soft Computing Tool for Aiding the Integration of Renewable Energy Systems in Isolated Areas of Colombia.**

**ANA M Rosso-Ceron<sup>1</sup> and Viatcheslav Kafarov<sup>2</sup>**

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In Colombia, several entities have studied the possibilities of renewable energy development in isolated areas. These studies suggest that the decision of choosing sustainable alternatives of energy must include, resources, as well as, sustainability dimensions. Thus, it is necessary to have planning tools that offer to manage energy system simulation and optimization models. Although, these tools are not enough to make the decision, because they do not consider other factors that affect the decision of choosing a sustainable system.

To address these problems, there are systems known as soft computing, among them, the fuzzy modelling makes decision making more flexible, and reliable. Besides, the development of computer facilities for the energy system allows a drastic reduction in the models' CPU time, making room for a continuous improvement in modelling and solving strategies.

Thus, this study contributes to the developed of a soft computing tool for the integration of renewable energy systems. The tool consists of a forecasting sub-tool for assessing quantitative and qualitative data. These data are input for a fuzzy multi-objective decision model developed in GAMS, where the total present value and the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the system are minimized for obtaining alternatives of Pareto. These alternatives are used as inputs for a fuzzy multi-attribute model developed in MATLAB where the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the total present value, with social, technologic, and environmental criteria are used as inputs for choosing the most sustainable alternative in a tested case of Chocó.

## **Utilizing Novel Technologies for Extraction of Bioactive Compounds from Mandarin Juice Production Waste.**

**Sven Karlović, Tomislav Bosiljkov, Filip Dujmić, Mladen Brnčić, Marko Marelja, Marko Škegro, and Damir Ježek**

*Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, Zagreb, Croatia*

Mandarin peels are waste from fruit juice production and, as such, have a low price and high potential to be further processed using novel food processing technologies such as high hydrostatic pressure or

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high – intensity ultrasonics. Environmentally friendly and low-cost raw materials and technologies are forcing the industry to develop new methods to guarantee the sustainability of the food chain. From this perspective, food waste made in the fruit juice industry is of great interest since the research shows that the peel contains a high concentration of bioactive compounds. Those compounds could be extracted and further used in food or pharma industry. The primary objective of this research was extraction with supercritical carbon dioxide and comparison of obtained results with other extraction techniques such as conventional extraction and extraction with high-intensity ultrasound.

Results show that the ultrasound-assisted extraction of mandarine peels have significant benefits over classic extraction and extraction with supercritical carbon dioxide. Observing total polyphenols values there is significant increase (0.1 mg GAE/g for SCO<sub>2</sub>, 1.82 for conventional and 2.32 using ultrasonics). DPPH of ultrasonically obtained extracts was also significantly higher (7.48 mM Trolox/g compared to conventional extracts 5.66 mM). Using ultrasound in this setting can ensure efficient reuse of waste from fruit and vegetable products for the production of bioactive compounds.

## **GIS-Based Assessment of Regional Biomass Potentials for Heat and Power Generation at the Example of Ludwigsburg County, Germany.**

**Rushikesh Padsala<sup>1</sup>, Keyu Bao<sup>2</sup>, Chris Kesnar<sup>3</sup>, Volker Coors<sup>4</sup>, and Bastian Schröter<sup>3</sup>**  
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The county of Ludwigsburg is located in the centre of Baden-Württemberg, in Germany's south-western corner. It covers an area of approximately 265 square miles, with a population of about 550,000 inhabitants, spread across 39 municipalities. In 2013, the county set itself a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 90 percent until 2050 through increased energy efficiency and increasing the share renewable energy sources for heat and power generation.

In light of this, an assessment of the biomass potential for heat and power generation for the county of Ludwigsburg is presented here. Our study uses Digital Landscape Models (DLM) in the open CityGML data format to calculate the local biomass potential, and couples these with our workflow-based urban simulation platform SimStadt. Since the landscape type for each relevant polygon in the DLM is known (wood, shrub, agriculture), crops can be allocated to the agricultural polygons based on statistical data. In a next step, biomass potentials per polygon are categorized into for example energy wood, bioethanol, biogas, or vegetable oil.

In Ludwigsburg, the local biomass potential amounts to about 761 GWh/a, or 4% of total energy demand (based on 2012 demand data). This compares favourably to an actual biomass share of 2% of total energy demand (in 2012).

## **Optimal Allocation of Renewable Energy Generation and Storage Systems.**

**Julie Cook<sup>1,2</sup>, Styliani Avraamidou<sup>2</sup>, R. Cory Allen<sup>1,2</sup>, and Efstratios N. Pistikopoulos<sup>1,2</sup>**  
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There is an increasing demand for renewable power capacity in Texas due to the growing population statewide. However, increasing the amount of power supplied to the grid through renewable technologies can place stresses on the food, energy and water resources in the area. The aim of this research project is to model and optimize the allocation of renewable energy generation and storage technologies considering various objectives, such as cost and environmental impact, and scenarios, such as varying energy demands and land and water use constraints. Detailed high fidelity modeling of various energy generating processes, including solar farms, wind farms, and biomass, was performed. Nonlinear optimization was then used to obtain the energy output profiles of the various renewable energy generation technologies. The derived profiles were then used as inputs to a linear optimization program to obtain the optimal allocation for each scenario through mixed-integer linear optimization. The results of this model indicate that varying the restrictions placed on the model, such as limiting land area or water availability, can greatly affect the optimum energy production and storage methods. The proposed methodology has been adopted for a water-stressed region in south-central Texas. The outcomes of this research stress the significance of geographic factors, the energy demand profiles and resource availability, such as water and land, on the transition towards renewable energy generation.

## LIGHTNING ROUND 1

### **A Study on Food, Energy, and Water Impacts of the Average American Diet By Demographic Group.**

**Joe Bozeman III**

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Overcoming socioecological barriers of the food–energy–water (FEW) nexus remains a challenge for urban and rural communities. Using life cycle assessment and social psychology techniques, cradle-to-farm-gate land, greenhouse gas (GHG), and water impacts—that derive from food consumption in the United States—were analyzed and differentiated by major demographic groups (Black, Latinx, and White). Results indicate that the White demographic yields the highest per capita GHG (680 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> eq\*year<sup>-1</sup>) and water impacts (328,600 L\*year<sup>-1</sup>) from food consumption, whereas the Black demographic yields the highest per capita land impacts (1,770 m<sup>2</sup>\*year<sup>-1</sup>) from food consumption. Furthermore, we propose using government programming to encourage environmentally friendly food purchasing behavior. In all, these findings establish a cross-disciplinary methodological approach to addressing socioecological problems and provides useful FEW impact data for FEW nexus and climate change researchers.

### **Is Organic Still Sustainable? an Investigation of Consumer Perceptions of Food Production Sustainability.**

**Catherine Cho, Samuel Chen, Joel DaSilva, Jonathan Flores, and Veneta Sotiropoulos**

*School of Management, New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY*

There is a belief that organic food is sustainable. The problem that has arisen is that organic food may no longer be as sustainable as it once was. Initially, organic food was produced by local and small production farms. Today, however, they are mass-produced and may be engaging in the same kind of carbon-producing practices as mass-produced goods. Nonetheless, despite the change in production, many consumers continue to believe that organic foods are more sustainable than their nonorganic counterparts. This may be due to the curated image of organic food through marketing. The local community displays organic food as sustainable because it is natural, yet it is unclear if organic food actually contains any growth promotion supplements. The problem then becomes that the consumption of organic foods will increase; causing the same kind of damage to the environment as nonorganic foods. More research is needed to uncover this potentially harmful production practice as more organic food is purchased. The goal of this project is to assess consumer misperceptions related to the sustainability of organic foods versus nonorganic foods. The expectation here is consumers will perceive organic foods to be far more sustainable than they actually are. Using a survey-based approach, a sample of 80 participants will be asked about their perceptions of food sustainability practices (i.e., cost, carbon footprint emission, water electricity consumption) of organic versus nonorganic foods. Results, findings, implications, limitations and future limitations will also be discussed.

### **A Case Study of Dietary Pattern Change Impact on Carbon Footprint.**

**Raghul Elangovan<sup>1</sup> and Ziqian (Cecilia) Dong<sup>2</sup>**

*(1)Computer Science, New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY, (2)Electrical and Computer Engineering, New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY*

A significant portion of greenhouse gas emissions have been attributed to the food sector, but little is known about the association between the carbon footprint of individual diets and types of food consumed. Development and expansion of agriculture are essentially linked to dietary choices and contribute to deforestation, degradation of land, biodiversity loss, extensive freshwater use, and water pollution. We present a case study of the impact of dietary patterns on carbon footprint at the Gowanus district in the Borough of Brooklyn in NYC. The study considers the population projection within this district due to rezoning and assess the impact of a dietary pattern change in the carbon footprint and to understand their association with different gender and age groups. The carbon footprint examined for every food item includes the emission from all the processes of a food life cycle. A recent US Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee claimed that the food patterns responsible for lower greenhouse gas emission has a better overall diet quality and are healthier on several key dimensions. Based on our study, we inferred that the consumption of meat contributes to almost 90% of the total emission for the current dietary pattern. A diverse dietary pattern can have a significantly impact on the food carbon footprint. We show a 50% reduction in meat consumption may reduce carbon emission by 45%.

## **Land Use Analysis of Food Production Potentials to Feed a Growing Population.**

*Jatin Jain<sup>1</sup> and Ziqian (Cecilia) Dong<sup>2</sup>*

*(1)Computer Science, New York Institute of Technology, NEW YORK, NY, (2)Electrical and Computer Engineering, New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY*

Understanding environmental impacts of the complete food supply chain is important for the food industry to help devise strategies for sustainable practices. Breakfast ingredients such as cereal, oats, wheat, etc. are responsible for more than 90% of the carbon footprint from the food sector. We curated open data from New York City on food and estimated the carbon footprint of breakfast ingredients. The results indicate that the average global warming potential (GWP) of food products is 2.64 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalence per kg. This research considers environmental sustainability in the food–energy–water nexus by assessing the life cycle and environmental impacts of various food products. We also present a comparative study on the relationship between land use for food production and sustainable farming methods such as vertical farming, organic farming and indoor farming in a controlled environment and their global warming potential.

## **Utilizing Urban Organic Wastes Via Hydrothermal Carbonization Process for Energy Production.**

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Organic waste is a major component of landfills, which is the largest source of methane emissions in the world. In the USA, on food waste alone, from harvesting to consumption, excluding the non-edible parts, 30-40% of the food is wasted, equaling more than 35 million tons per year or approximately 240 pounds of food per year per person. Finding ways to utilize this wet organic waste into useful products will be desirable from both economic and environmental sustainability points of view.

Villanova University and Gray Brothers-Somax Environmental Company are working together in developing thermochemical-based process, namely hydrothermal carbonization (HTC), for converting wet organic wastes in urban communities, specifically food wastes and sewage sludge, into coal-like product called hydrochar. Under sub-critical conditions, water in the HTC reactor stays in liquid form and acts as a reaction medium to promote the breakdown and cleavage of chemical bonds in the organic solids. The absence of liquid-to-vapor phase change of the water makes the process significantly less energy intensive compared to a process that involves water vaporization or drying, such as incineration or gasification. The temperature range for HTC is from 180-240°C producing solid hydrochar as the main product.

The focus of the present study is to evaluate the effects of feedstock and HTC process parameters on the yields and physiochemical properties of hydrochar products and obtain the optimal process conditions which will be used for scale-up design of the HTC reactor system.

## **Machine Learning Approach to Examine the Relationship between Residential Energy and Water Consumption with Greenhouse Gas Emissions in NYC.**

**Stephan Brown<sup>1</sup>, Mohammad Baidas<sup>2</sup>, and Ziqian (Cecilia) Dong<sup>3</sup>**

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The City of New York has set an ambitious goal to reduce 80% of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission by 2050, relative to the 2005 baseline. While approaches have been taken on the regulatory level, residential consumption of water and energy needs to be better understood for incentives on reducing house-hold level GHG emissions. This study examines the impact of end-use residential water and energy consumption on greenhouse gas emissions. We model the relationships between demand, end-use consumption, and emissions. We use artificial neural networks to predict the impact of the water-energy nexus on greenhouse gas emissions. We also examine how these relationships change by the income of the area of consumption. We theorize that income impacts residential energy and water consumption and consequently, GHG emissions outcomes.

## **Simultaneous Ammonia-Phosphate Recovery from Wastewater As Struvite Fertilizer for Food Quality.**

**Lucy Mar Camacho<sup>1</sup> and MD Ahsan Ullah<sup>2</sup>**

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Rapid world population growth, climate change, increasing urbanization, and excessive nutrient inputs into open bodies of water are pressing on wastewater utilities to provide treated water in an energy-efficient manner that promotes human health and protection to the environment. Expected increased population will exert a huge demand for food, thus scarcity of nutrient requirements in food production will prevail. Wastewater contains a high amount of organic matter, nitrogen and phosphorus, and considerable amounts of magnesium, which are the potential source for nutrient recovery. In this study, ammonia and phosphorus were simultaneously recovered from a wastewater effluent by using natural and modified Clinoptilolite zeolites. The adsorbent materials were tested in a semi-pilot system using simulated and real wastewater. The recovered nutrients were efficiently converted into Struvite, a

fertilizer that can help to save food, energy, and water. The used zeolites were recovered and reuse to recover additional nutrients.

## **CO<sub>2</sub>-Responsive Tunable Phase Changing Nano-Scale Fluids for Subsurface Energy Recovery.**

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Rising consumption of water for subsurface energy recovery has motivated the exploration of novel fluids to enhance the permeability of the subsurface geologic reservoirs. Advancements in developing novel nanofluids will allow us to enhance heat recovery from geothermal reservoirs and reduce water use for hydraulic fracturing operations. Specifically, we explore the design of CO<sub>2</sub>-responsive phase changing nanofluids. These nanofluids are constructed from SiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles tethered with poly(allylamine) (PAA), which form hydrogel upon reaction with CO<sub>2</sub>. The presence of SiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles enhances the CO<sub>2</sub> absorption capacity when compared with the pure PAA solution. The CO<sub>2</sub> absorption on PAA and SiO<sub>2</sub>-PAA was governed by the formation of carbamate, protonated primary and secondary, and bicarbonate ions using infrared spectroscopy. Time resolved USAXS/SAXS measurements showed an increase in the sizes of SiO<sub>2</sub>-PAA aggregates during CO<sub>2</sub> loading and hydrogel formation. Additionally, the effect of nanoparticle size and concentration of polymeric chains on CO<sub>2</sub> absorption was also investigated. These observations point to the feasibility of enhancing hydrogel formation with these novel nano-scale fluids to enhance permeability in the subsurface environment.

## **Upcoming Scenarios and Developing Trends in the Generation of Energy in Pakistan: Forecasting Supply and Demand.**

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The energy matrix structure of Pakistan shows least generation of power from renewable sources. The contribution of renewable sources for the production of energy in 2019 is just 5-6%. An exceptional potential is existing for the expansion of the renewable energy production in Pakistan that can even outweighs the national demands of the energy. An outstanding contribution of hydropower is existing currently in the national energy matrix. Pakistan has a significant potential for the exposure of other renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass and wind. This study focuses on the evolution of the Pakistani energy matrix exposing probable mitigation scenarios keeping in view of the possible climate changes. The LEAP System (Long range energy alternatives planning) methodology was adopted for the modeling purpose that allows us to suggest diverse scenarios under the umbrella of socio-economic scenarios and the REGSA developed project (Promoting renewable electricity generation in South America). The evaluated results forecast the future scenarios, probable developments in energy generation in terms of projected demand and supply till 2040 in Pakistan.

## LIGHTNING ROUND 2

### **The IMPACT of the Locally-Sourced FOOD Versus the MASS-Produced FOOD on Consumer Perceptions of Farm-to-Table and Carbon Footprint.**

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The increased release of carbon is causing the climate to change negatively. These changes result in the melting of the glacier, the rising in sea levels and flooding. One industry that has tried to reduce its carbon footprint has been the food industry. The food industry is attempting to minimize their carbon footprint by reducing the distance between farms to table. Foods usually produced by local regional farms are commonly referred to as locally sourced foods. Initially, locally sourced food was expected to reduce the distance between farm to table and the carbon footprint in the production and distribution of the food process. In reality, the production and distribution of locally sourced food decreased the distance between farm-to-table but not the carbon footprint. Thus, research is needed to understand this discrepancy and reduce carbon footprint. This study rationalizes that consumers who become aware of the lack of impact in carbon footprint will pressure the locally sourced food industries to improve their sustainability practices that decrease carbon footprint. Therefore, this study evaluates consumer perceptions related to the farm-to-table and carbon footprint of locally sourced food versus mass-produced goods. Using a survey, 80 participants will be asked to assess their perceptions related to carbon footprint between mass-produced food and locally sourced food that is considered to be either high or low carbon footprint. The expectation is that consumer will associate locally sourced food with a shorter farm-to-table distance and a smaller carbon footprint. Results, discussion implications, limitations, and future research are discussed.

### **From National Indices to Regional Action-an Analysis of Food, Energy, Water Security in Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru.**

*Paniz Mohammadpour<sup>1</sup> and Caitlin Grady<sup>2,3</sup>*

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Food-Energy-Water (FEW) nexus frameworks may be well suited to provide tools for achieving the sustainable development goals by allowing for evaluation of multiple food, energy, and water priorities simultaneously. In terms of natural resources security, several quantification tools that consider accessibility and availability of resources also exist. Previous FEW security scholars have constructed quantification tools at national level, yet we hypothesize that these tools fail to articulate important regional variation within a country. In this research we tackle this challenge by developing methods to study the spatial patterns of FEW availability and accessibility at sub-national level in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. The integrated approach in this study articulates how national statistics often misrepresent FEW security regional variation. Our tool also has the potential to be applied at multiple spatial scales allowing development actors to prioritize multiple natural resource development priorities worldwide.

## **Treating Waste with Waste: Using Biochar to Recover Nutrients from AD Effluent.**

*Diana Rodriguez Alberto and Thomas Trabold*  
RIT, Rochester, NY

The processing of food waste with animal manure through anaerobic digestion (AD) can be an effective waste management and energy recovery strategy. However, there is growing concern with the widespread deployment of AD, because managing its nutrient-rich effluent (digestate) has become an environmental challenge. Digestate is often separated into its solid and liquid fractions using mechanical processing such as a screw press. The solid fraction is often repurposed as cow bedding, while the liquid fraction is applied to crop fields as an alternative to synthetic fertilizers, which might lead to nutrient run-off and subsequent water contamination. We are developing a potential solution to this problem by processing the solid fraction of the effluent through thermochemical conversion (TC) to produce biochar, a porous carbonaceous material known for its adsorption capabilities. This material would be used to recover nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium present in the liquid fraction of the effluent. The resulting nutrient-rich biochar can be applied as an alternative fertilizer that reduces potential water contamination. If an efficient integration of AD and TC processes is achieved, it can result in an enhancement of the system's economic viability and reduction of their associated environmental impacts.

## **To Meat or to Plant-Based Meat: The Impact of Consumer Resistance of Substitute Animal-Based Meat with Plant-Based Meat.**

*Wenxiang Wu, Xinping Lu, Zhaoshu Meng, Leany Rodriguez, and Veneta Sotiropoulos*  
School of Management, New York Institute of Technology, New York, NY

Americans continue to consume large amounts of animal-based meat in their diet. Nonetheless, the traditional meat-based diet is no longer sustainable due to the health-related problems associated with consuming large quantities of animal based-meat. In fact, heart failure is the number one killer in America. The production of meat is also impacting the environment in an unsustainable fashion due to release carbon in the air. This has led consumers to develop negative perceptions of meat consumption and production. To help reduce the negative impact of producing and consuming animal-based meat on human health and the environment, some food companies have substituted it with plant-based meat. Plant-based meat has been shown to be a healthier alternative to animal-based meat and does not release the same level of carbon. Despite the positive impact of plant-based meat on human health and the environment, some consumers remain resistant to this substitution. Research is needed that will reshape consumers' apprehensive perception of a plant-based diet. Therefore, the goal here is to identify the reasons customers are reluctant to adopt plant-based meat. This study will focus on measuring nutrition illiteracy, level of carbon sustainability, carbon footprint and cost. The expectation in the present investigation, is that consumers who have less nutrition literacy, less knowledge and experience with the plant-based meat and who are not aware of the implication of unsustainable food production practices will more resistant to substitute animal-based meat with plant-based meat. The findings, implications, limitations and future areas of research will be also discussed.

## **Impact of Electrifying Urban Food Delivery Trucks on the Environment and the Power Grid.**

*Raghul Elangovan<sup>1</sup>, Jatin Jain<sup>2</sup>, Ziqian (Cecilia) Dong<sup>3</sup>, Yusef Esa<sup>4</sup>, Lizzette Salmeron<sup>5</sup>, and Ahmed Mohamed<sup>4</sup>*

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New York City's food distribution system is among the largest in the United States. Food is transported from six major distribution centers to various consumer point-of-sale locations by trucks. Freight is a large consumer of energy as well as an emitter of greenhouse gases. We present a case study on the impact of electrification of urban truck routes on the carbon emission and the power grid at the Gowanus district in Brooklyn New York. The study analyses the food consumption of the people in New York City based on their dietary pattern, and estimates the number and types of trucks needed to transport the food to this neighborhood. We compare the energy consumption, carbon footprint, and changes in electricity demand on the power grid for diesel versus electric trucks. Based on the predicted population growth, truck routes, point-of-sale locations, it is estimated that electric trucks may result in 40% less greenhouse gases than diesel trucks every year provided that electric trucks are charged using renewable energy resources. The impact on the power grid has been evaluated by the amount of energy needed for electric trucks per week and their peak power demand. The study shows that the current hosting capacity of the neighborhood under study is capable of handling food delivery electrification, without an immediate need for infrastructure upgrades.

## **Food Waste to Energy: Leveraging Catalytic Hydrothermal Liquefaction.**

*Heather O. LeClerc, Geoffrey Tompsett, Michael T. Timko, and Andrew R Teixeira  
Chemical Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA*

Millions of tons of food waste are thrown into landfills annually.[1] Degradation products lead to a variety of detrimental wastes. Hydrothermal liquefaction (HTL) is an emerging technology in the waste-to-energy field that utilizes high temperature ( $T=300^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and pressure ( $P=3000\text{ psi}$ ) to convert this waste into a bio-oil. With appropriate in-situ or downstream upgrading, this oil is suitable for the transportation and heating industries. HTL's benefit is using complex, high water content feedstocks without inefficient drying steps.

Homogeneous catalysts have been utilized with HTL, however, pose process complexity and expense with separation and neutralization. Recently, solid catalysts, with acid- base characteristics have been used successfully with in-situ upgrading of food waste to bio-oil. [2,3]. Hydroxyapatite is a crystalline mineral found naturally in bones and makes an attractive catalyst due to its tunable acid-base sites and potentially renewable sources. This relatively inexpensive catalyst has preliminarily shown to result in the highest oil yield from food waste. In this work, a near supercritical liquid phase reactor is used with a food waste/catalyst slurry to drive the complex reactions. A bio-oil is generated with higher heating values approaching the range of diesel fuel and the catalyst shows excellent hydrothermal stability and regeneration. Additionally, discussion of producing bio-oil in a flow-based system will be discussed.

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## CODE OF CONDUCT

AICHE's volunteers are the core of the Institute and make all of its programs, conferences and educational efforts possible. These offerings provide excellent opportunities for AIChE members and meeting attendees to gain greater technical expertise, grow their networks, and enhance their careers. AIChE events provide engineers, scientists, and students a platform to present, discuss, publish and exhibit their discoveries and technical advances.

At all times, volunteers and meeting attendees should act in accordance with AIChE's Code of Ethics, upholding and advancing the integrity, honor and dignity of the chemical engineering profession. AIChE's Board of Directors has developed these guidelines to foster a positive environment of trust, respect, open communications, and ethical behavior. These guidelines apply to meetings, conferences, workshops, courses and other events organized by AIChE or any of its entities and also to volunteers who conduct other business and affairs on behalf of AIChE.

### SPECIFICALLY:

1. Volunteers and meeting attendees should understand and support AIChE's Code of Ethics.
2. Volunteers and meeting attendees should contribute to a collegial, inclusive, positive and respectful environment for fellow volunteers and attendees, and other stakeholders, including AIChE staff.
3. Volunteers and meeting attendees should avoid making inappropriate statements or taking inappropriate action based on race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, political affiliation, presence of disabilities, or educational background. We should show consistent respect for colleagues, regardless of discipline, employment status, and organizations for which they work, whether industry, academia, or government.
4. Disruptive, harassing or other inappropriate statements or behavior toward other volunteers, members, and other stakeholders, including AIChE staff, is unacceptable.
5. Volunteers and meeting attendees should obey all applicable laws and regulations of the relevant governmental authorities while volunteering or attending meetings. Volunteers and meeting attendees taking part in any AIChE event, including the Chem-E-Car Competition®, should also comply with all applicable safety guidelines.

Any violations of the foregoing should be reported to the President or the Executive Director of the Institute.

# PRESENTATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Presentation Instructions

### Oral Presentations

Please check the Technical Program for your scheduled presentation time - speaking slots, including Q&A, are 45 minutes for Plenary speakers, 24 minutes for Keynote speakers, 20 minutes for Invited and 17 minutes for Selected speakers (please check the schedule). Lightning Round speakers have up to 5 minutes. Please help us stay on schedule. Presentations should be in PowerPoint format (any aspect ratio) and should be uploaded to the projection computer **at least 15 minutes prior to the start of your session**. You may email your presentation to [lucya@aiche.org](mailto:lucya@aiche.org) ahead of time and bring it on a flash drive as a backup.

### Rapid Fire Poster Session

#### Poster Session

- The Poster Session and Welcome Reception will be held on Thursday, December 5 from 5:00 to 6:00 PM at The lounge at 26 W61st. Please put your posters up from 4-5PM on Thursday.
- Poster presenting authors are responsible for printing, setting up and taking down their poster; mounting supplies will be provided.
- The poster board surface will fit up to 30x40 inches, portrait or landscape – please do not print your poster any bigger.

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