



WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# Sustainable Aircraft Propulsion Vehicle Technologies and Fuels

## *Sustainable Aviation Fuels*

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**Sustainable Aviation in WA:**  
Connecting Policy, Technology, Infrastructure and  
Workforce Development Needs  
**2023 WSAS SYMPOSIUM**

**17 August 2023**  
**The Museum of Flight, Seattle**

## Slide 1

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**MJO**

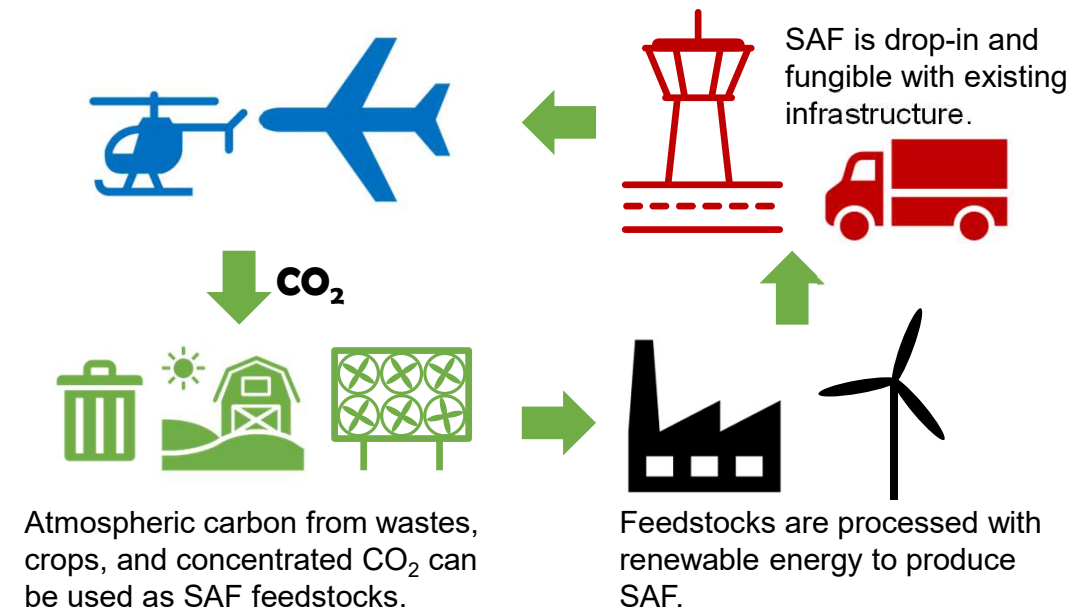
Think about what is the one takeaway message in one sentence you want to leave BETO with for each slide

Male, Jonathan, 2023-07-10T22:12:51.386

# Where does SAF come from?

## SAF can be produced from many carbon sources:

- **Waste sources** such as used cooking oil, municipal solid waste, sewage sludge, woody and agriculture residues
- **Purpose-grown crops** such as oil seeds and corn ethanol
- **Power-to-liquids** such as point source or direct air capture CO<sub>2</sub>



Heyne, A Decarbonized Aviation Path with Sustainable Aviation Fuel, ASME Global Gas Turbine News, Sept. 2023.



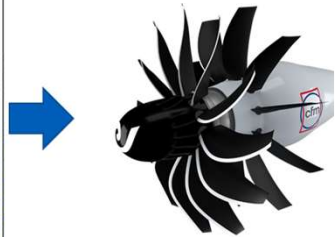
# All SAFs to date are drop-in

*Jet fuel must meet detailed specs for safety*

Aircraft and engines are **certified** for fuel **specified in a standard**, such as Jet A/A-1 (ASTM D1655).



**Fuel Specification (ASTM D1655)**



**Engine Operating Limitations**  
- fuel specification



**Aircraft Operating Limitations**  
- engine limitations for aircraft limitations



**Aircraft Operator (Airlines) Operating Rules**  
- must adhere to aircraft and engine limitations

Engine, aircraft, and infrastructure do not ‘see’ any difference between a SAF blend and a conventional fuel.

All approved SAF blends are currently “drop-in” or “equivalent” to Jet A/A-1

**Drop-in = fleetwide infrastructure compatible**

***If a fuel were not “equivalent” to Jet A/A-1, the fuel would require its own fuel specification, the fuel would require separate handling, and the aircraft and the engine would require certification to that fuel***

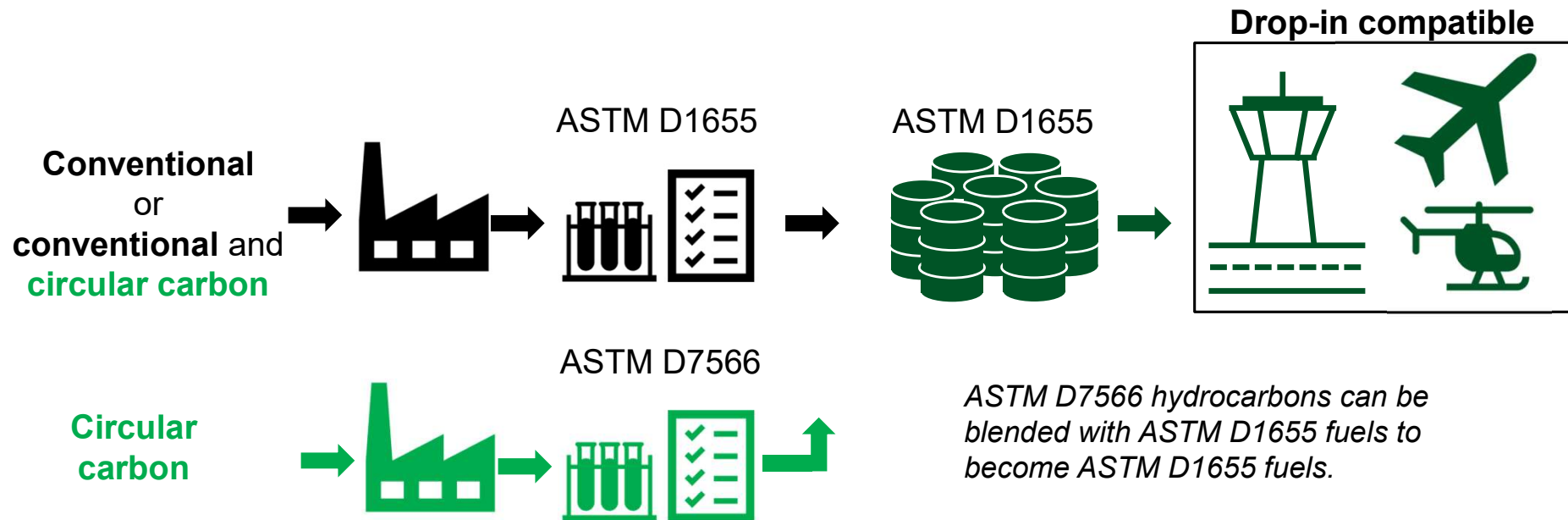
Kramer, S., Andac, G., Heyne, J., Ellsworth, J., Herzig, P., & Lewis, K. C. (2022). Perspectives on Fully Synthesized Sustainable Aviation Fuels: Direction and Opportunities. *Frontiers in Energy Research*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenrg.2021.782823>



# Currently, SAF blend components are blended into Jet A/A-1 to yield Jet A/A-1

Jet A/A-1 + SAF = Jet A/A-1

(ASTM D1655 + ASTM D7566 = ASTM D1655)

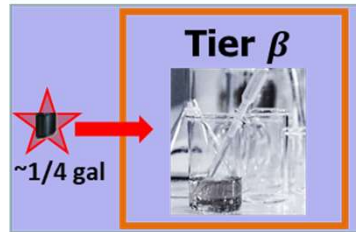




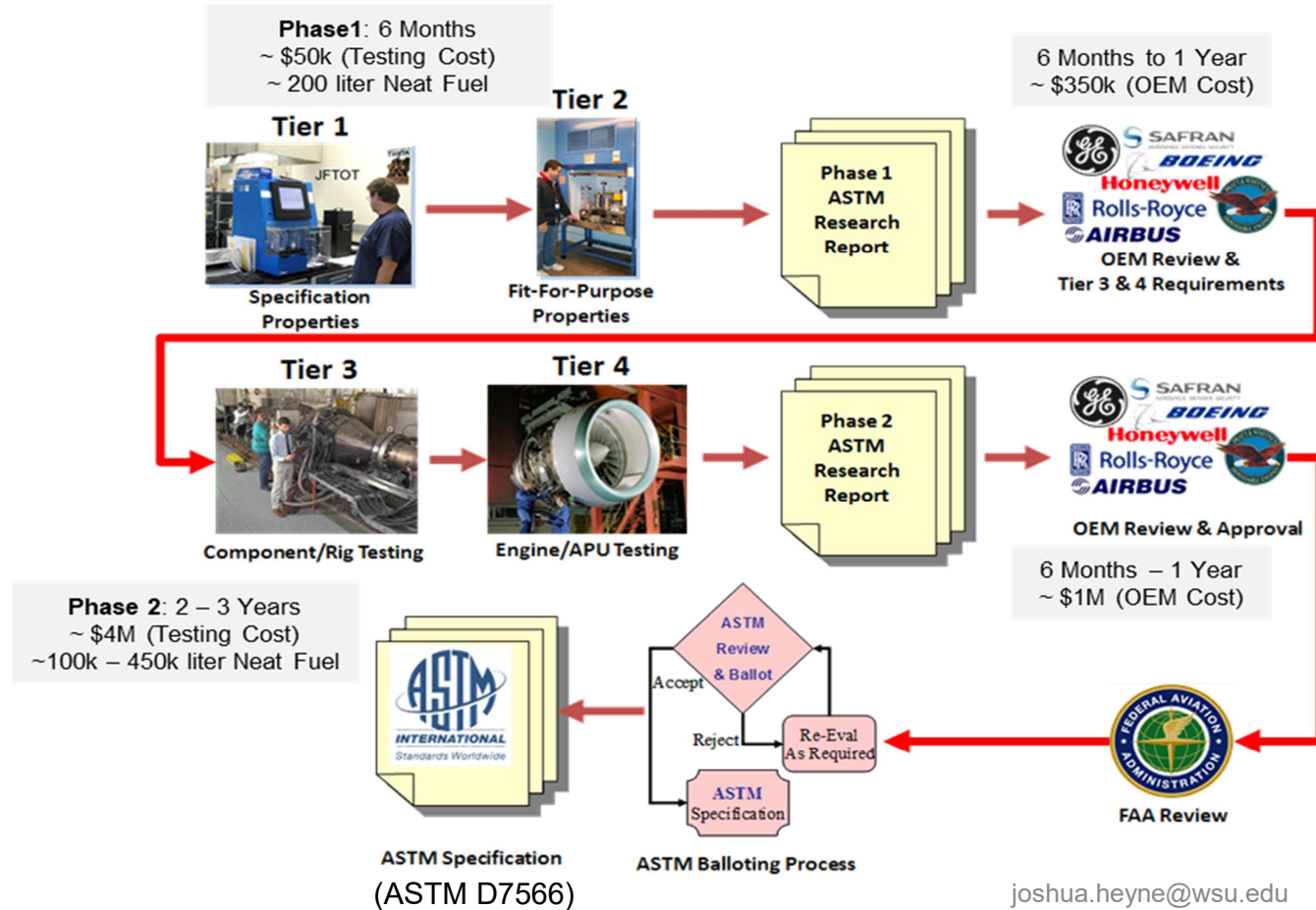
# Safety first and safety last

*SAFs are subjected to an extensive suite of testing*

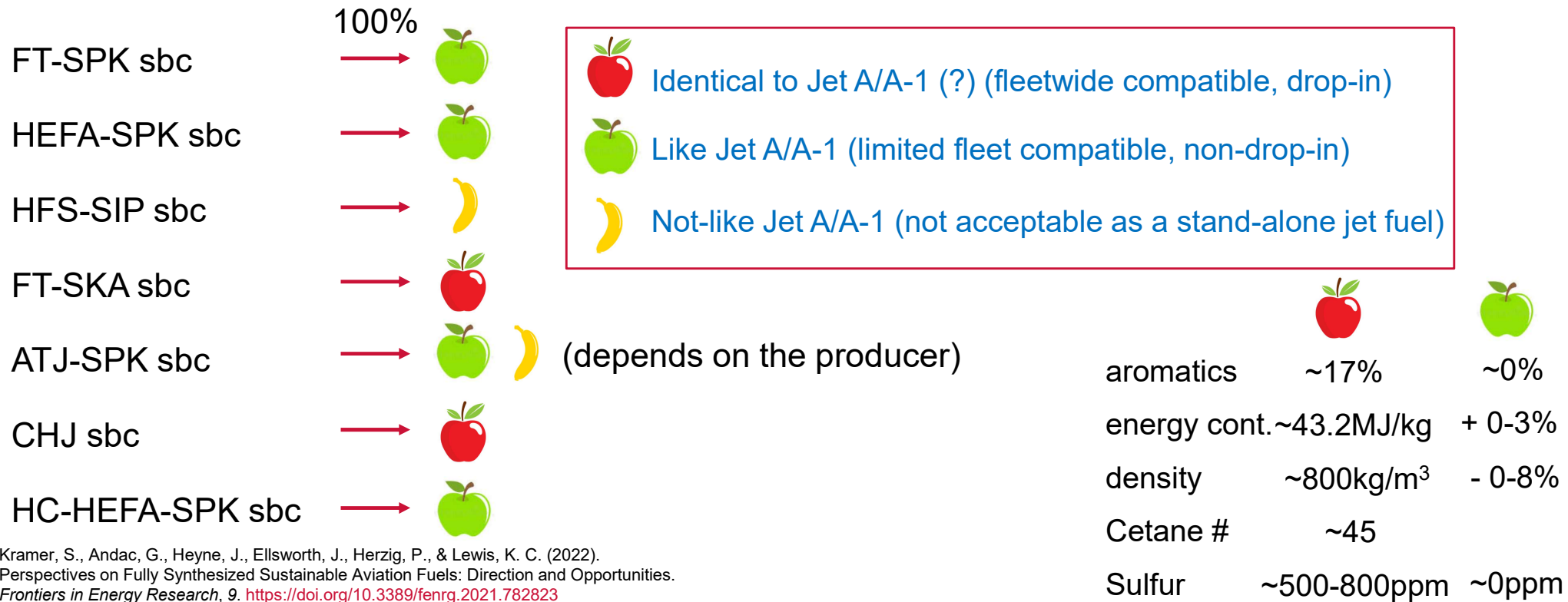
## Prescreening



## ASTM Qualification



# Unblended SAF (neat, 100%)...is it 🍏 ?



Kramer, S., Andac, G., Heyne, J., Ellsworth, J., Herzig, P., & Lewis, K. C. (2022). Perspectives on Fully Synthesized Sustainable Aviation Fuels: Direction and Opportunities. *Frontiers in Energy Research*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenrg.2021.782823>



Variation of composition among pathways and even among producers for a pathway  
 When unblended they do not all result in one and the same product  
 A specification is needed to define 100% SAF (in progress; early stages)



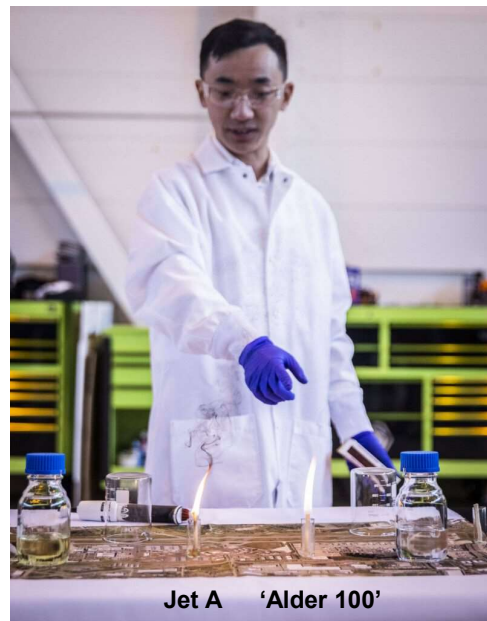
# 100% SAF

## beyond net-zero carbon

Global Aviation Effective Radiative Forcing (ERF) Terms (1940 to 2018)

Contrails may contribute more to the radiative forcing of aviation than CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

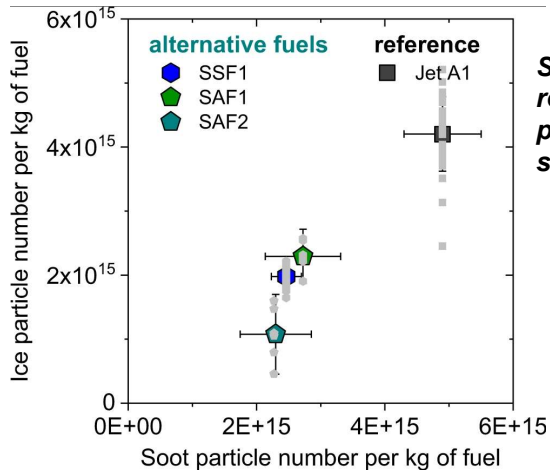
	ERF (mW m <sup>-2</sup> )	RF (mW m <sup>-2</sup> )	ERF/RF	Conf. levels
Contrail cirrus in high-humidity regions	57.4 (17, 98)	111.4 (33, 189)	0.42	Low
Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emissions	34.3 (28, 40)	34.3 (31, 38)	1.0	High
Nitrogen oxide (NO <sub>x</sub> ) emissions				
Short-term ozone increase	49.3 (32, 76)	36.0 (23, 56)	1.37	Med.
Long-term ozone decrease	-10.6 (-20, -7.4)	-9.0 (-17, -6.3)	1.18	Low
Methane decrease	-21.2 (-40, -15)	-17.9 (-34, -13)	1.18	Med.
Stratospheric water vapor decrease	-3.2 (-6.0, -2.2)	-2.7 (-5.0, -1.9)	1.18	Low
Net for NO <sub>x</sub> emissions	17.5 (0.6, 29)	8.2 (-4.8, 16)	---	Low



WSU Ph.D. student (Harrison Yang) at the Paine Field press event illustrating the sooting propensity of Jet A (left) versus 'Alder 100' (right).

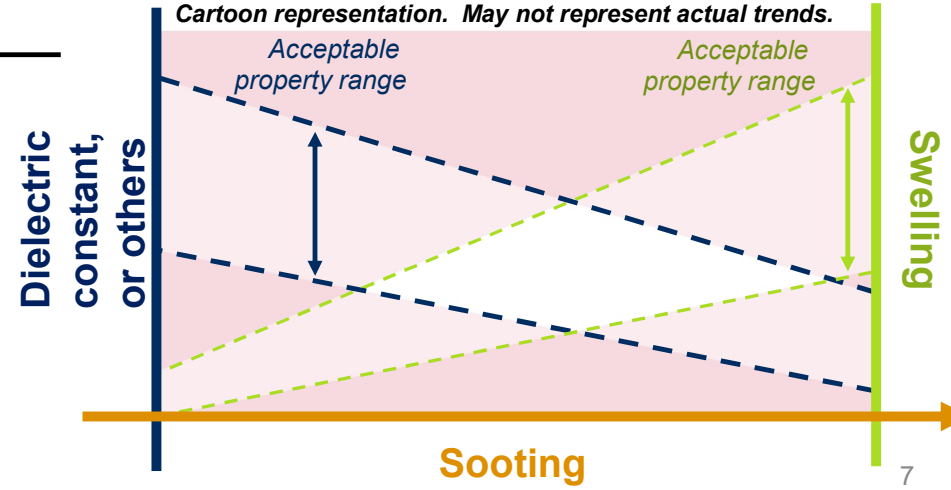
Jet A 'Alder 100'

Lee, D. S., et al., (2020). The contribution of global aviation to anthropogenic climate forcing for 2000 to 2018. *Atmospheric Environment*, 117834. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2020.117834>



SAF composition could reduce contrails and persistent cloudiness via soot reduction

Voigt, C. et al., (2021). Cleaner burning aviation fuels can reduce contrail cloudiness. *Communications Earth & Environment* 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-021-00174-y>



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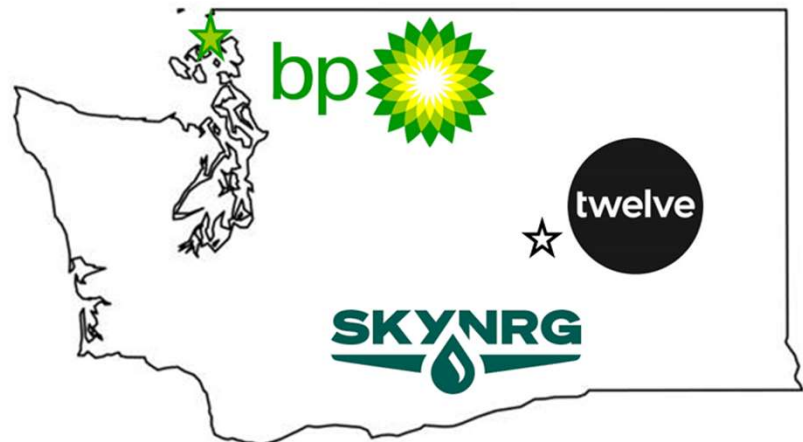


# Thank you.



# What is happening with SAF production in the US and WA?

- WA has **three production facilities** announced
  - BP in Cherry Point (HEFA)
  - SkyNRG Americas (Alcohol to Jet)
  - Twelve in Moses Lake (Power to Liquids)
- **1.95 billion gallons of SAF production capacity** is planned, pending FID, post-FID, in construction or operational in the US in 2030.  
ref: Boeing SAF Dashboard / BloombergNEF



*“Washington has been thinking about sustainable aviation for more than a decade, and we’re on the cusp of enabling the best, most well-thought-out policy that provides the most support out of any state in the country.”*  
 — John Plaza, chief investment officer for SkyNRG Americas, which plans to build a \$600 to \$800 million SAF plant in Washington to open by 2029,  
 AWB, [Sustainable aviation fuel ventures plan launch in Washington](#), June 2023



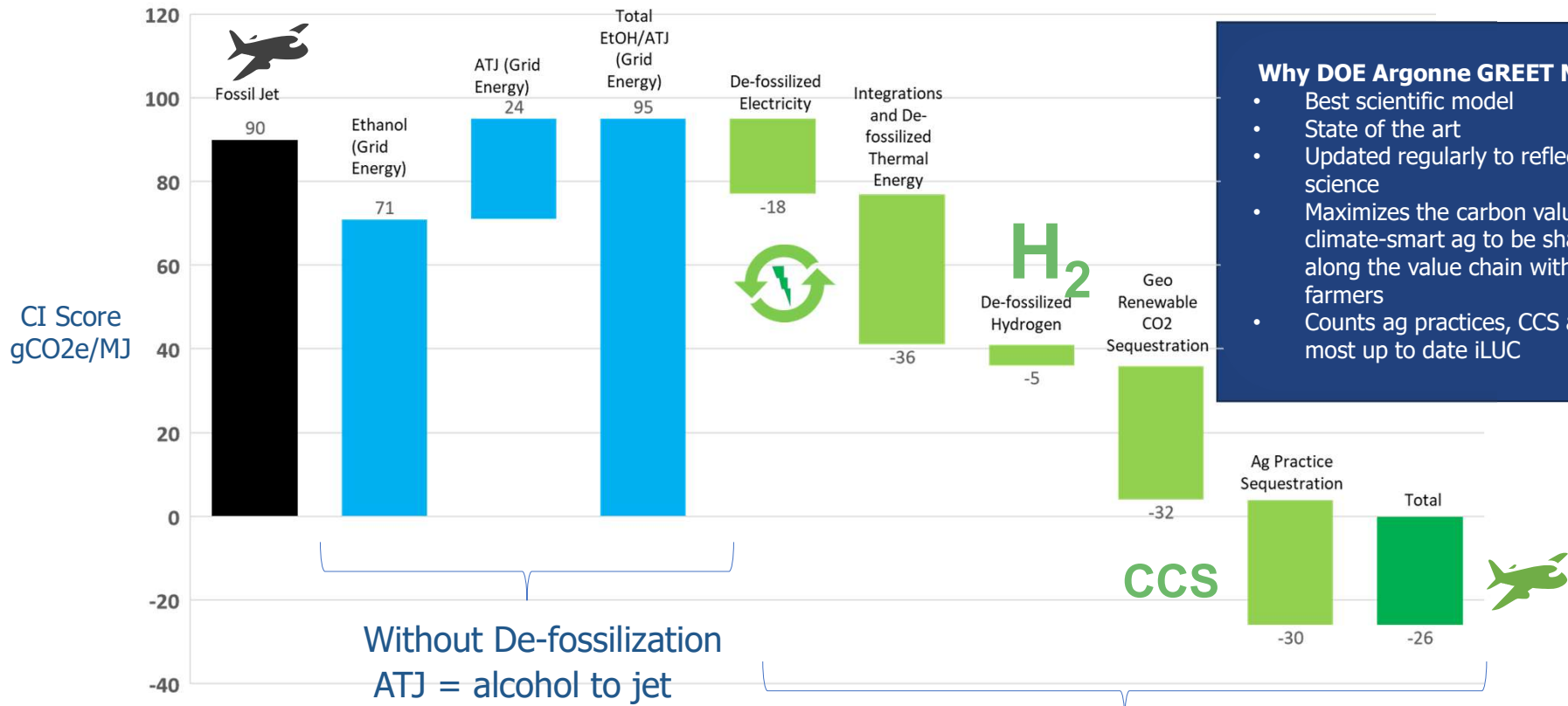
**SAF Grand Challenge:**

- 3 billion gallons of domestic SAF production by 2030
- 35 billion gallons of domestic SAF production by 2050



# An exemplar path to carbon negative SAF

## PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER WITH ARGONNE GREET: HOW WE ARE PLANNING TO DRIVE CI DOWN



### Why DOE Argonne GREET Model?

- Best scientific model
- State of the art
- Updated regularly to reflect new science
- Maximizes the carbon value from climate-smart ag to be shared along the value chain with farmers
- Counts ag practices, CCS and has most up to date iLUC



iLUC – Indirect Land Use. CCS – Carbon Capture Sequestration. CI – Carbon Intensity

Courtesy of Eric Frey, Ph.D., VP of Finance, Gevo

**De-fossilization Potential**

# 100 % SAF

## Drop-in vs. non-drop-in (Jet-X)

		
<b>Description:</b>	<b>Fully formulated</b> Jet A/A-1 composition	<b>Compositional subset</b> of Jet A/A-1 composition
<b>Applicability:</b>	Fleet Wide drop-in	Targeted or Limited for designated aircraft/engines only, not fleet-wide compatible
<b>Example pathways:</b>	CHJ (D7566 Annex A6), FT-SKA (D7566 Annex 4), future: ATJ-SKA, HEFA-SKA, blending of blend components	FT-SPK (D7566 Annex A1), HEFA-SPK (D7566 Annex A2), certain type ATJ-SPK (D7566 Annex A5)
<b>Specification:</b>	ASTM D7566	<b>New standard needed</b>
<b>FAA Certification:</b>	Not required	<b>Required for each intended aircraft, engine model</b>
<b>Supply chain/handling/storage:</b>	Separate supply chain, handling, storage not required	Separate supply chain, handling, storage required



Adopted from Andac, G., Kramer, S., Moving towards 100% SAF use, CAAFI, June 2021.

# What would change if we switched to SAF?

*Fossil*

*vs.*

*SAF*



*For non-100%  
drop-in SAF  
routes*

