## **Biobased Energy Systems** (and Michigan)







## Here's the target





## Here's the real hard part



#### What's it look like? Who finances? Who controls?

## Today: exploiting the supply chain





Simple chemistry









### Relationships you don't see: 4 to 1



Increase in ethanol production from corn could significantly impact water quality and availability if new practices and techniques are not employed

> --National Research Council, 10 October 2007

## **Relationships you don't see**





#### Carbon dioxide: 1 to 1

#### **Distillers dried grains: 6 lbs per gallon**



## Inputs you don't see







## **Unintended Consequences**





#### Monthly commodity food price Index (January 2006 = 100)

Data from the Economist, 19 January 2008





#### **Collateral damage?**

**Animal agriculture** 

**Ethanol production itself** 

**Consumer sentiment** 

World hunger groups

**Conservation groups** 

## **One example**





The bottom line is that when the core of the duck factory becomes a corn factory, nesting habitat and wetlands disappear, and ducks lose.

--Ducks Unlimited

ABA estimates that as much as onethird of the farm land idled through the CRP could be returned to production without sacrificing environmental goals.

--American Bakers Association

### What's the next wave?









## Cellulose to ethanol



## Why cellulose?



## An initial cellulose strategy









cellulose











#### **Technical**

Raw material is structurally heterogeneous, dirty, cellulose difficult to degrade





**Nontechnical** 

Prolongs food vs. fuel

Sustainability of carbon removal?

Not energy-dense

## **Logistics of nondense biomass**

3,000 tons of biomass a day, 182 semis a day, 360 days a year (One every 8 minutes, 24 hours/day)

#### Harvest: 3 weeks in the fall





## Another cellulose strategy?





<u>Hindrances</u> No experience Food fuel at level of land Chicken/egg market Low input, how long?

## Michigan's long term cellulose strategy?

- millions of acres of trees
- harvest one-third
- inputs?
- food vs fuel?





## **Abandoned farmland**





Hindrances No experience Food fuel at level of land Chicken/egg market Low input, how long?



## Companies ask: How much at what price?

Who owns the trees? Do they want to sell biomass?





CAPEX \$150 million

## How do I get it delivered?

# What about the sawmills and paper mills?







## **Policy Drivers**



November 14, 2007: Governor Granholm takes actions to address climate change

#### December 21, 2007: Mr. Bush OKs Energy Bill



## Policy Drivers: A Word of Caution





Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies.







From the Collections of The Henry Ford Robert Boyer and Henry Ford with the Soybean Car.



Soybean Car assembly image showing production of plastic panels.

## Policy drivers not likely to change (Informa Study)

## **1.** Clean air policies

- Demise of MTBE boosting that market
- Specific oxygenate requirements end May 2006

## **2.** Farmer support

- Very strong driver; unlikely to diminish
- Could be undercut by feedstock shortage, high cost

## **3. Energy independence**

- Driven by high petroleum prices
  - Appears to be strengthening dramatically
  - Both in US and elsewhere

## 4. Global warming

- Key date for Kyoto implementation is 2010
  - Driving serious support for ethanol/biodiesel production
- US policy unclear
  - Cut intensity of energy use/unit of GDP
  - More restrictive alternative policies in the future?

#### Energy security at what price?



Ethanol production costs (2006) From corn, US \$1.03 per gallon From sugarcane, Brazil \$0.81 per gallon Why not more emphasis on conservation?

Why ethanol in the first place?

Is there a future for biodiesel?





### Last Word: The Importance of Sticking to It

