

# Desert Biofuels Initiative

A non-profit social venture advancing *sustainable regional biofuels* through policy analysis, education and applied research projects

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# Who we are



DBI: Eric Johnson (Co-Founder; Operations), Sam West (Special Projects), Brad Biddle (Co-Founder; Policy)

Plus an amazing group of key strategic advisors, including:



Francine Hardaway, Ph.D (Stealthmode, American Biofuels Council), Mark Edwards, Ph.D (ASU, author, *Green Algae Strategy*), Dave Conz, Ph.D (ASU CSPO), Kathy Sacks (Sacks PR), Sandy Askland (ASU Law), Hans Huth (author, *biod101*), Dan O'Neill (ASU Technopolis), Colleen Crowninshield (Tucson Clean Cities)

Plus our ASU TVSG partners:



Carrie Thomson-Jones, Pete Arambula, Eric Menkhus (Director, Tech Ventures Services Group), Sarah Howe

# The case for *sustainable regional biofuels*

Biofuels that are created locally, from sustainable feedstock, and used locally

- Environmental
  - Improve air quality, more
  - WVO (restaurant grease), algae feedstocks much better than corn, soy
- Economic development
  - Keep fuel dollars in region; create jobs
- Regional economic security, safety
  - Local fuel sources mitigate disruption risk
- National security
  - Reduce dependence on foreign oil

We have all the right ingredients in AZ: innovative entrepreneurs, cutting-edge biofuels research, forward-looking policymakers, leading sustainability and science policy analysts, motivated grassroots community.

Goal: succeed in AZ and become a template for other regions worldwide.

# The role of DBI: connecting stakeholders, filling gaps

- Factfinding and policy analysis
  - White papers on:
    - legal/regulatory environment
    - feedstock options in AZ
    - state-level biofuel incentives
- Outreach and education
  - Outreach to policymakers
  - Desert Biofuels Workshop
  - Discussion list, blog
- Projects
  - Incentivize restaurants to convert WVO to fuel
  - Facilitate discussions re municipal support for WVO biodiesel co-op
  - Demonstration pilot plant for algae biofuels



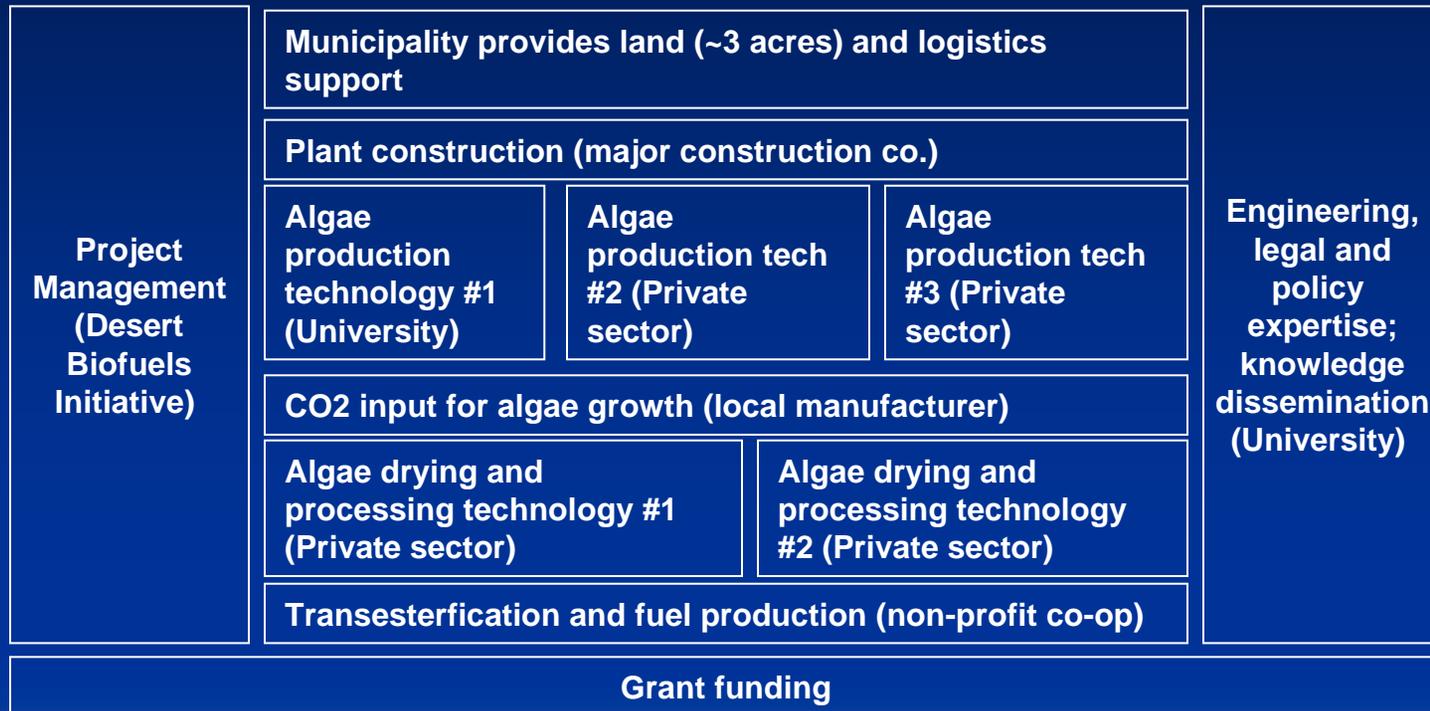
# The project

- An *applied research* (or “translational research”) project focused on applying basic algae research to create biofuel to run a municipal vehicle
  - “*from test tube to fuel tank*”
- Goal: solve practical implementation problems and disseminate knowledge:
  - Among project participants
  - To similarly-situated municipalities/gov entities
  - To AZ biofuels producers
  - To community-based efforts and developing countries

# (Some) Project benefits

- Participants learn critical info, e.g.
  - Feasibility of broader biofuels use by municipality
  - Solutions to key technical and economic issues with algae-based fuel production
  - CO2 capture strategies, techniques and policy considerations
- Knowledge dissemination → broad environmental, social and economic benefits
  - Air quality and other enviro benefits
  - Promote local fuel production → jobs, fuel \$\$\$ stays local
  - Improve safety and regional economic security
  - AZ as “algae central” – hub of research and commerce
  - Improve life in developing countries
  - Demonstrate political and thought leadership

# Project components



# Questions or input?



Sam West – algae project coordinator

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Brad Biddle – algae project or general DBI questions

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Eric Johnson – general DBI questions

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