## 2025 Clean Fuels Sustainability Workshop Summary:

In April, scholars and experts in the sustainability field met in Kansas City, MO for the Clean Fuels Sustainability Workshop. They focused on the challenges and opportunities in the biofuels industry, particularly in relation to federal policy uncertainty, carbon intensity reduction, indirect land use change measurement, and policy changes to support the industry and maximize environmental benefits.

Key challenges identified during the event include the uncertainty of federal policy that impacts recent and future investments. However, opportunities were identified in areas such as education for policy makers, focusing on the certainty of agriculture, managing uncertainty, setting RVOs in line with feedstock production, and supporting long-term policies. The workshop also highlighted the importance of lowering biofuels' carbon intensities to maintain economic viability. Priorities in this area include improving carbon intensity (CI) calculators, reducing feedstock emissions through smart climate agriculture (CSA), and considering non-CI sustainability metrics.

Discussions on indirect land use change (ILUC) revealed a desire to eliminate ILUC altogether and explore alternative methods of measurement, such as a risk-based approach and penalizing areas with high land use change. While many acknowledged the role of ILUC as the demand for clean fuels grow, many also identified the need for greater clarity on models and communications to legislators and policy makers.

The workshop also explored potential changes to federal and/or state biofuel policy to support the industry, such as the desire to: a) implementing a nationwide low carbon fuel standard (LCFS), b) offer and/or accommodate higher biodiesel blends, c) establish long-term tax policy, and d) programs that reward feedstock producers that use CSA practices.

The workshop emphasized the need to share information across the environmental value chain to promote trust in clean fuels' environmental performance. This includes communicating the difference between petroleum and biofuels carbon footprints, third party communication of benefits, and dual reporting of actual value and default values used.

The industry's role in improving feedstock and fuel certification was discussed, with suggestions to include CSA practices, harmonize life cycle analysis (LCA) methodologies/databases, leverage existing programs such as NRCS, and provide clarity on data ownership.

Finally, the workshop identified gaps in technology for traceability and/or verification, such as the need for scalable/accurate technology that is cost effective, particularly at the farm level, and improved, farm-level record retention protocol.

Speakers included:

- Colleen Cochran, Agendi
- Maria Bianculli, Agendi
- Kate Shenk, Clean Fuels
- Sharon Bard, Terra Economics
- Jeff O'Hara, USDA
- Cory-Ann Wind, Clean Fuels; California Air Resources Board
- Don O'Connor, (S&T)2 Consultants Inc.
- Hao Cai, Argonne National Lab
- Niam Keough, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Fred Ghatala, Advanced Biofuels Canada
- Farzad Taheripour, Purdue University Internationally
- Courtney Videchak, Mechanical Engineering PhD student, University of Michigan
- Jeremy Martin, Union of Concerned Scientists
- Tim Gannon, Gannon Farms
- John Kruse, World Agricultural Economic & Environmental Services
- Isaac Emery, WSP
- Becky Hensley, CSX
- Scot Kronholm, Houston Engineering
- John Sens, Chevron
- Adam Kirby, International Sustainability & Carbon Certification
- Tyler Angus, Marquis
- Jenn Bond, Verity
- Danielle Anderson, Christianson CPAs & Consultants

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