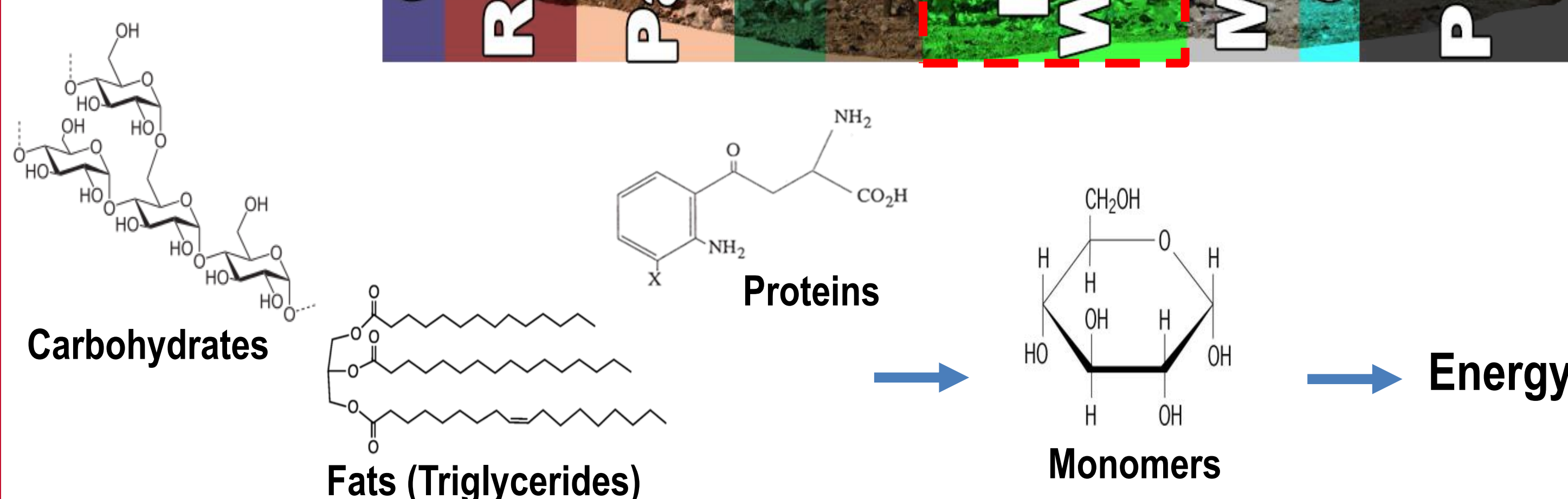
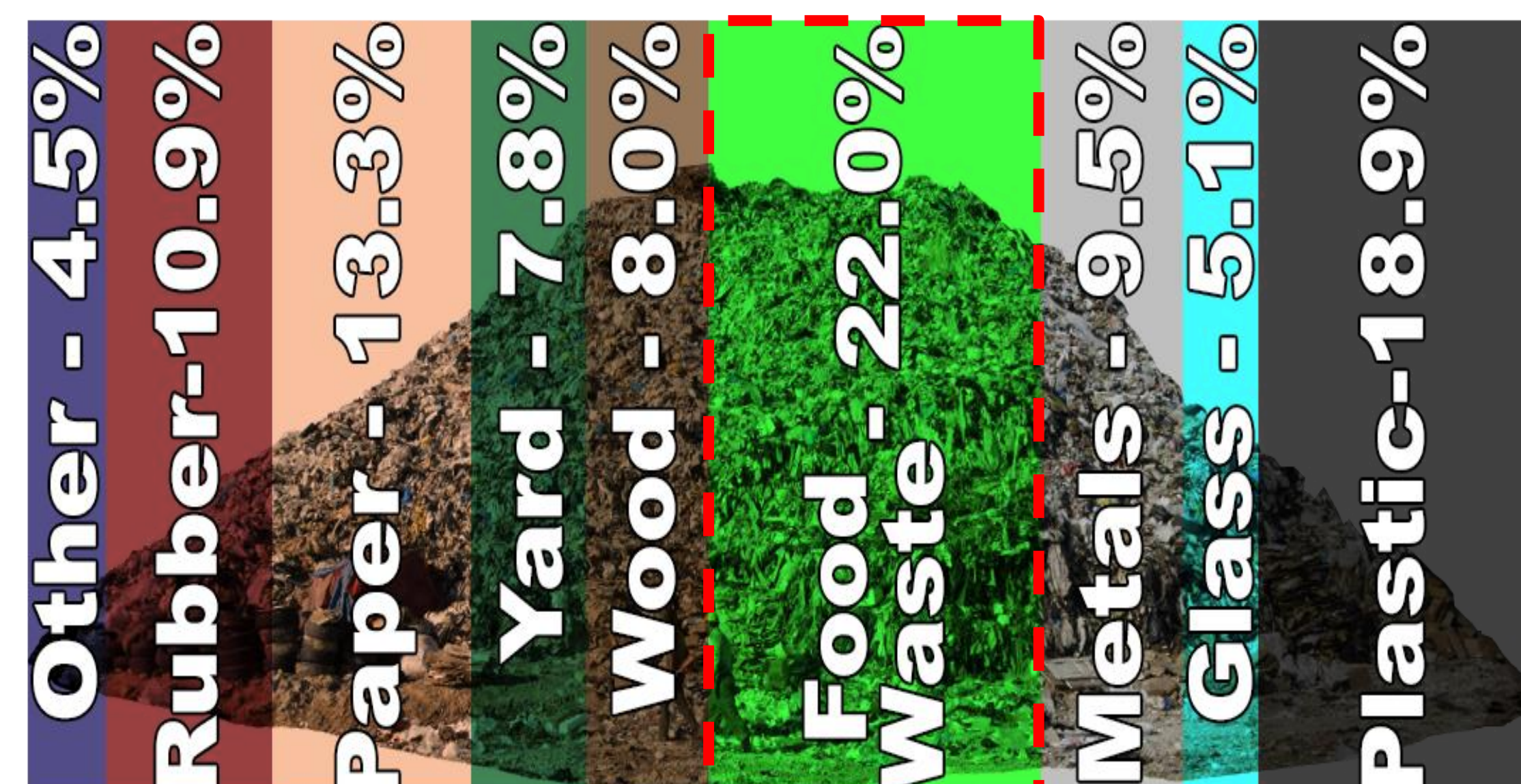


Realizing a World without Waste through Catalytic Conversion of Food Waste

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

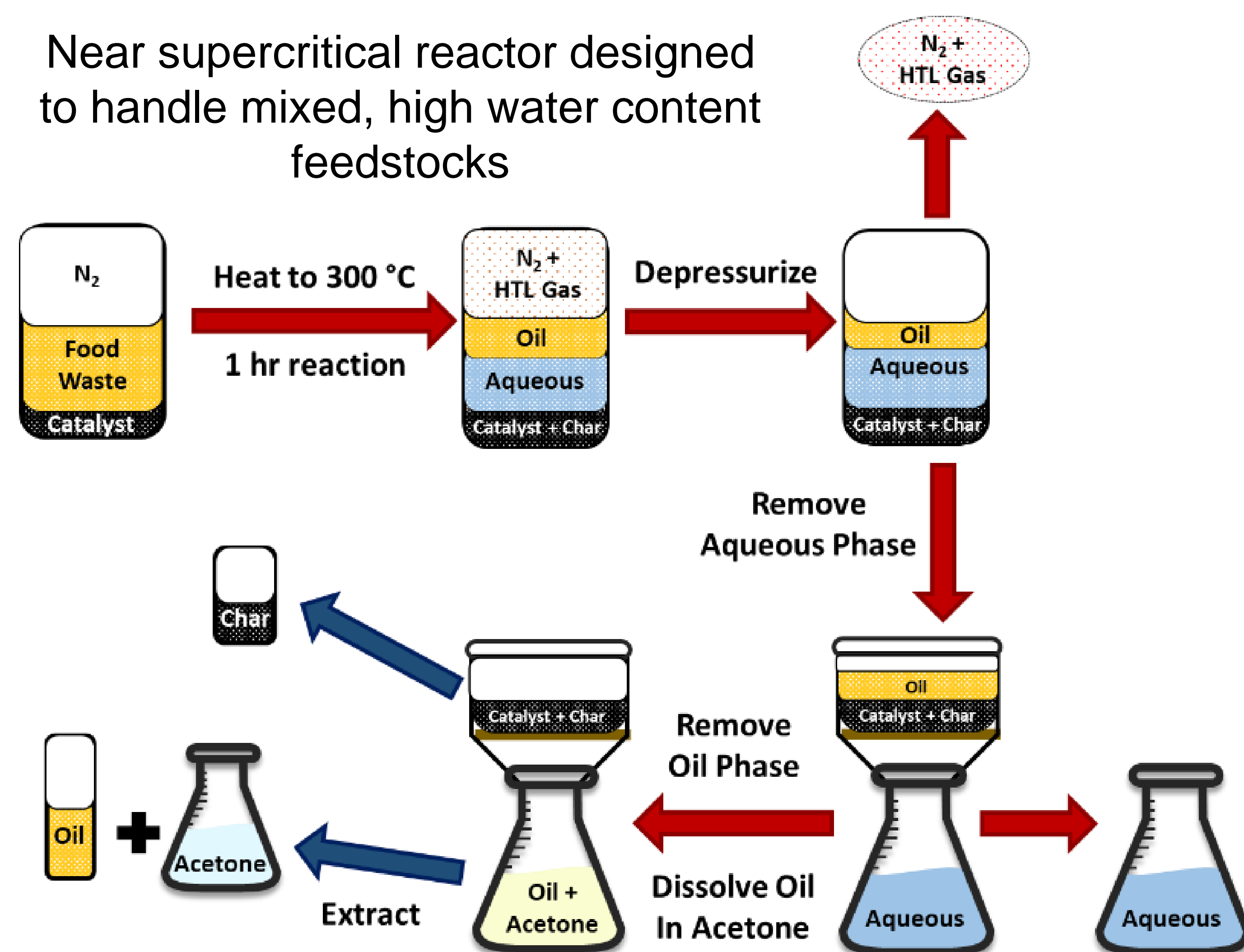
Food Waste Challenges and Opportunities

- Wet waste feeds are bottlenecked by energy-intensive drying
- Hydrothermal processes are designed for wet feeds



Valorization to Energy through HTL

Near supercritical reactor designed to handle mixed, high water content feedstocks



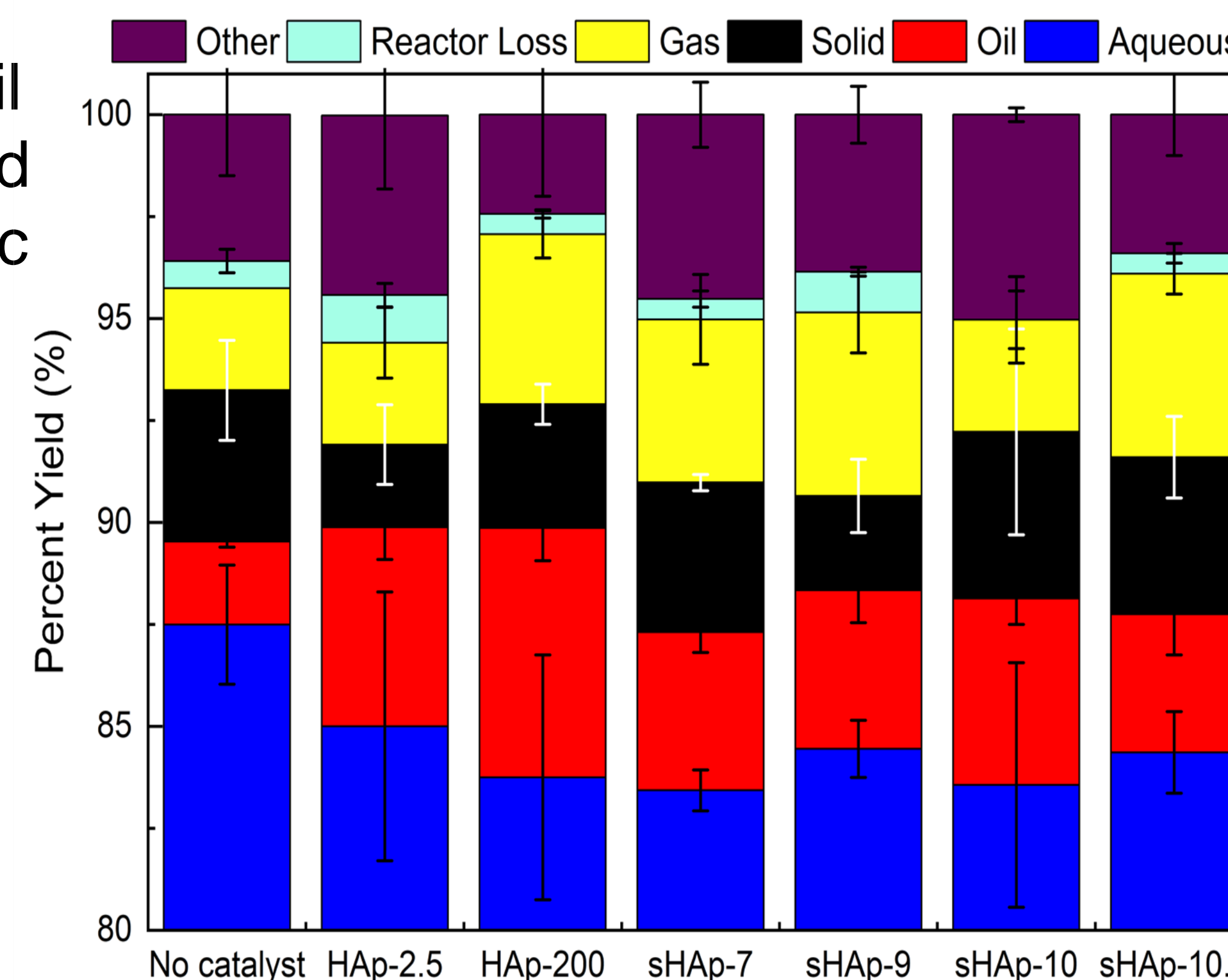
Hydroxyapatite Solid Acid/Base Catalyst

- Tunable acid/ base site ratio
- Moderate cost
- Variable surface area

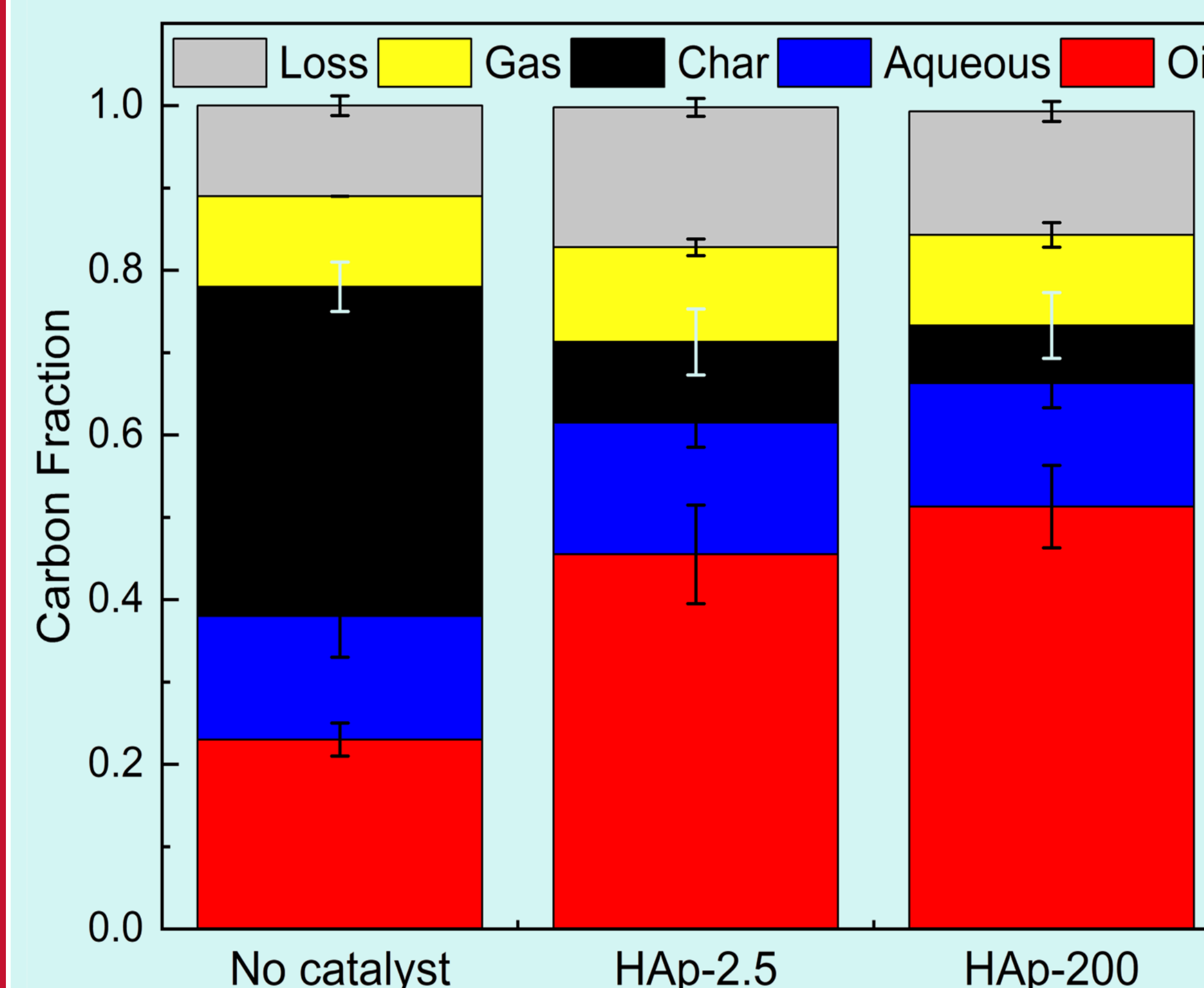


HAp Results in Increased Oil Yield

HAp triples oil yield compared to non-catalytic reactions



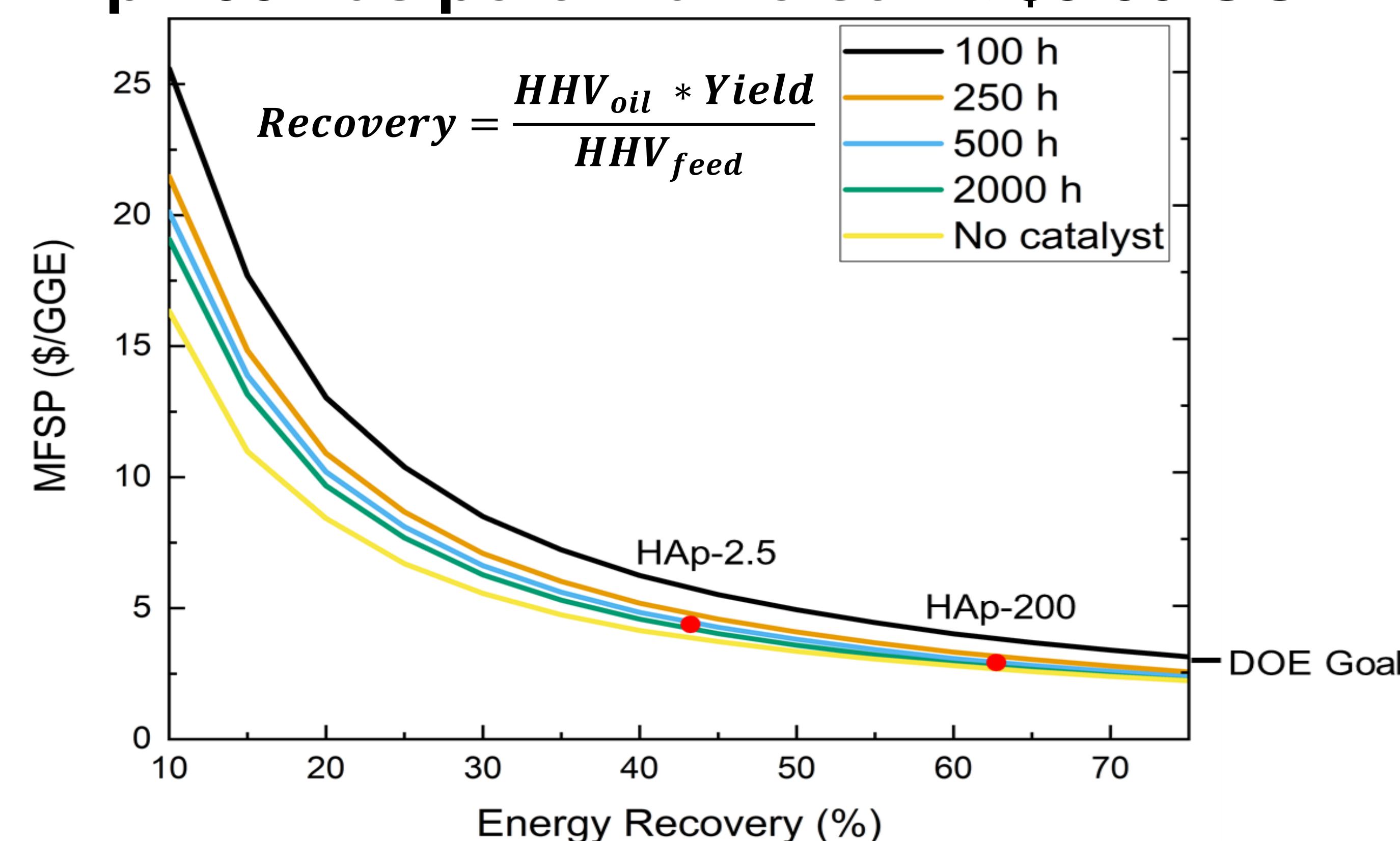
55% of Carbon partitions to the Oil Phase



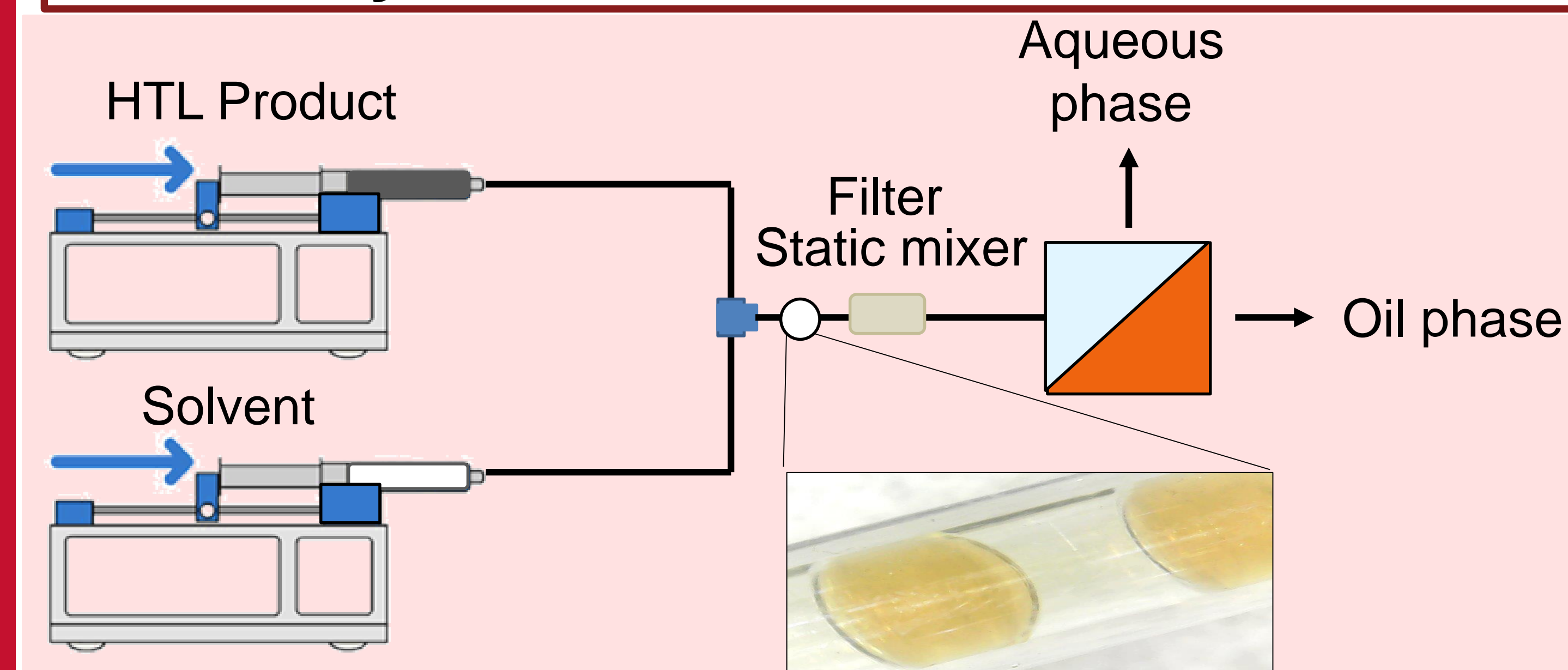
HAp alters reaction kinetics to favor oil phase over char

HAp-200 Achieves > 60% Energy Recovery

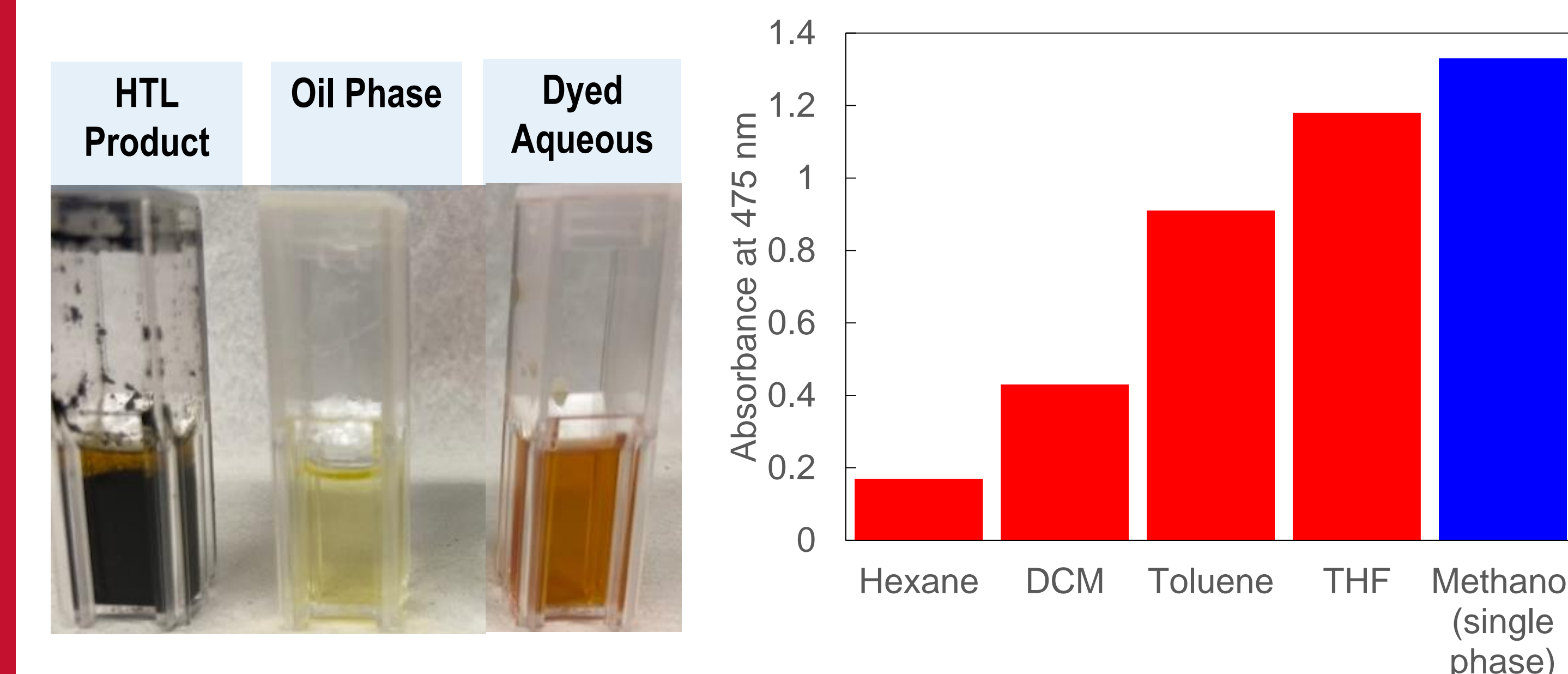
HAp-200 has potential to sell < \$3.00 GGE



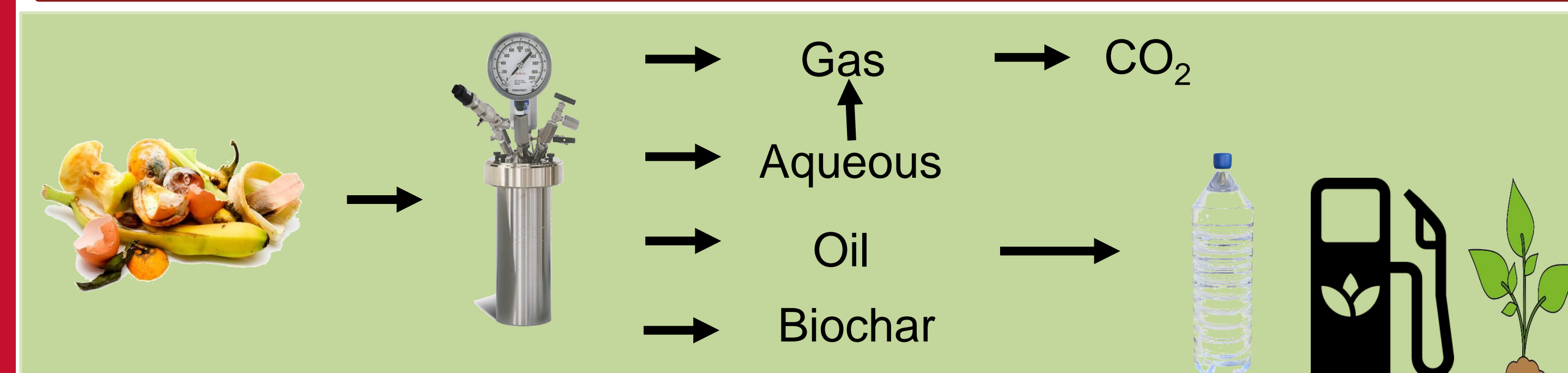
Flow Systems Can Increase Oil Fraction



Solubility Affects Separation Efficiency



Conclusions and Future Plans



- HAp is a highly effective catalyst
- Over 60% of stored energy can be recovered

Waste products successfully converted to renewable energy

References

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- Long, J. *et al.* Comparative investigation on hydrothermal and alkali catalytic liquefaction of bagasse: Process efficiency and product properties. *Fuel* **186**, 685–693 (2016).

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