

OVERCOMING TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY BARRIERS TO ADOPTING GASIFICATION TECHNOLOGIES

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PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT TITLE: *“Overcoming Technical and Community Barriers to Adopting Gasification Technologies”*

AWARD NO: DE – FE0032237

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Period of Performance:

07/01/2023 – 06/30/2026

Project Amount:

\$750,000

UTEP Research Centers:

[Aerospace Center UTEP](#) Department of Communication

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

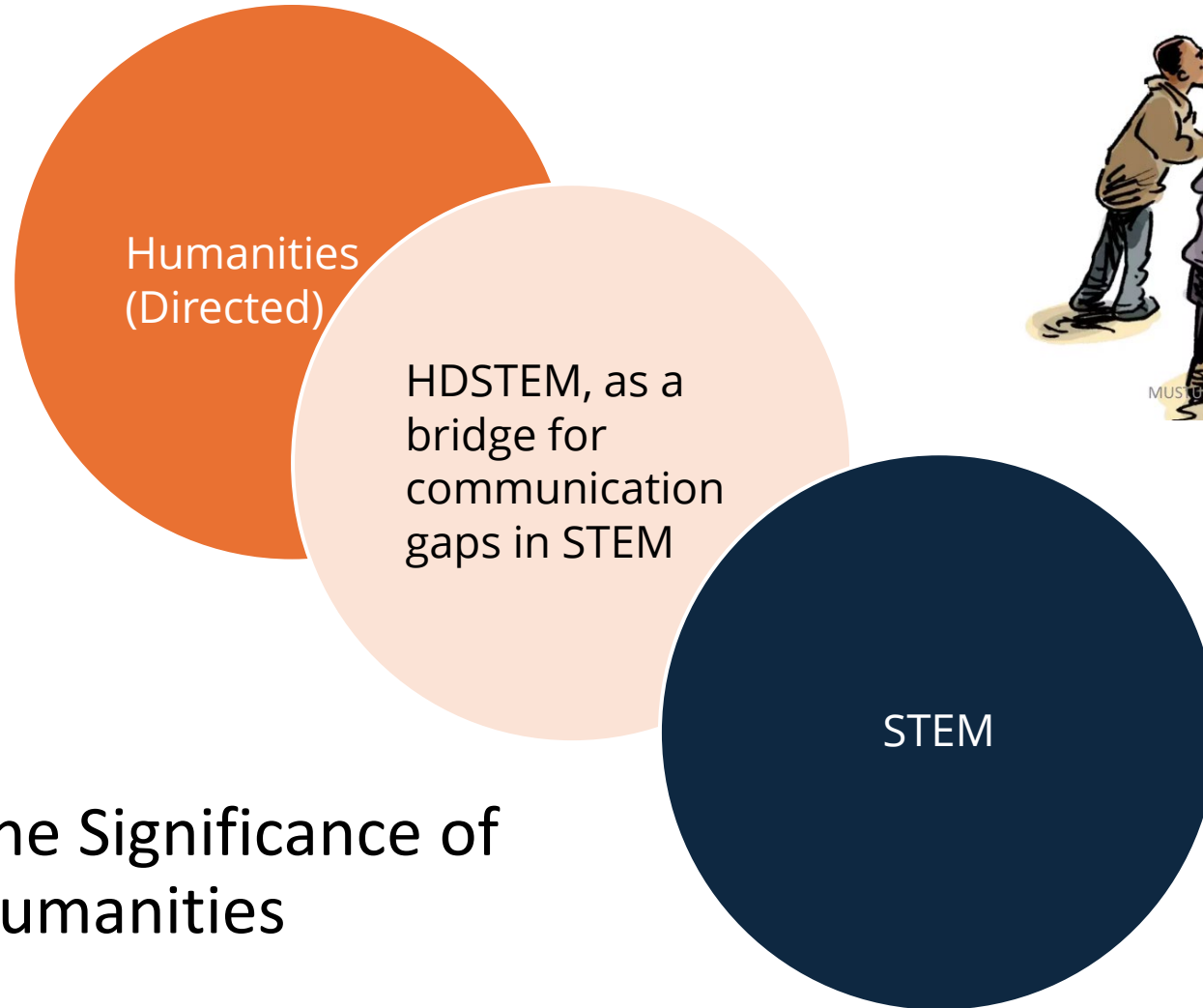


Student Team

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Arely Avitia	B.A. Comm.

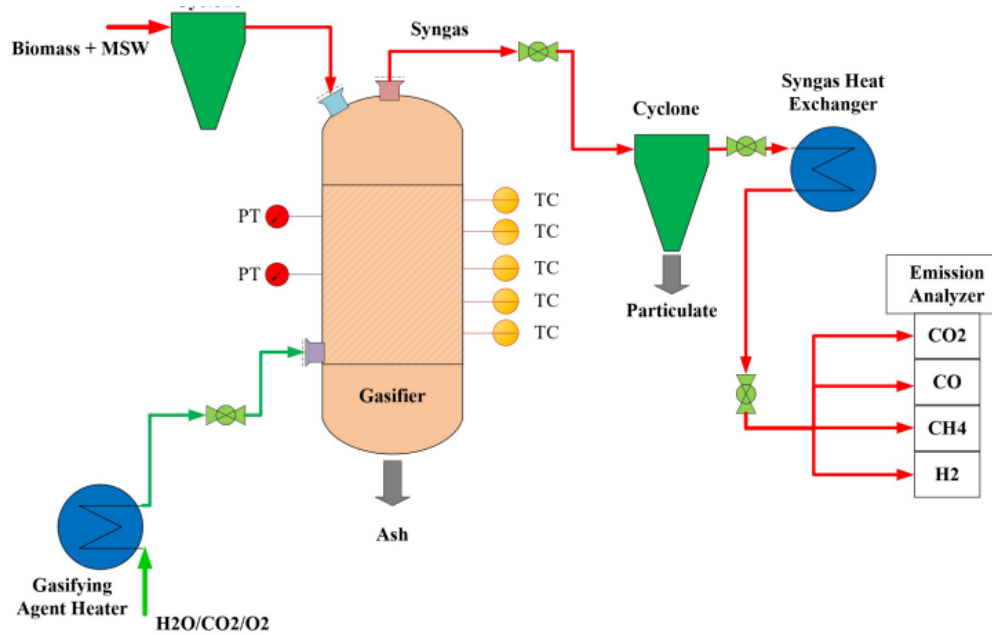
PROJECT INTRODUCTION

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HUMANITIES



The Significance of
Humanities

PROJECT OBJECTIVES



Simplified Schematic of the Proposed Gasifier System

Objective 1:

System Configuration Analysis of a 300 KWth Pressurized MSW-Biomass Co-gasifier

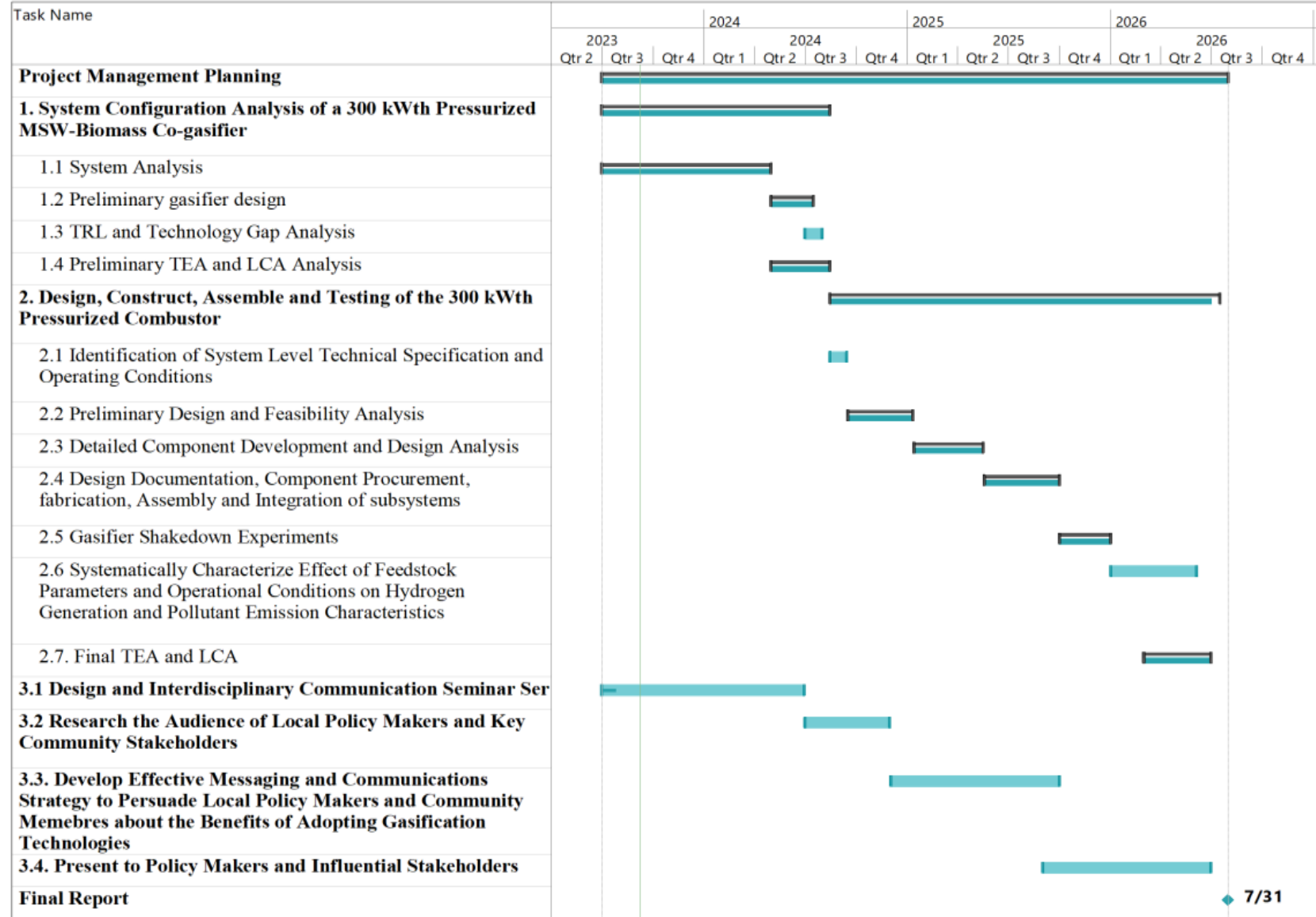
Objective 2:

Design, Construction, & Testing of the 300 KWth Pressurized MSW-Biomass Co-gasifier

Objective 3:

Develop Persuasive Messaging and Communication Infrastructure to Educate Policymakers and the Public About the Benefits of Adopting Co-gasification Technologies

TIMELINE



TASK 1 SYSTEM CONFIGURATION ANALYSIS

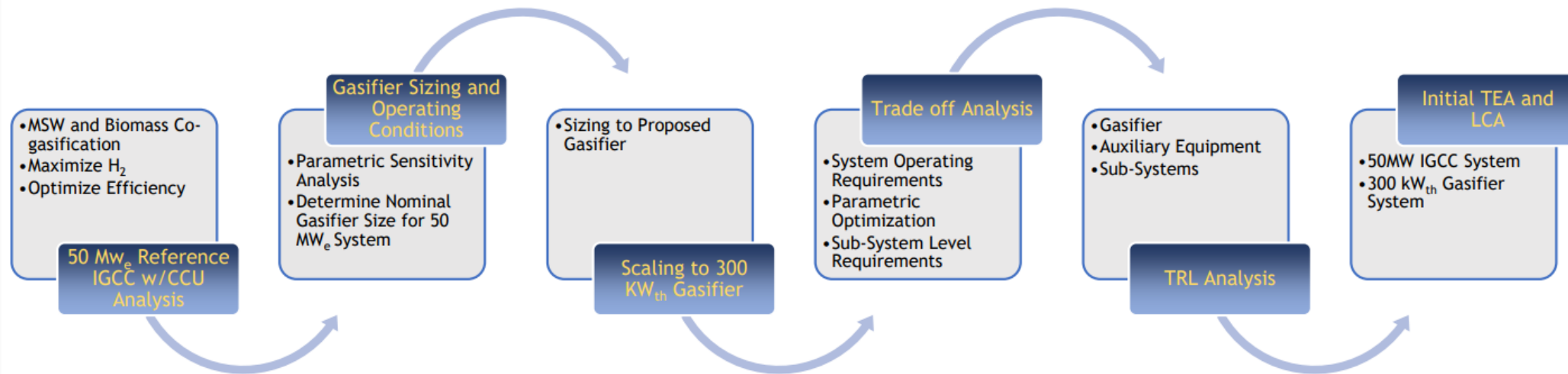


Figure: Approach to Objective 1

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

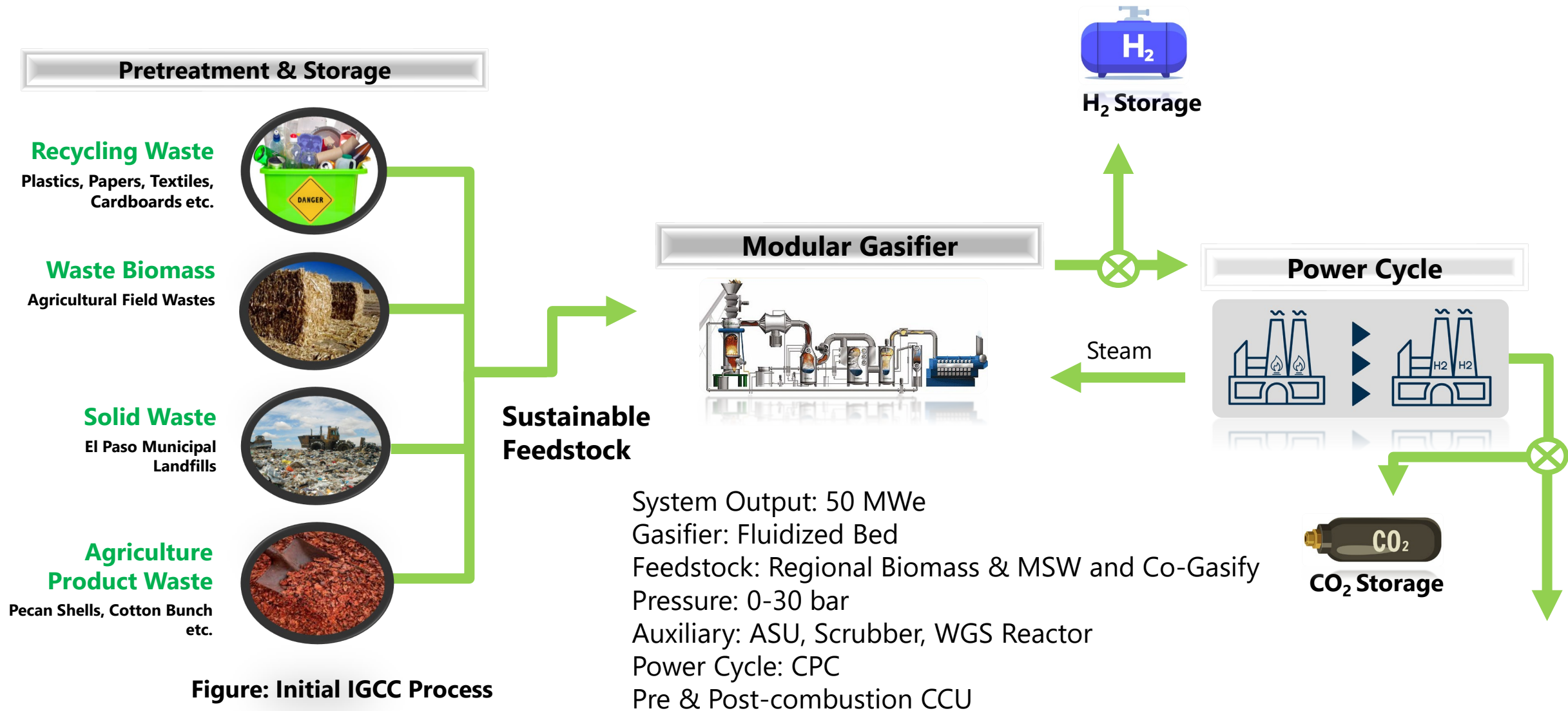
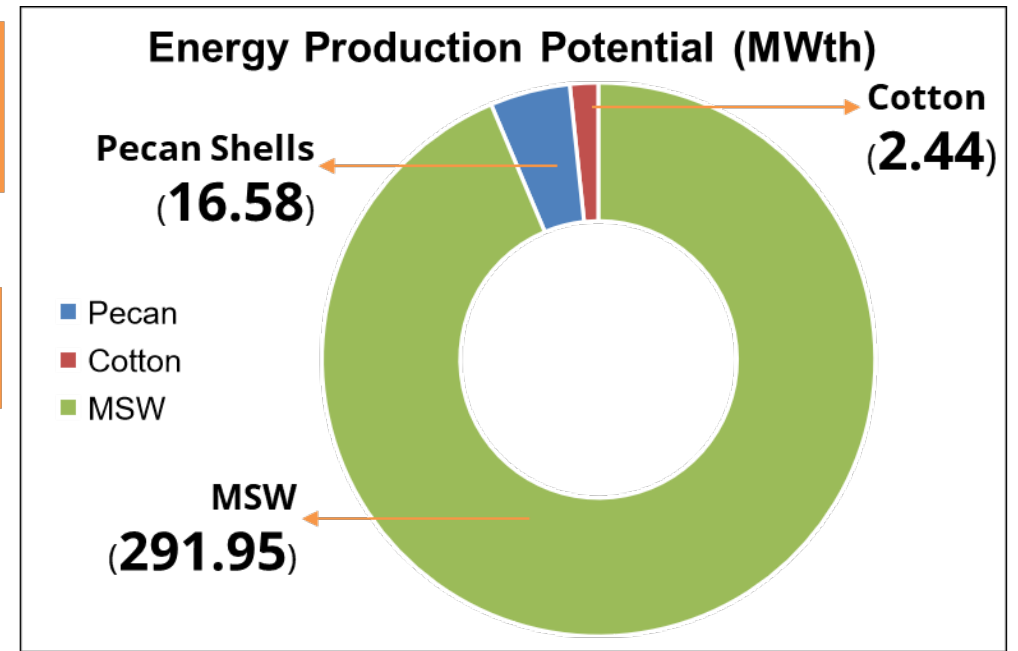
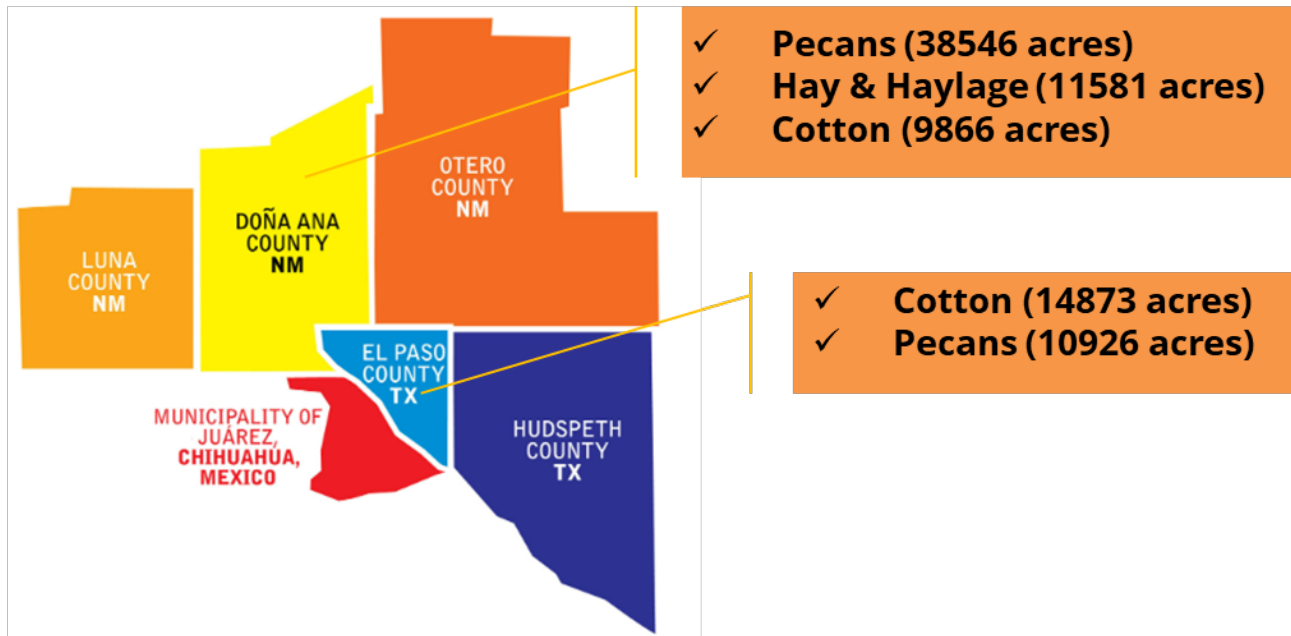


Figure: Initial IGCC Process

PROJECT PROGRESS

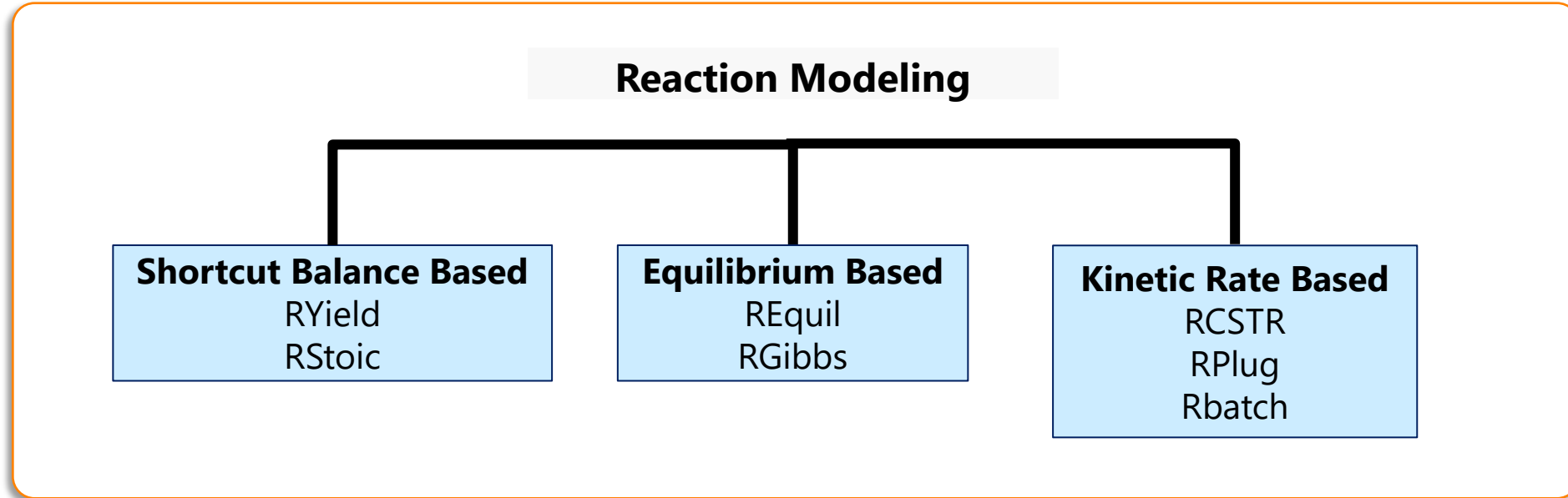
TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

POTENTIAL ENERGY MATERIALS IN THE PASO DEL NORTE REGION



	Pecan Shell	Cotton	MSW
Total Waste (Tons)	~30,000	~4200	~463,000
HHV (MJ/Kg)	17.40	18.33	19.87

	Pecan Shell	Cotton	MSW
Energy (MJ)	522,795,112	77,011,963	9,202,691,150
MWth	16.58	2.44	291.82



MODEL ASSUMPTIONS

- NH_3 or H_2S was ignored.
- Steady-state.
- Inert ash
- No pressure or heat losses.
- Air contains 23 wt% O_2 - 77 wt% N_2 .
- Four lumped species for tar modeling.

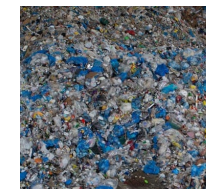
PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

FEEDSTOCK CHARACTERIZATION

Kinetic Model

Material	Textile Waste	Dried Waste	Pyrolyzed Char
Source	Reference	Excel Calculation	Excel Calculation
VM	87.78	87.78	7
Ash	1.05	1.05	6.25
FC	11.17	11.17	86.74
Moisture	0.82	0	0
C	43.37	43.37	70.20
H	6.18	6.18	5.98
N	1.45	1.45	8.63
O	47.03	47.03	3.43
S	0.92	0.92	5.47

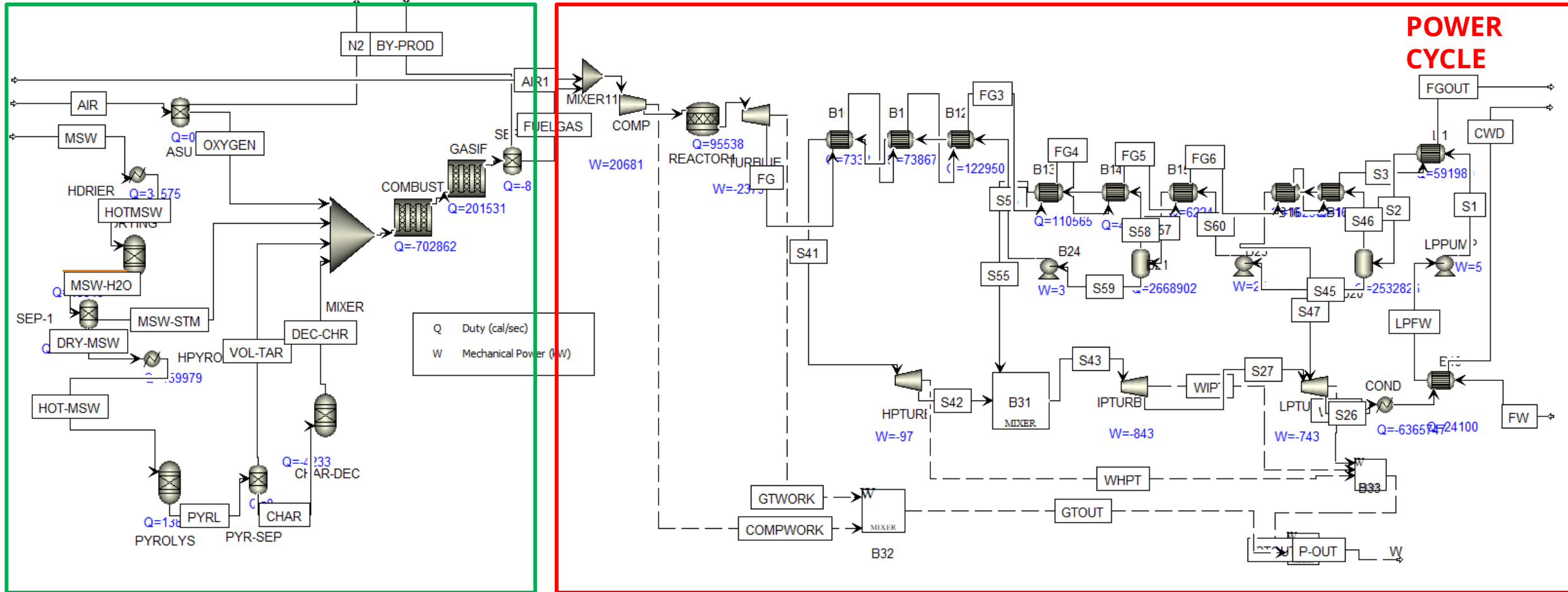


Equilibrium Model

MSW Type	Moisture	Volatile	Fixed Carbon	Ash	C	H	O	N	S
Paper	5.95	78.55	7.57	7.93	41.43	6.87	49.83	1.01	0.86
Textile (cotton)	6.85	82.37	10.61	0.17	41.19	6.97	50.99	0.01	0.84
Wood	9.31	74.96	15.49	0.24	45.69	7.57	43.84	1.89	1.01
Plastic (PET)	-	88.61	11.39	-	64.22	4.65	30.53	0.05	0.55

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS



GASIFICATION CYCLE

Figure: Preliminary Process Cycle in Aspen Plus

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

KINETIC MODEL

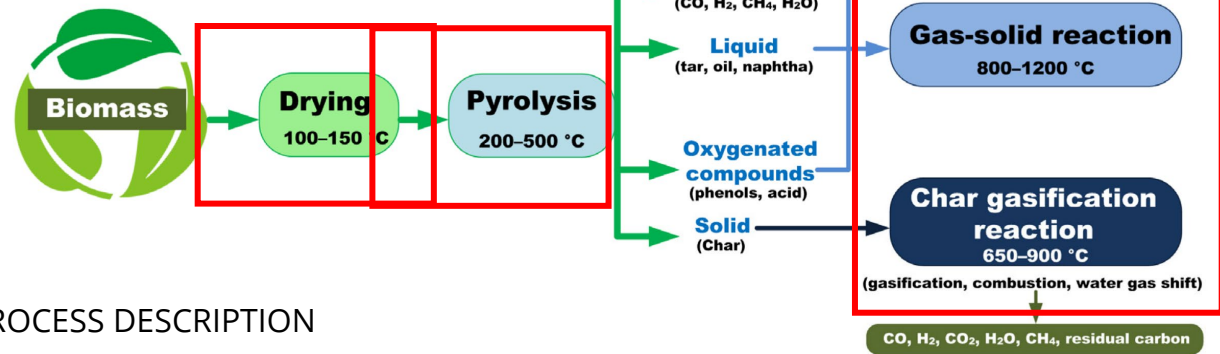
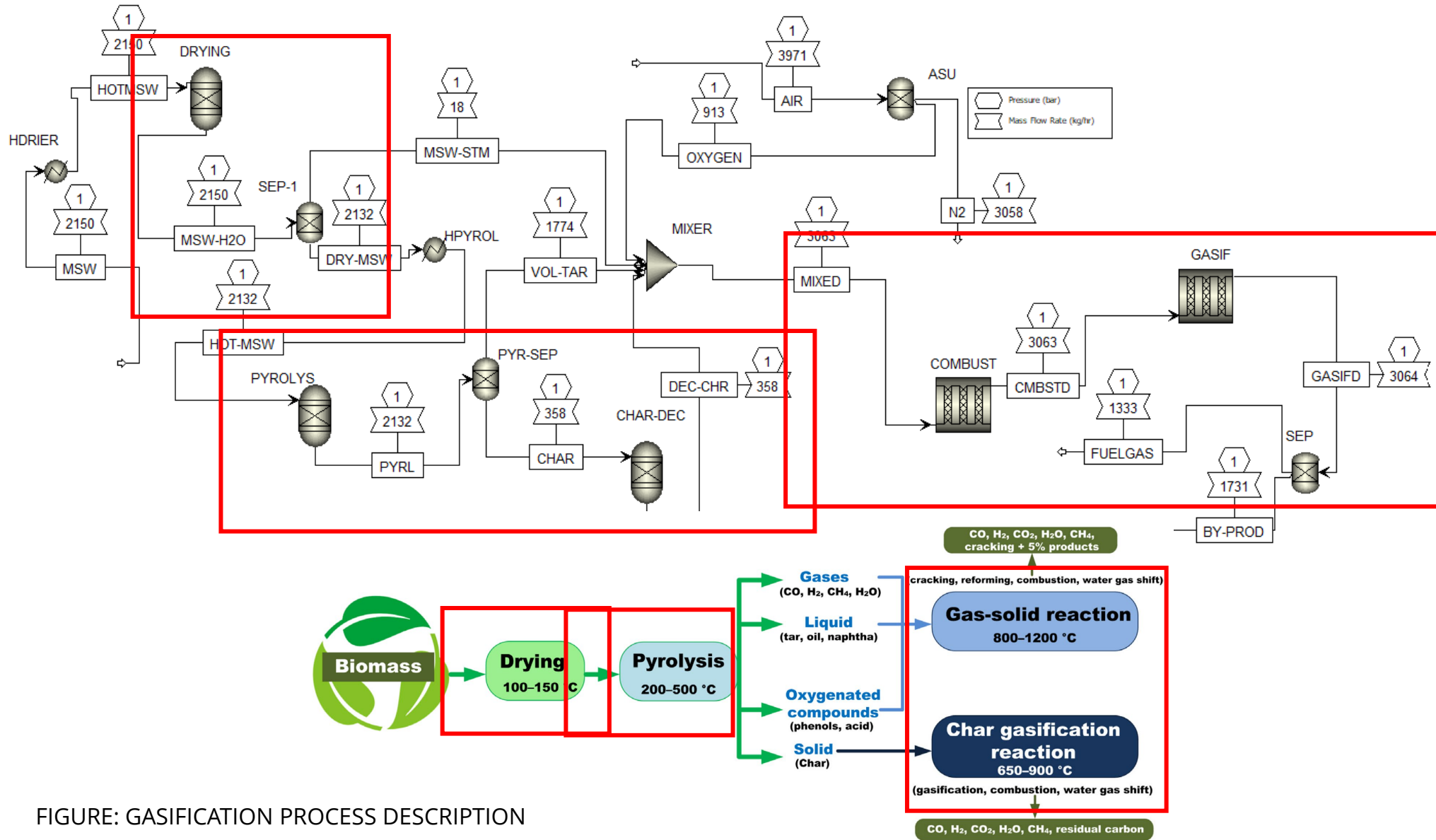


FIGURE: GASIFICATION PROCESS DESCRIPTION

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

TAR MODELING

Name	Lumped Species
Benzene	Benzene
Phenol	Phenol and Cresols
Toluene	Toluene, Indene, and xylene
Naphthalene	Naphthalene, 1+2 - Methyl-naphthalene, Acenaphthylene, and Phenanthrene

PYROLYSIS YIELD FROM EMPIRICAL DATA

Product	a	b	c
CH ₄	-4.341×10^{-5}	10.12×10^{-2}	-51.08
H ₂	1.362×10^{-5}	-2.517×10^{-2}	12.19
CO	-3.524×10^{-5}	9.770×10^{-2}	-24.93
CO ₂	3.958×10^{-5}	-9.126×10^{-2}	64.02
C ₂ H ₄	-6.873×10^{-5}	14.94×10^{-2}	-76.89
C ₂ H ₆	8.265×10^{-6}	-2.105×10^{-2}	13.38
C ₆ H ₆	-3.134×10^{-5}	7.544×10^{-2}	-42.72
C ₇ H ₈	-4.539×10^{-6}	0.687×10^{-2}	1.462
C ₆ H ₆ O	1.508×10^{-5}	-3.662×10^{-2}	22.19
C ₁₀ H ₈	-8.548×10^{-6}	1.882×10^{-2}	-9.851
H ₂ O	5.157×10^{-5}	-11.86×10^{-2}	84.91

Mass yields (Y_0) of pyrolysis products are calculated, as $Y_i = aT^2 + bT + c$.

Component	Basis	Basis Yield
CH ₄	Mass	0.0582071
H ₂	Mass	0.00564559
CO	Mass	0.357021
CO ₂	Mass	0.12907
C ₂ H ₄	Mass	0.0297956
C ₂ H ₆	Mass	0.00832825
C ₆ H ₆	Mass	0.00656682
C ₇ H ₈	Mass	0.0385119
C ₆ H ₆ O	Mass	0.0100009
C ₁₀ H ₈	Mass	0.00310139
H ₂ O	Mass	0.185847
Char	Mass	0.167905

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

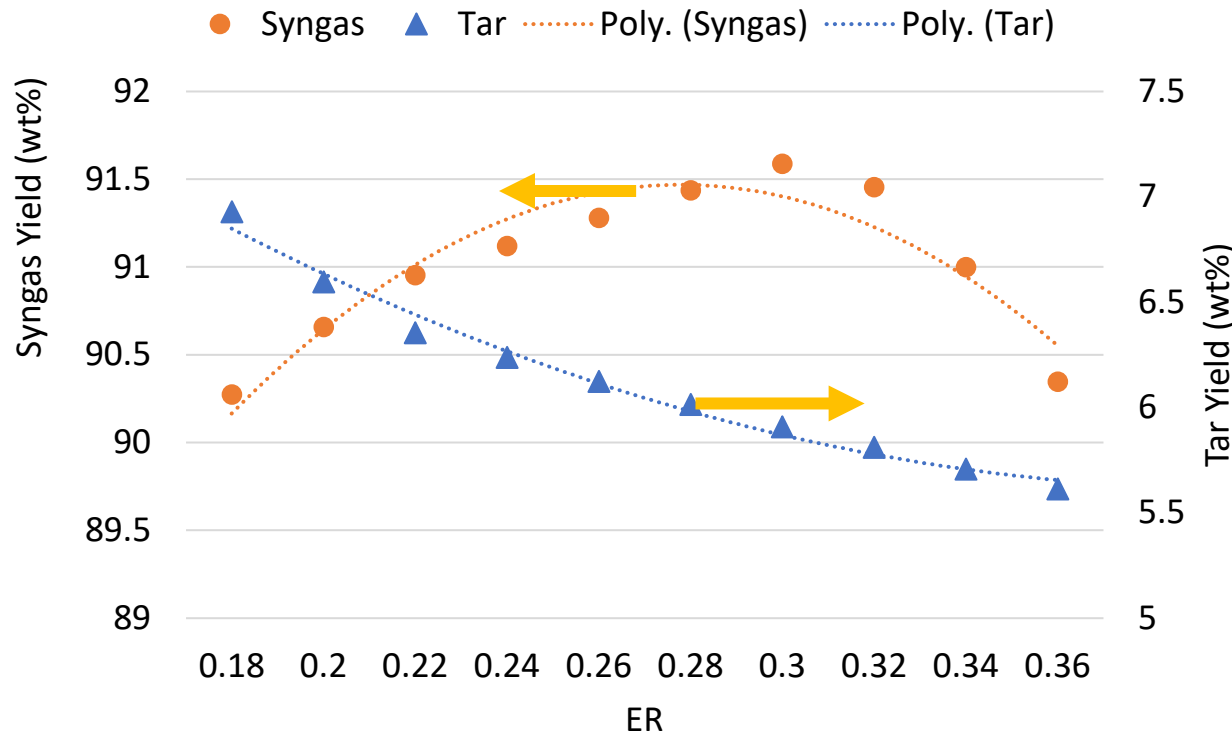
Reaction	Kinetic Constants	
	K	E _a (KJ/Kmol)
(1)	$8.9 \cdot 10^9$	$1.8 \cdot 10^5$
(2)	$7.9 \cdot 10^{10}$	$2.02 \cdot 10^5$
(3)	$5.4 \cdot 10^7$	$1.25 \cdot 10^4$
(4)	$6.55 \cdot 10^{-1}$	$8.02 \cdot 10^4$
(5)	$1.27 \cdot 10^7$	$1.26 \cdot 10^5$
(6)	3.42	$1.3 \cdot 10^4$
(7)	$2.78 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.26 \cdot 10^4$
(8)	$3.00 \cdot 10^5$	$1.25 \cdot 10^5$
(9)	3.42	$1.3 \cdot 10^4$
(10)	$1.00 \cdot 10^7$	$1.00 \cdot 10^5$
(11)	$1.00 \cdot 10^7$	$1.00 \cdot 10^5$
(12)	$1.00 \cdot 10^{14}$	$3.50 \cdot 10^5$

Reaction	Reaction Rate	No
Total oxidation of CO: $\text{CO} + 0.5\text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO}_2$	$r = k \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{CO}][\text{O}_2]^{0.25} [\text{H}_2\text{O}]^{0.5}$	(1)
Partial oxidation of CH ₄ : $\text{CH}_4 + \frac{1}{2}\text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO} + 2\text{H}_2$	$r = k \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{CH}_4]^{0.7} [\text{O}_2]^{0.8}$	(2)
Hydrogen oxidation: $\text{H}_2 + \frac{1}{2}\text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}$	$r = k \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{H}_2][\text{O}_2]$	(3)
Partial oxidation of phenol: $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{O} + 4\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 6\text{CO} + 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$r = k \cdot T \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{O}]^{0.5} [\text{O}_2]$	(4)
Partial oxidation of benzene: $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6 + \frac{9}{2}\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 6\text{CO} + 3\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$r = k \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{C}_6\text{H}_6]^{0.5} [\text{O}_2]$	(5)
Water Gas: $\text{C} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{CO} + \text{H}_2$	$r = k \cdot T \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{C}][\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	(6)
Water-gas shift: $\text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2$	$r = k \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{CO}][\text{H}_2\text{O}] - \frac{[\text{CO}_2][\text{H}_2]}{k} k_{eq}$	(7)
Steam reforming: $\text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{CO} + 3\text{H}_2$	$r = k \cdot T \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{CH}_4][\text{H}_2\text{O}]$	(8)
Boudouard: $\text{C} + \text{CO}_2 \rightleftharpoons 2\text{CO}$	$r = k \cdot T \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{C}]$	(9)
$\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CO} + 0.4\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8 + 0.15\text{C}_6\text{H}_6 + 0.1\text{CH}_4 + 0.75\text{H}_2$	$r = k \cdot T \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{O}]$	(10)
$\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{O} + 3\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 4\text{CO} + 0.5\text{C}_2\text{H}_4 + \text{CH}_4 + 3\text{H}_2$	$r = k \cdot T \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{C}_6\text{H}_6\text{O}]$	(11)
$\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8 \rightarrow 6.5\text{C} + 0.5\text{C}_6\text{H}_6 + 0.5\text{CH}_4 + 1.5\text{H}_2$	$r = k \cdot T \cdot e^{\frac{-E_a}{RT}} [\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8]^{1.6} [\text{H}_2]^{-0.5}$	(12)

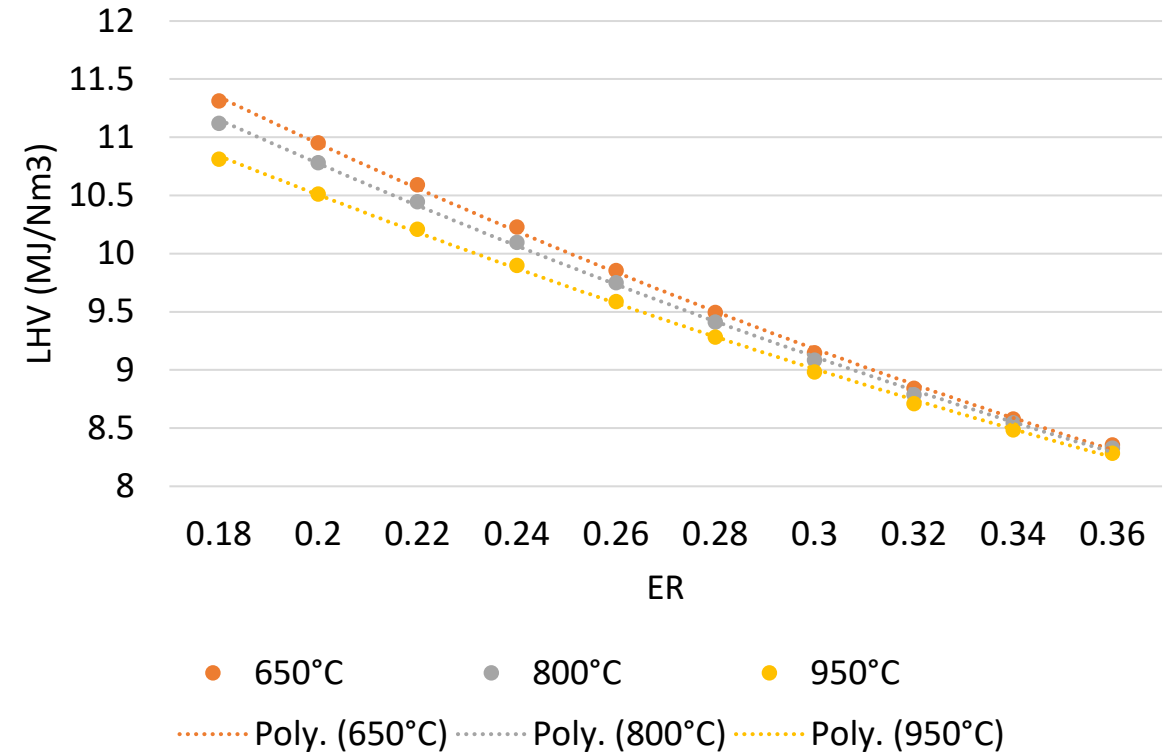
PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

RESULTS FROM KINETIC MODEL



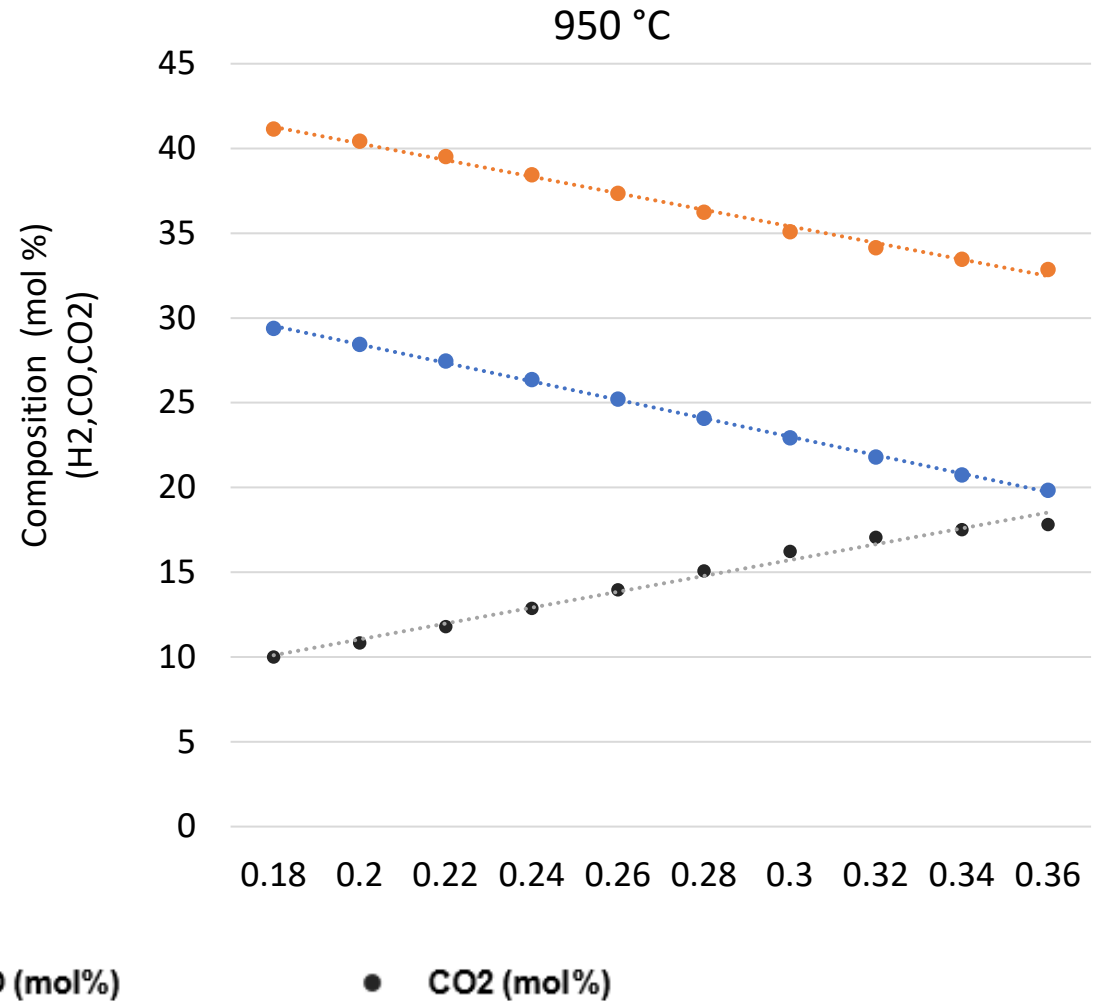
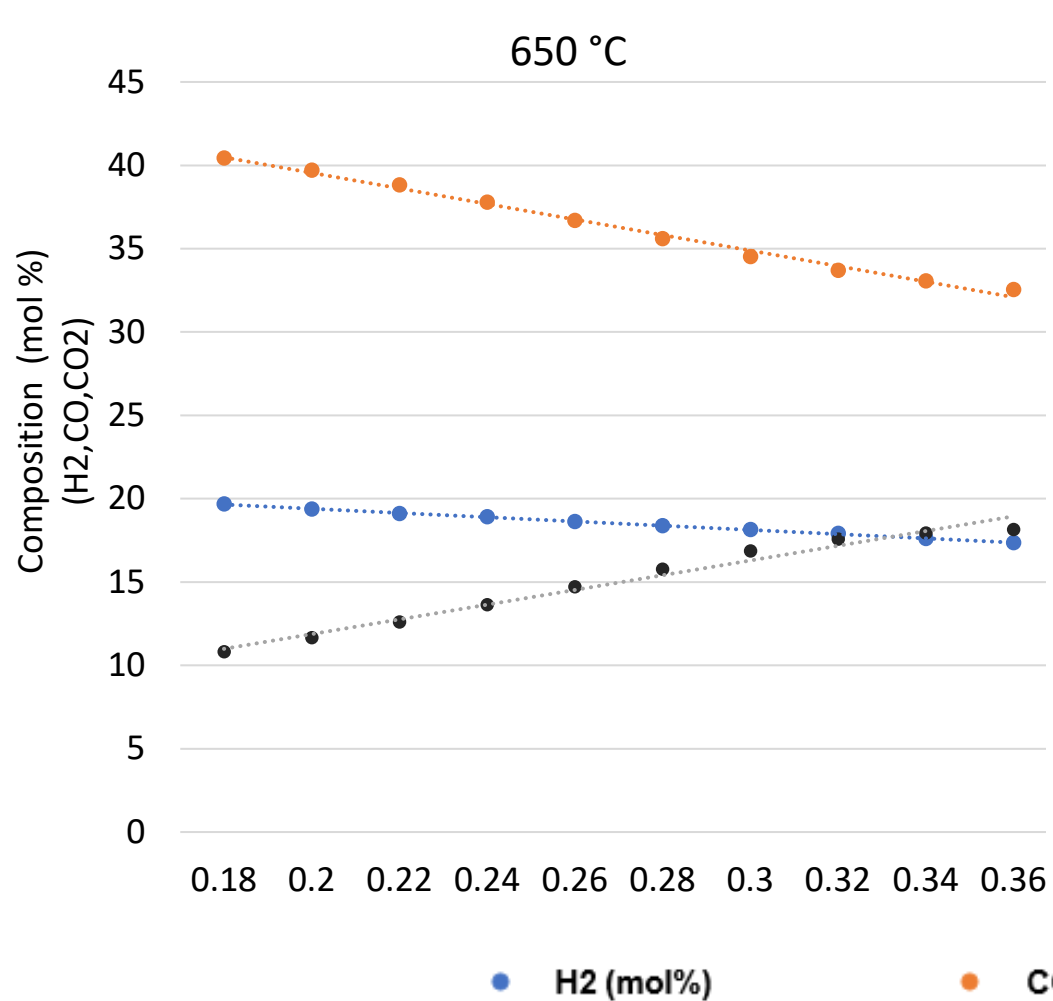
EFFECT OF ER ON SYNGAS PRODUCTION AT 800C



SENSITIVITY OF HEATING VALUE

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS



PROCESS SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

EQUILIBRIUM MODEL

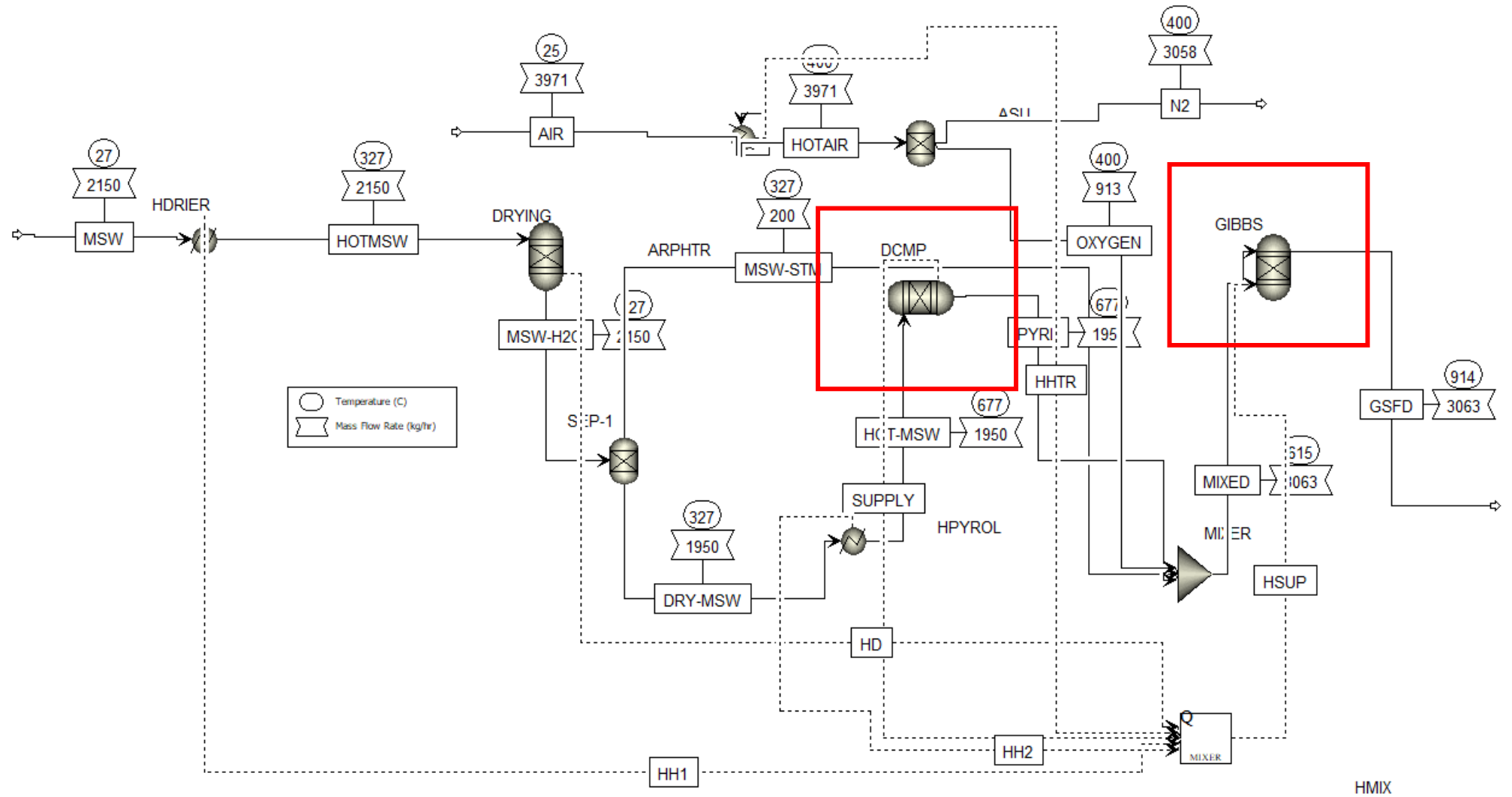
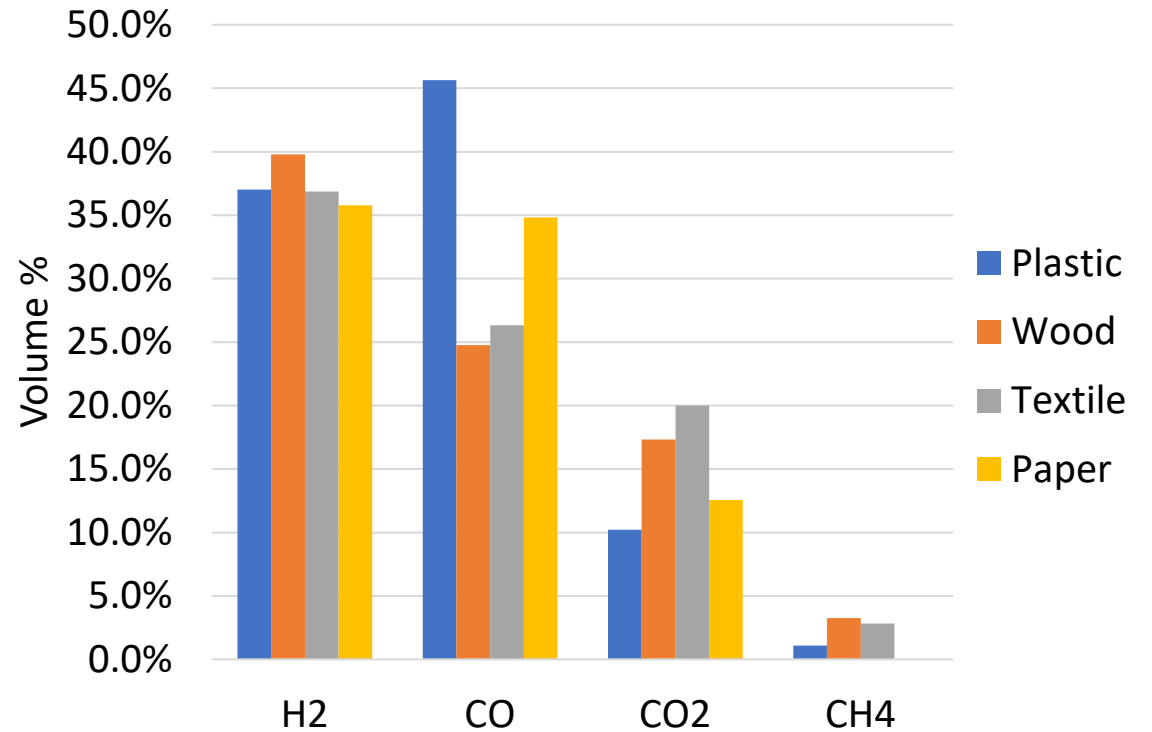
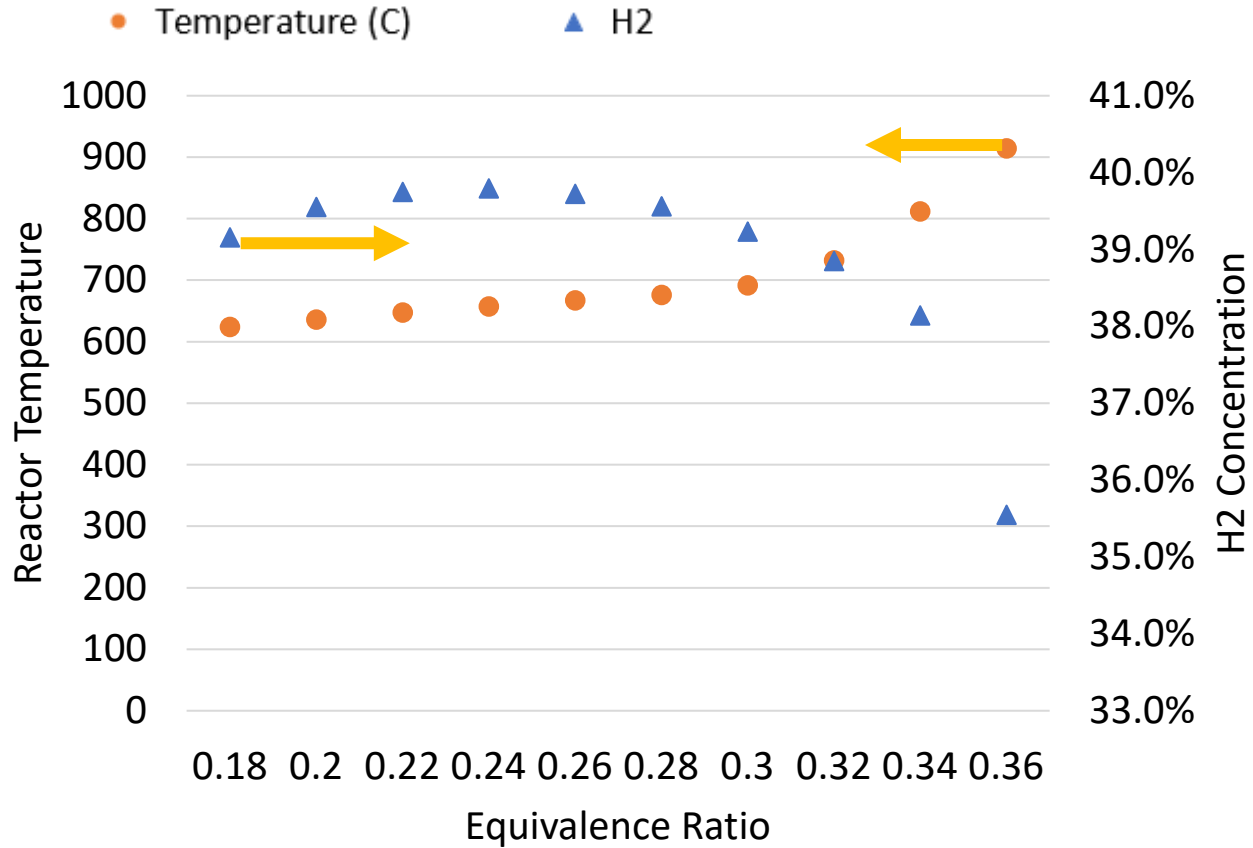


Figure: Cycle Development- Equilibrium Approach

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

RESULTS FROM EQUILIBRIUM APPROACH



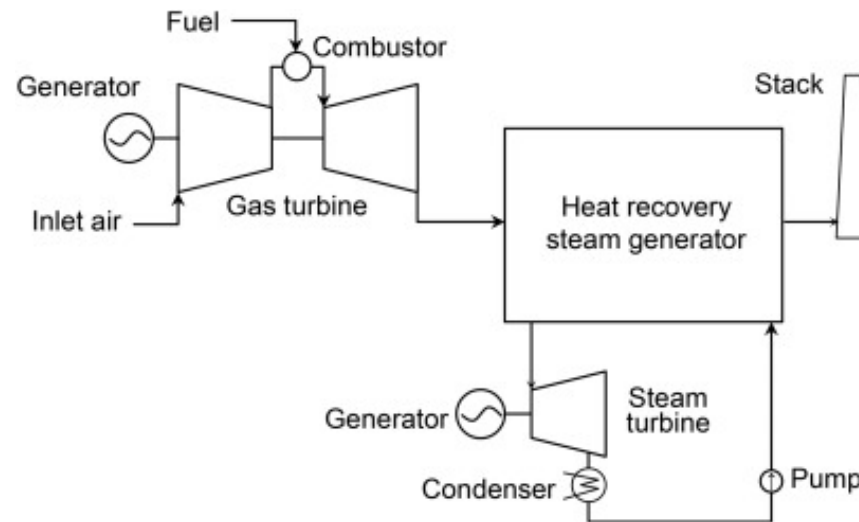
PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

Assumptions

- The combustion chamber is modeled as a reactor in Aspen Plus.
- Full Combustion achieved in the reactor.
- The compressor and turbine efficiency is considered as isentropic.
- No losses in the energy conversion process.

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM SHOWING THE ENERGY FLOWS THROUGH COMBINED CYCLE:

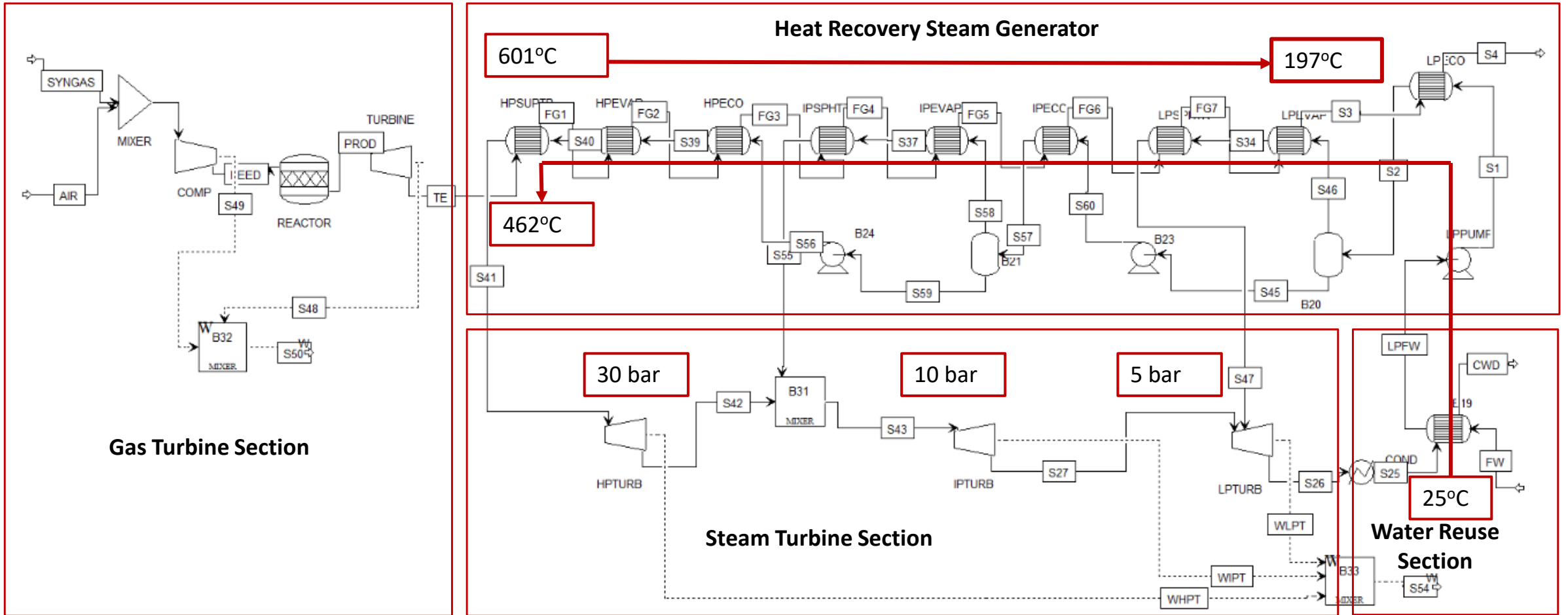


ASSUMED TURBINE OPERATING PARAMETERS:

Gas turbine	
GT compressor efficiency	Adiabatic efficiency 80.6%
GT compressor pressure ratio	5/1
GT expander efficiency	Adiabatic efficiency 90.2%
GT expander pressure ratio	1/30
Steam turbine	
HP ST efficiency	Adiabatic efficiency 86.7%
IP ST efficiency	Adiabatic efficiency 91.7%
LP ST efficiency	Adiabatic efficiency 92.4%
HP ST pressure ratio	30/20
IP ST pressure ratio	10/5
LP ST pressure ratio	5/1
Condenser	
Outlet temperature	32°C
Pressure	1 bar

PROJECT PROGRESS

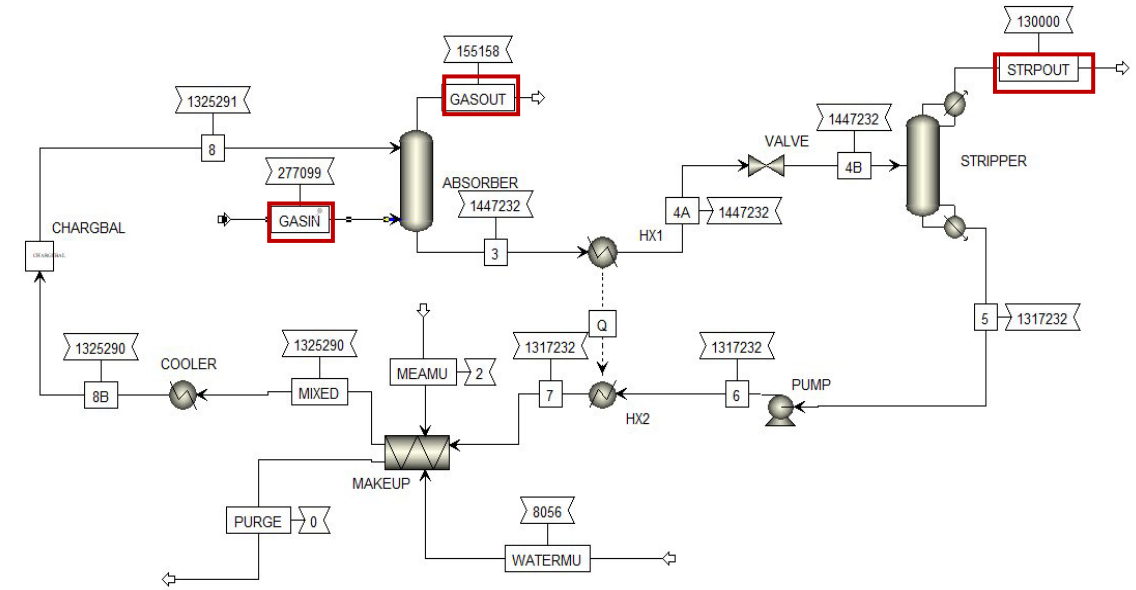
TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS



PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

MEA based CCU Model optimization for the developed decentralized IGCC model



CCU

Comparison table showing the carbon capture amount (**94.58%**)

Species	Flue Gas In (Kg/hr)	Flue Gas Out (Kg/hr)	Stripper Out (Kg/hr)
MEA	0	1.9	0.2
CO ₂	128,199	6,939	121,259
H ₂ S	8.03	0.01	8.1
H ₂	7,631	7,573	58
CH ₄	1,396	1,394	2
CO	1,354	1,345	8

PROJECT PROGRESS

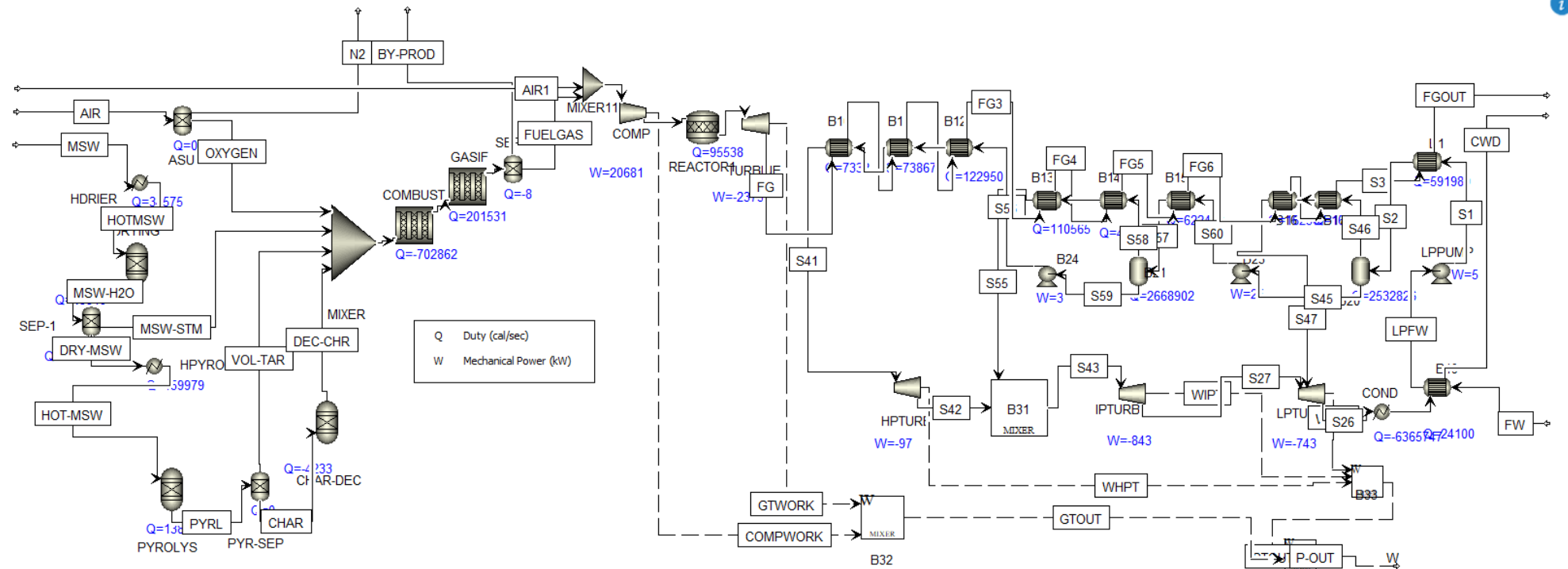
TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

- Material MSW: 2150 Kg/hr, LHV 18MJ/Kg (Equivalent thermal input: 10,800KW)
- Output from turbines: 4733.44 KW

Net Efficiency: 43.8%

Excluded: Energy for the gasification auxiliaries, HeX duties, CCU.

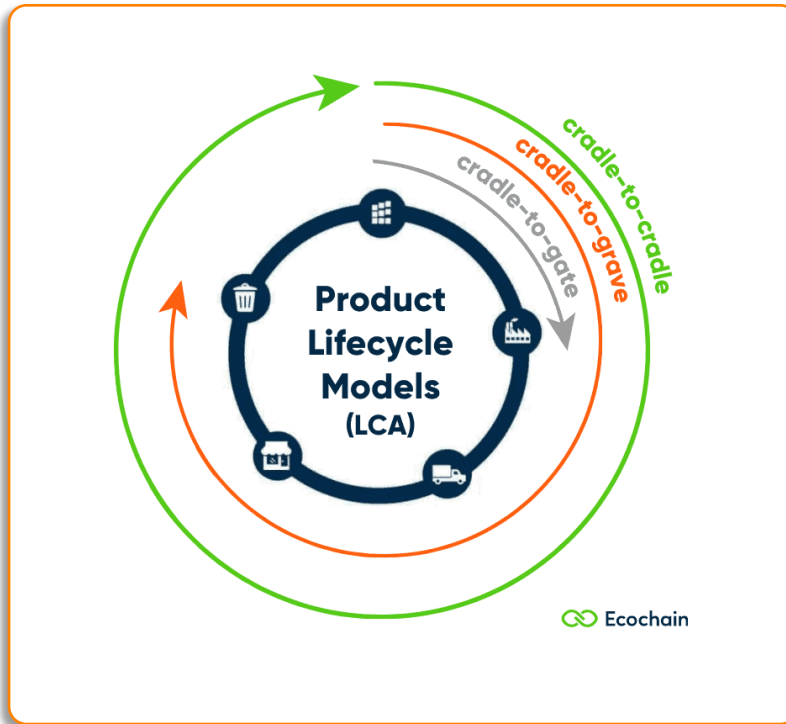
CYCLE EFFICIENCY (INITIAL)



PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

CRADLE TO GATE LCA FOR 10.8 MWth GASIFICATION PLANT OPERATING FOR 1 HOUR



LCA MODELS

ASSUMPTIONS:

- The empirical conversion efficiency was considered as 33%.
- The feedstock flowrate was calculated from the total power generated from the plant.

FLOWS:

- Flows were taken from the OpenLCA default library.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODS:

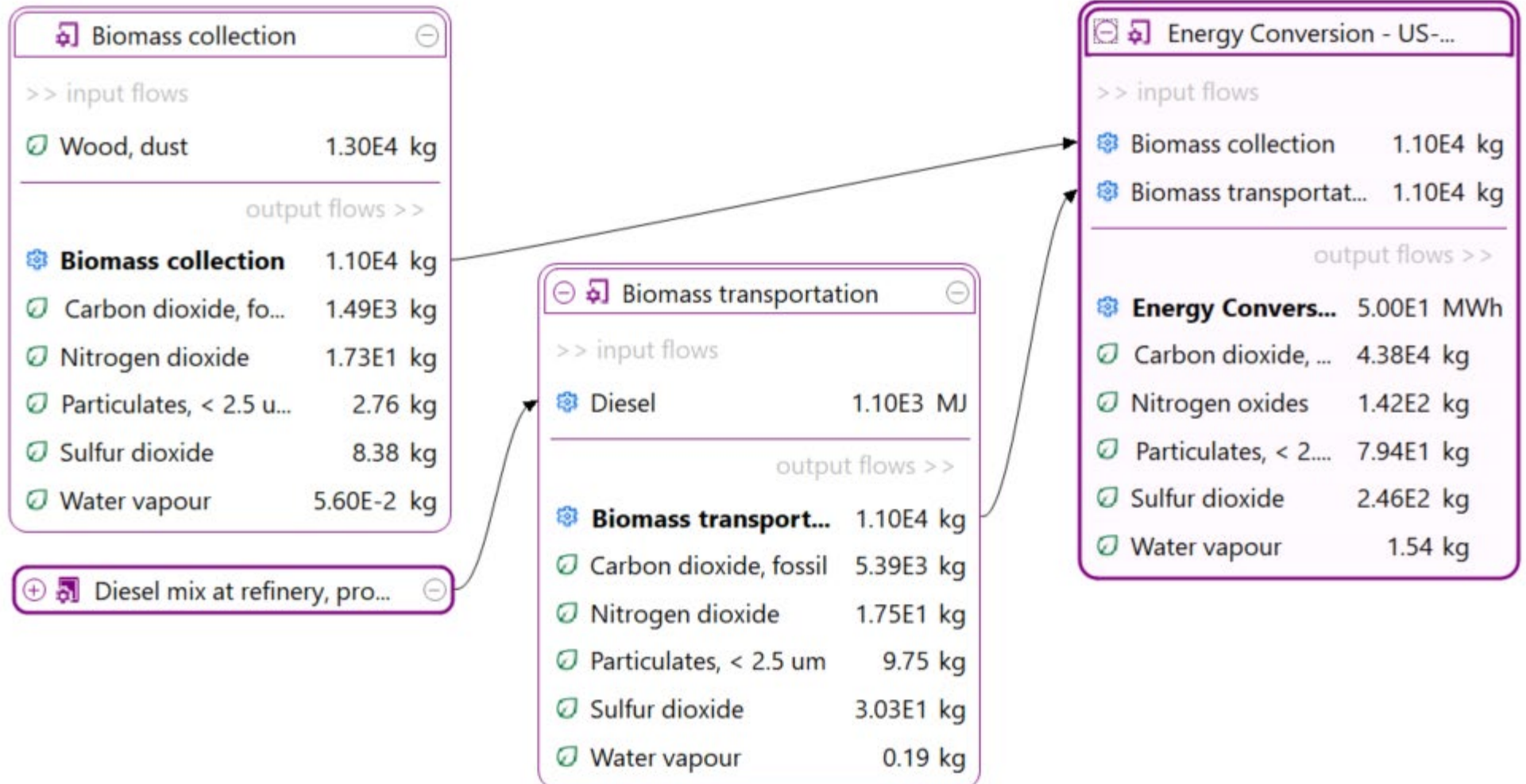
- IPCC 2013 GWP 100a
- Recipe 2016
- Eco Indicator 99

INVENTORY

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

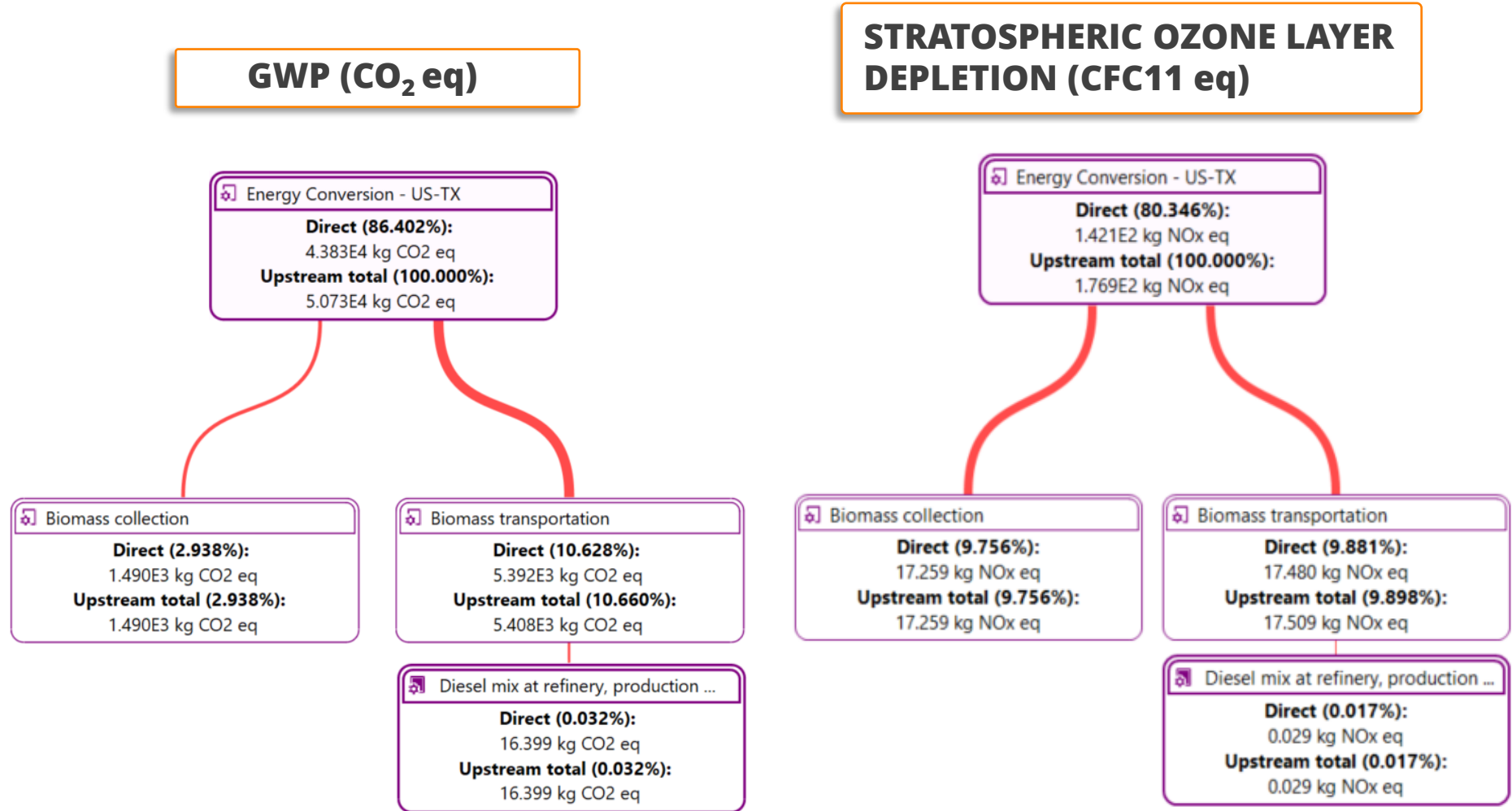
MODEL GRAPH



PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

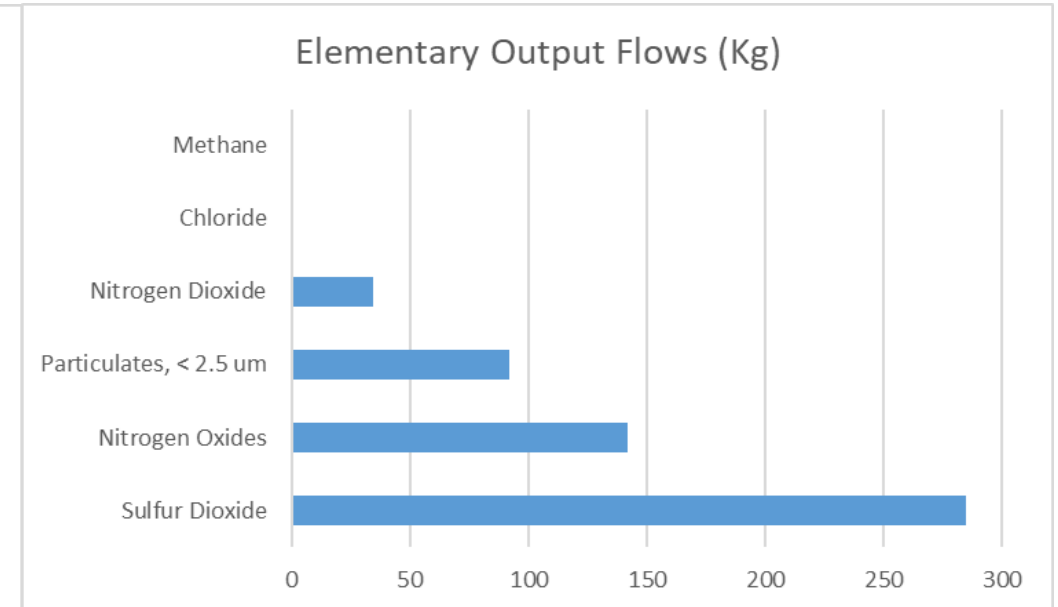
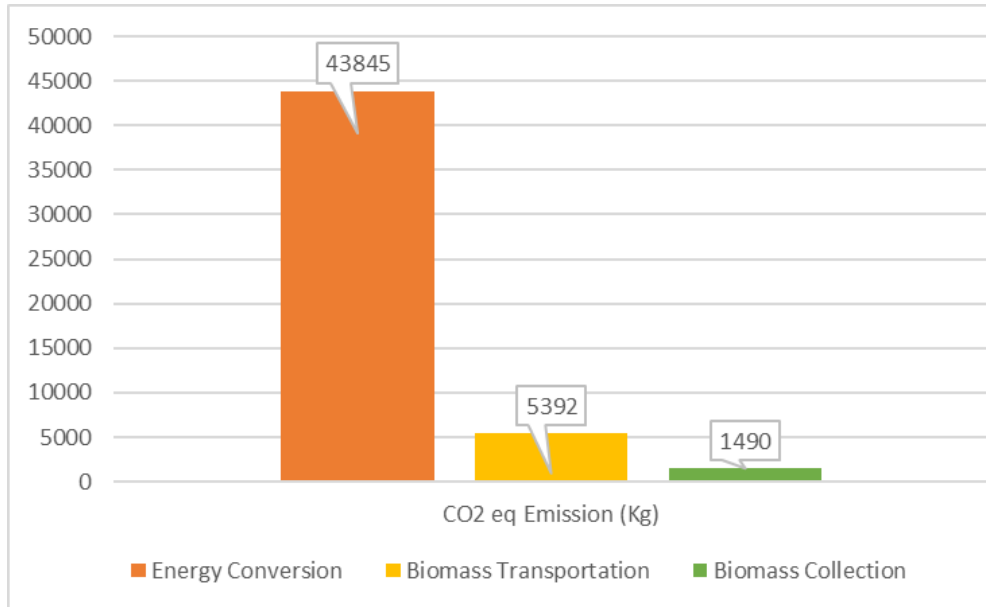
LCA RESULTS



PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.4 PRELIMINARY TEA & LCA

LCA Results



OTHER NOTABLE EMISSIONS FROM THE ENERGY CONVERSION PROCESS

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.4 PRELIMINARY TEA & LCA

FINE PARTICULATE MATTER FORMATION

Contribution	Process	Required amount	Unit	Total result [Kg PM2.5 eq]	Direct contribution [Kg PM2.5 eq]
100.00%	Energy Conversion - US-TX	180000	MJ	285	154
30.30%	Biomass transportation	11000	Kg	85.5	46.2
23.40%	Biomass collection	11000	Kg	65.5	36.03

*Kg PM2.5 = 4.2 deaths per Kg inhaled

LCA Results

TERRESTRIAL ACIDIFICATION

Contribution	Process	Required amount	Unit	Total result [Kg SO ₂ eq]	Direct contribution [Kg SO ₂ eq]
100.00%	Energy Conversion - US-TX	180000	MJ	91.94	39.6
14.50%	Biomass transportation	11000	Kg	12.8	7.2
6.99%	Biomass collection	11000	Kg	6.42	3.5

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.4 PRELIMINARY TEA & LCA

CAPEX

Equipment	Cost (million \$)
Gasifier	15-20
Air Separation Unit (ASU)	10-15
Gas Cleanup Systems	5-10
Shift Reactors	2-5
Gas Turbine	25-30
Steam Turbine	10-15
Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG)	5-10
CO2 Capture System	15-25
Cooling Systems	1-3
Control and Instrumentation	5-7
Scrubber	0.5 - 1

OPEX

Equipment	Cost (million \$)
Gasifier	0.4-0.6
Air Separation Unit (ASU)	0.3-0.4
Gas Cleanup Systems	0.1-0.2
Shift Reactors	0.04-0.1
Gas Turbine	0.5-0.8
Steam Turbine	0.2-0.3
Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG)	0.1-0.2
CO2 Capture System	0.3-0.5
Cooling Systems	0.02-0.06
Control and Instrumentation	0.1-0.14
Emission control system	0.01-0.02

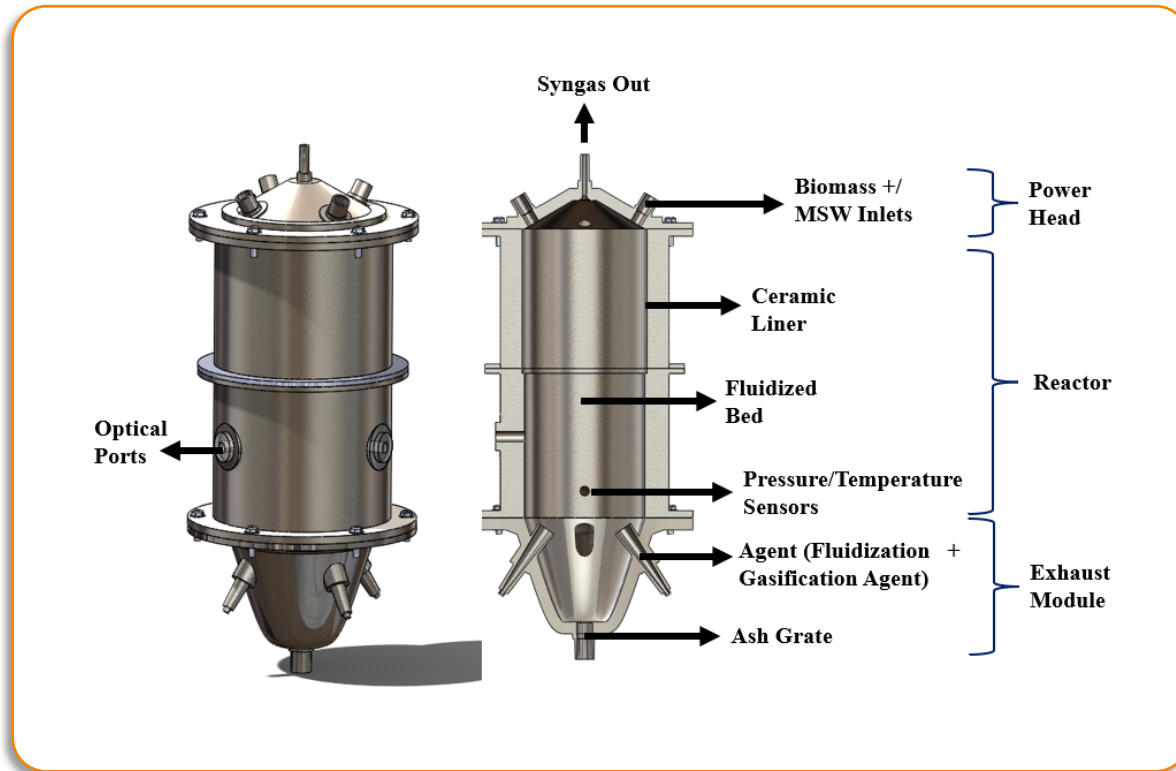


Figure: Concept CAD of the Proposed Gasifier

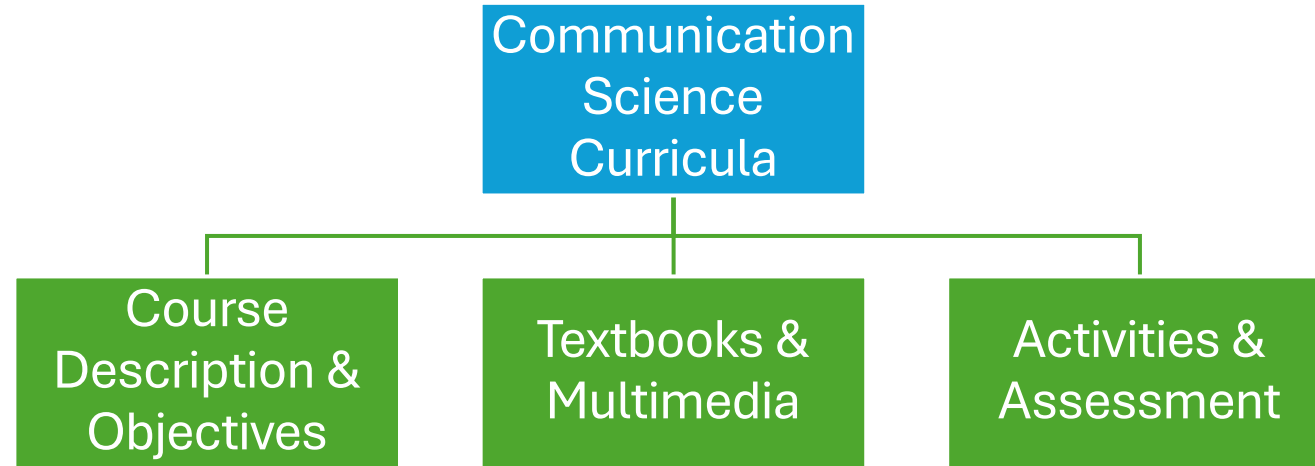
Objective 2: Design, Construction & Testing of the 300 kWth Pressurized MSW-Biomass Co-gasifier

- *Task 2.1: Identification of System Level Technical Specification and Operating Condition*
- *Task 2.2: Preliminary Design and Feasibility Analysis*
- *Task 2.3: Detailed Component Development and Design Analysis*
- *Task 2.4: Design Documentation, Component Procurement, Fabrication, Assembly and Integration of Sub-systems*
- *Task 2.5: Gasifier Shake-Down Experimentations*
- *Task 2.6: Systematically Characterize the Effect of Feedstock Parameters and Operational Conditions on Hydrogen Generation and Pollutant Emission Characteristics*
- *Task 2.7: Improved TEA and LCA:*

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 3.1 INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMUNICATION SEMINAR SERIES

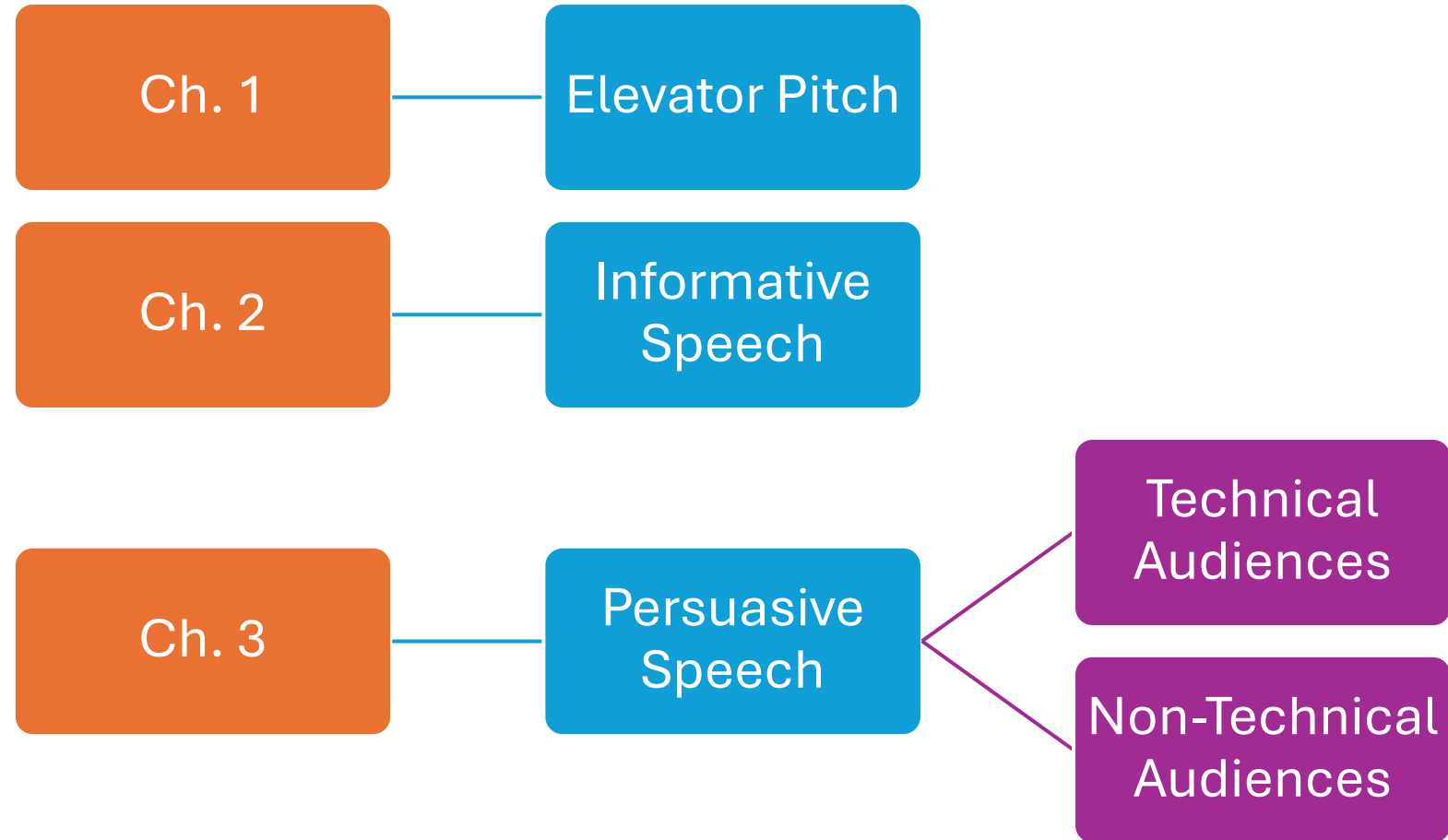
COMMUNICATION
SCIENCE
CURRICULA



ID No.	Course Description	Course Objectives
A1	‘This class develops the abilities of students to communicate science effectively in a variety of real-world contexts...and addresses challenges in communicating about topics such as climate change and evolution.’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘...To provide intellectual resources for constructive critical analysis of popular science communication in a variety of real-world settings...’

PROJECT PROGRESS

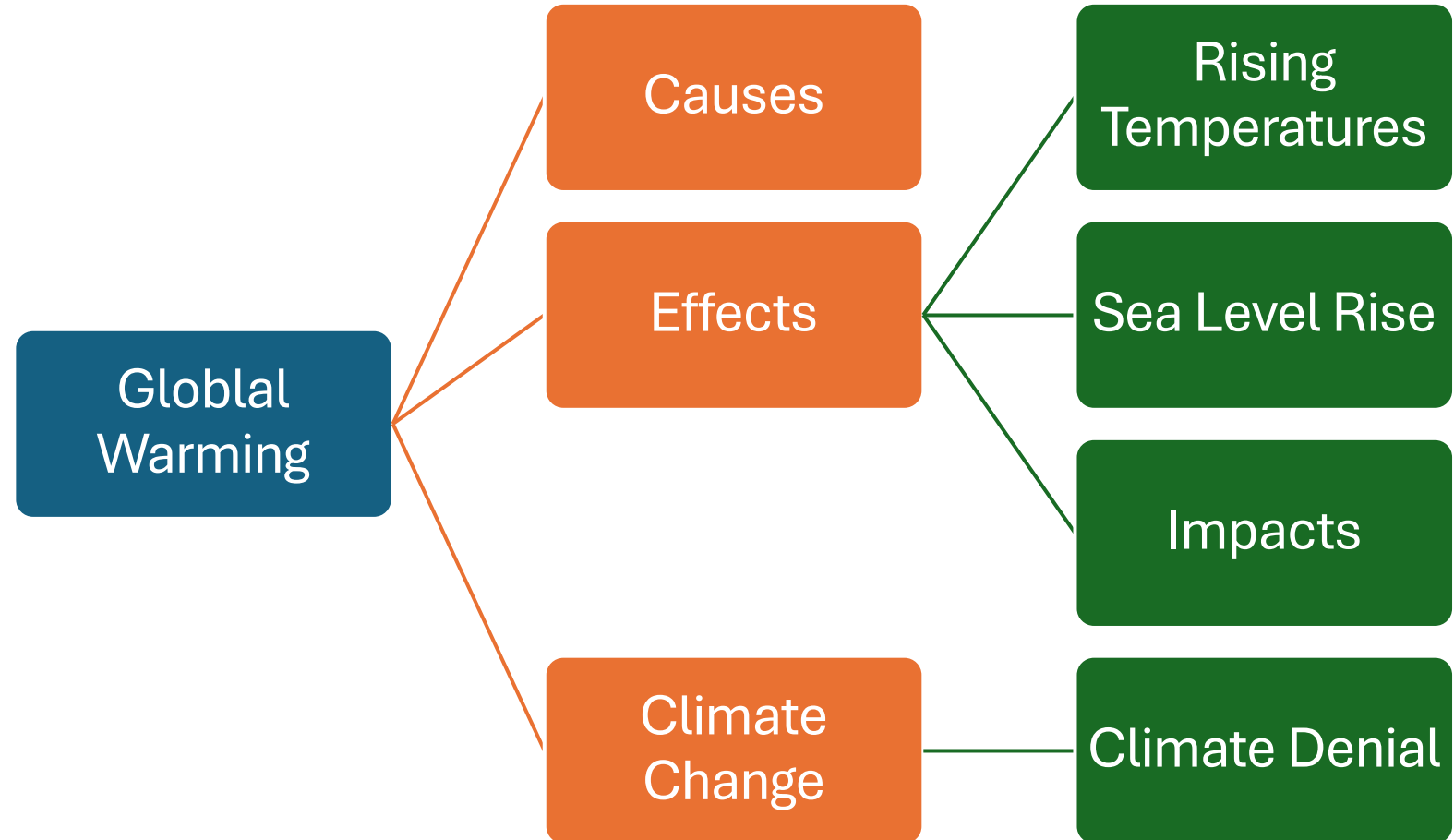
TASK 3.1 INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMUNICATION SEMINAR SERIES



PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 3.1 INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMUNICATION SEMINAR SERIES

GLOBAL WARMING



PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 3.1 INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMUNICATION SEMINAR SERIES

CLIMATE DENIAL

Climate Denial

Why should I
worry?

Skepticism

Political
Agenda &
Insight

Statistics &
Misinformation

Nature's Will

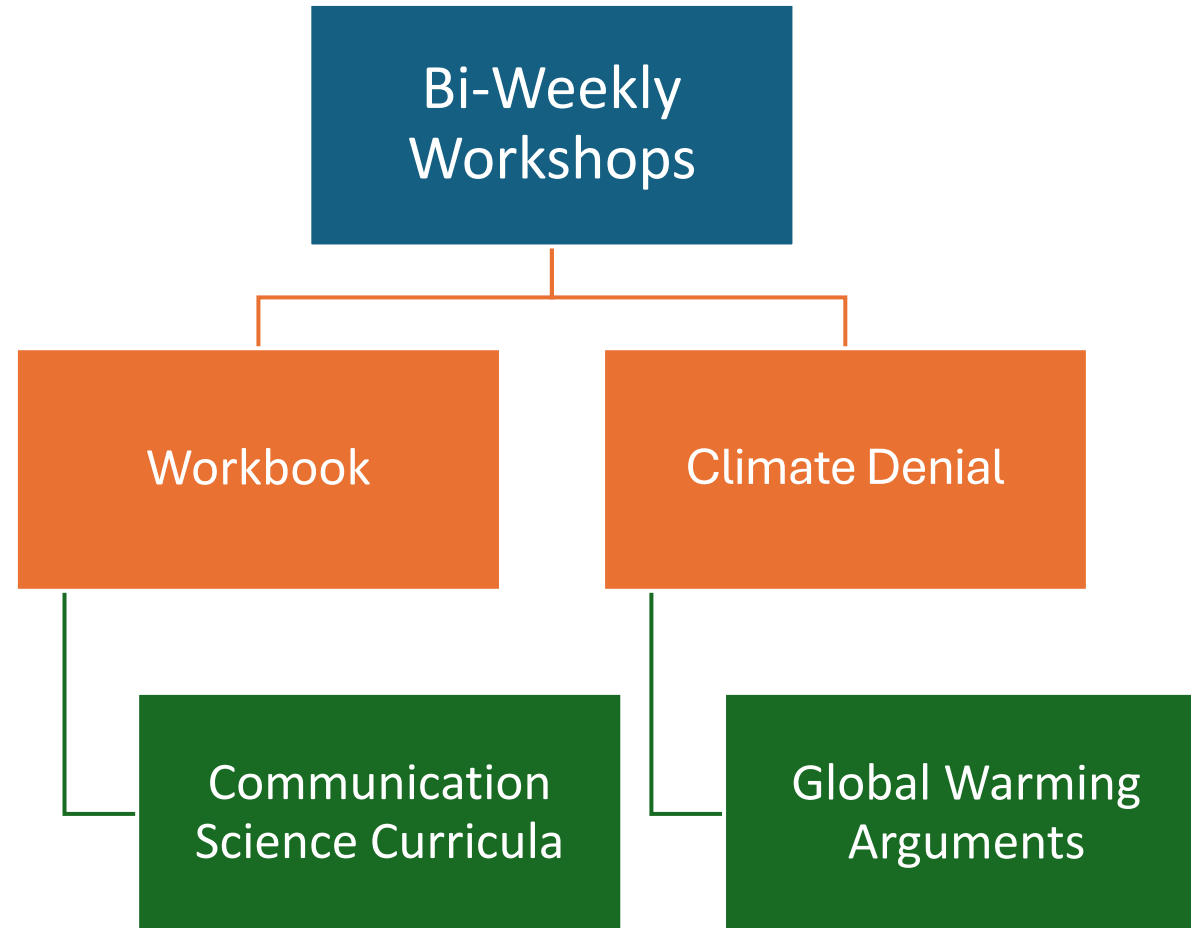
Anxiety Due to
to Climate
Denial

Emerging
Denial & Shift
in Narrative

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 3.1 INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMUNICATION SEMINAR SERIES

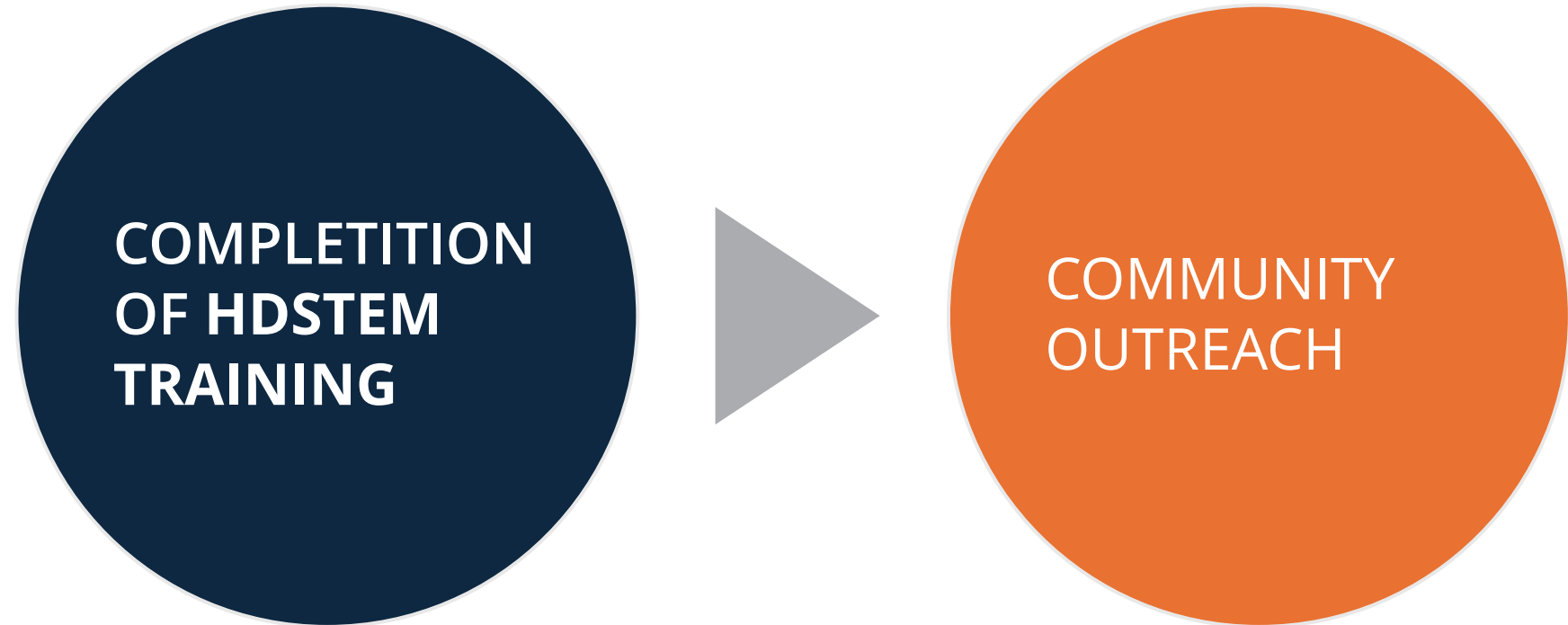
COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS



PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 3.3 DEVELOP STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

COMMUNITY
OUTREACH



MILESTONE LOG

Budget Period	Task/ Subtask No.	Milestone Description	Planned Completion	Actual Completion
Y1	1	Updated Project Management Plan	07/30/2023	07/30/2023
Y1	1	Kickoff Meeting	09/08/2023	09/08/2023
Y1	1.1	Determine Net Cycle Efficiency	04/30/2024	
Y1	1.1	Determine Operating Conditions	04/30/2024	
Y1	1.2	Gasifier Preliminary Design	07/15/2024	
Y1	1.3	Technology Gap Analysis	07/31/2024	
Y2	2.2	PDR	01/10/2025	
Y2	2.3	CDR	05/16/2025	
Y3	2.4	System Assembly	09/30/2025	
Y3	2.5	Shake-down Test Results	12/31/2025	
Y3	2.6	Operational Results	05/01/2026	
Y3	2.7	TEA and LCA	06/30/2026	
Y3	3.3	Communication to policy makers and public report	06/30/2026	



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Utep.edu/**aerospace**

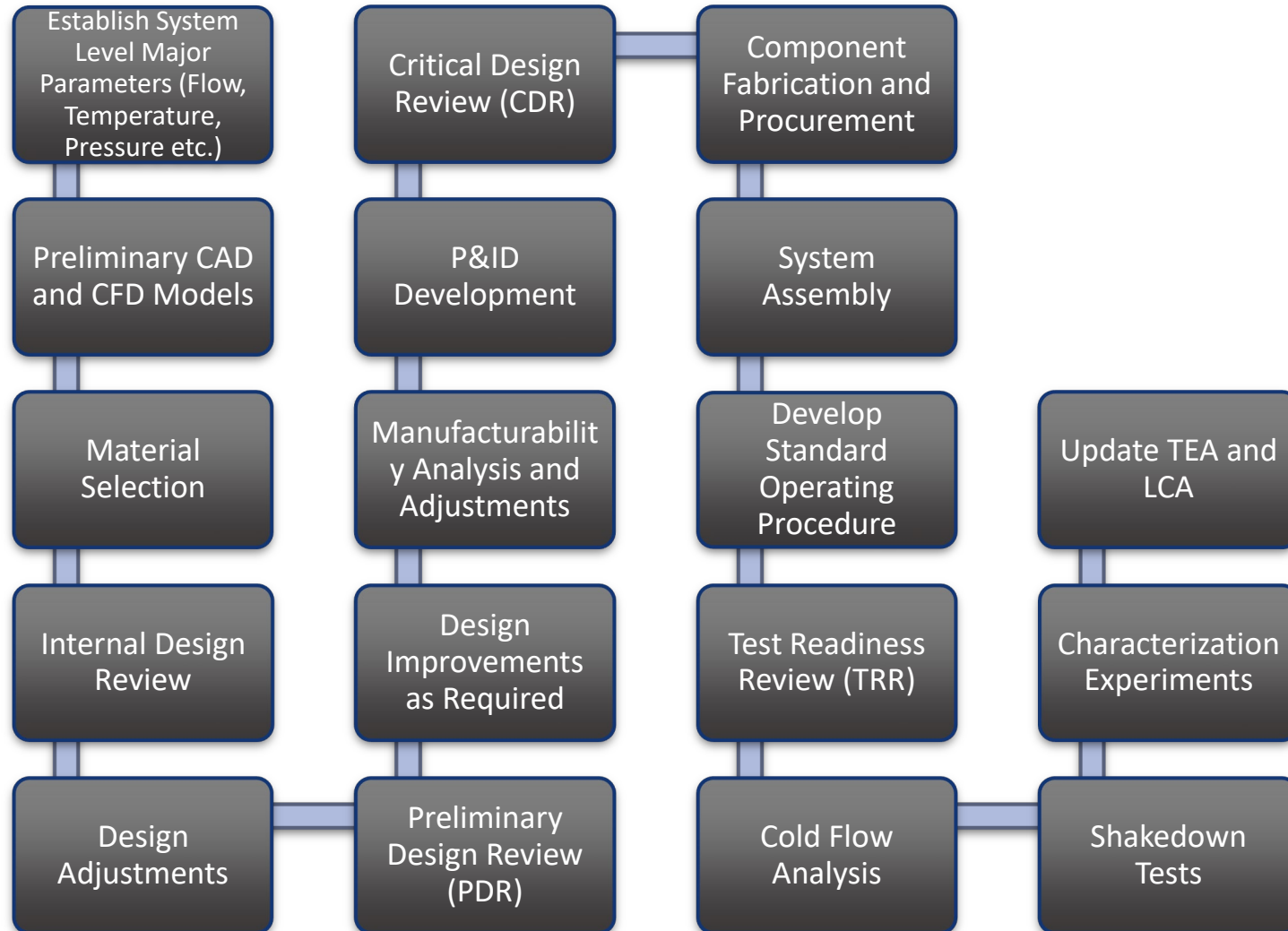
ANY QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS?

SUMMARY

RESEARCH QUESTION

- Regional **pressurized** waste and biomass **co-gasification (0-30 bar)**.
- **Digital twin** of a 300 KWth fluidized bed gasifier (Pilot Scale)
- Little information on **Pecan shell gasification**.
- IGCC based on **modular gasifiers**.
- **Decentralized** hydrogen resilience model (Including economic feasibility, LCA).
- **Community informed approach** for project implementation.
- Unlike most gasification research, cycle level optimization focusing on overall **end use and lifecycle**.

FLOWSHEET



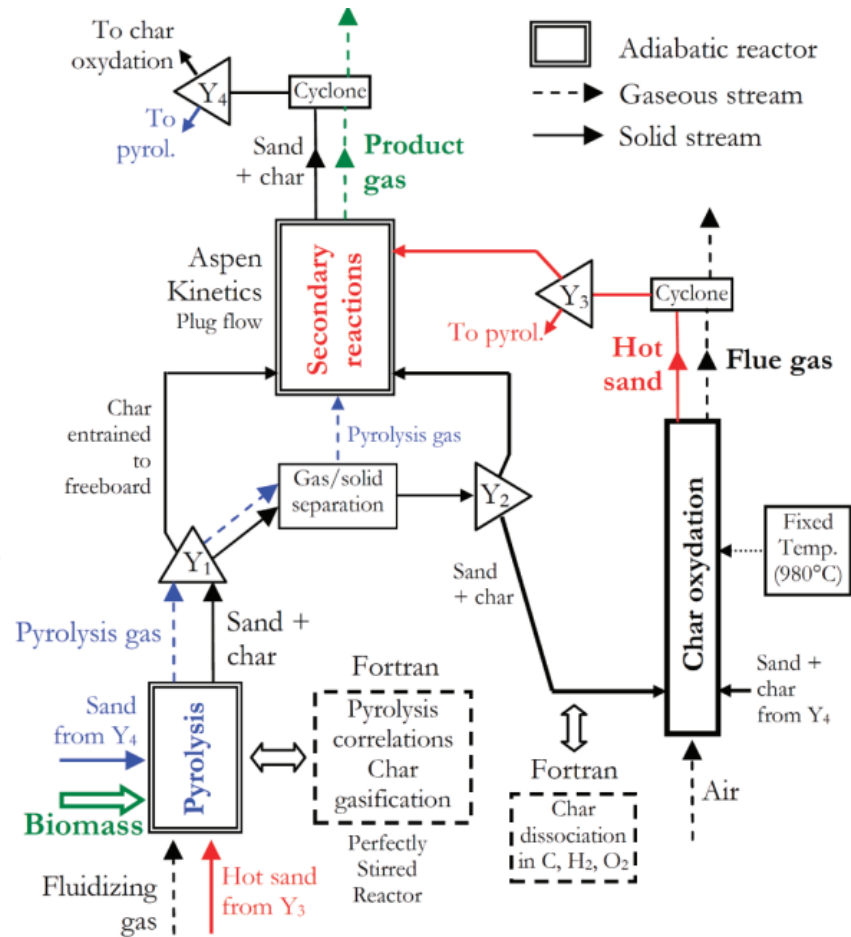
DELIVERABLES

Decision Point	Success Criteria
Determination of gasifier operating conditions (1.1.)	Determine efficiency and H ₂ yield as a function of gasifier pressure, temperature, feed blend ratio, and feed rate.
Scaling analysis for the requirements for the 300 kW _{th} gasifier (1.2)	System requirements defined for the scaled system.
Technology Gap Analysis Review (1.3)	Identification of operating conditions, performance characteristics and application issues
PDR (2.2)	Approval of design approach
CDR (2.3)	Approval of designs of system details
System assembly (2.4)	Delivery of the gasifier
Test readiness review (2.5)	Approval of test plan for shake-down testing
Gasifier performance data (2.6)	Successful operation
Test data analysis, TEA and LCA (2.7)	Test data review, TEA, LCA outcomes and final report
Communication Seminar Series and strategy development (3.1, 3.4)	Successful holding of the seminar series and public and policymaker engagements

CHALLENGES

- Current high-yield H₂ technologies for Biomass and MSW gasification are-
 - Supercritical Water Gasifier
 - Plasma Gasifier
- Supercritical Gasifiers are prone to high tar formation
- Both gasifiers involve high capital and operation cost
- Emission control and syngas clean-up due to feedstock variability
- Limited understanding of co-gasification of complex feedstocks
- Design and operability issues in modular scale (<50 MW_e)
- Gasification models
- Component level modifications

CYCLE COMPARISON

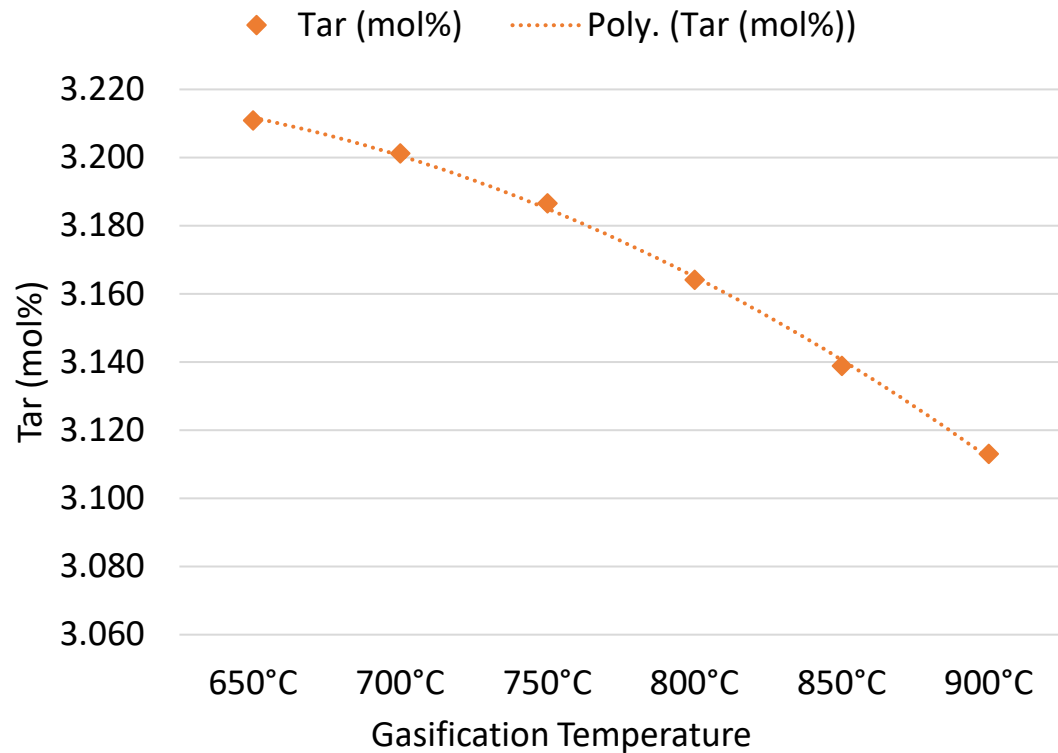


Name of the technology	TNEE ^{30, 36, 37}	FERCO ^{3, 31}	Güssing ^{32, 33}
Development beginning	In the 1980's	In the 1970's	In the 1990's
Simplified scheme			
Technology definition (see text for the definition of the Y_i)	$Y_1=0.05, Y_2=0,$ $Y_3=1, Y_4=1$	$Y_1=0, Y_2=1,$ $Y_3=0, Y_4=0$	$Y_1=0.05, Y_2=0,$ $Y_3=0, Y_4=0$

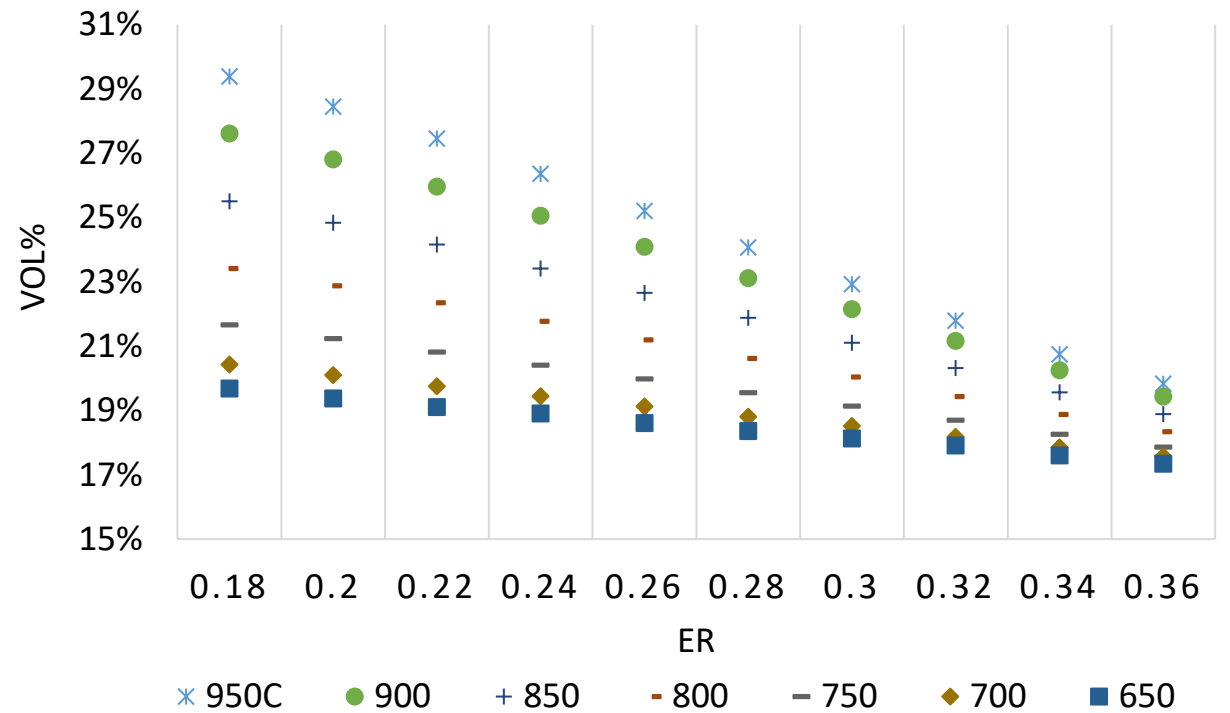
PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

RESULTS FROM KINETIC MODEL



EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON TAR EVOLUTION AT ER 0.3



SENSITIVITY OF HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

HDSTEM Implementation

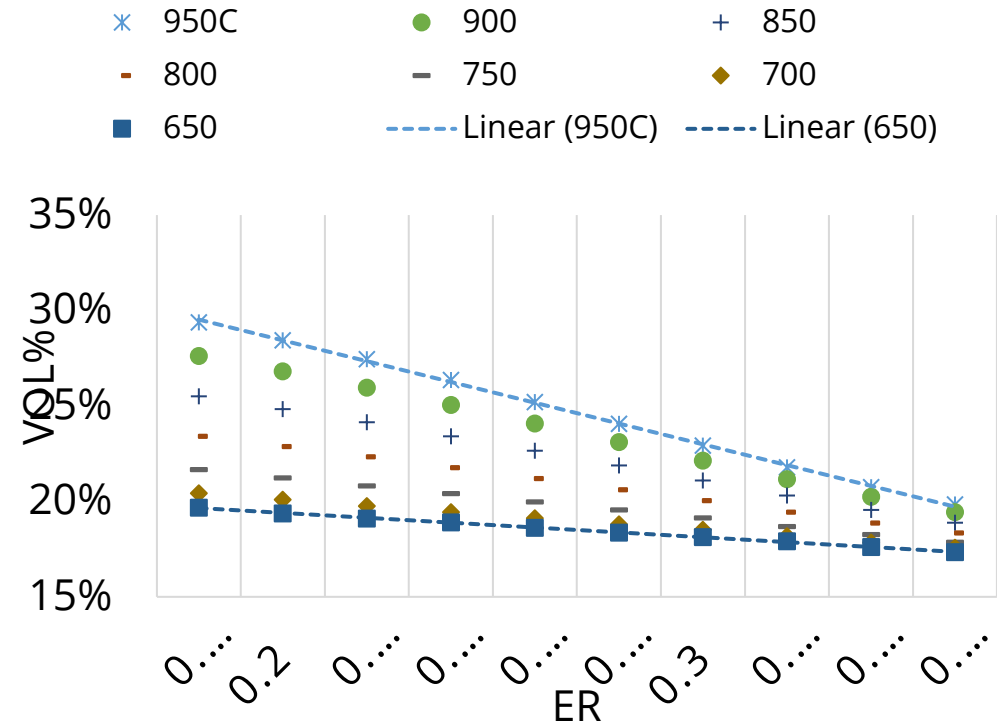
Humanities Directed STEM Objectives

- Overcome communication barriers among general audiences outside of the field.
- Overcome skepticism due to misinformation.
- Overcome the lack of frameworks to communicate STEM research to distinct audiences.

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

RESULTS FROM KINETIC MODEL

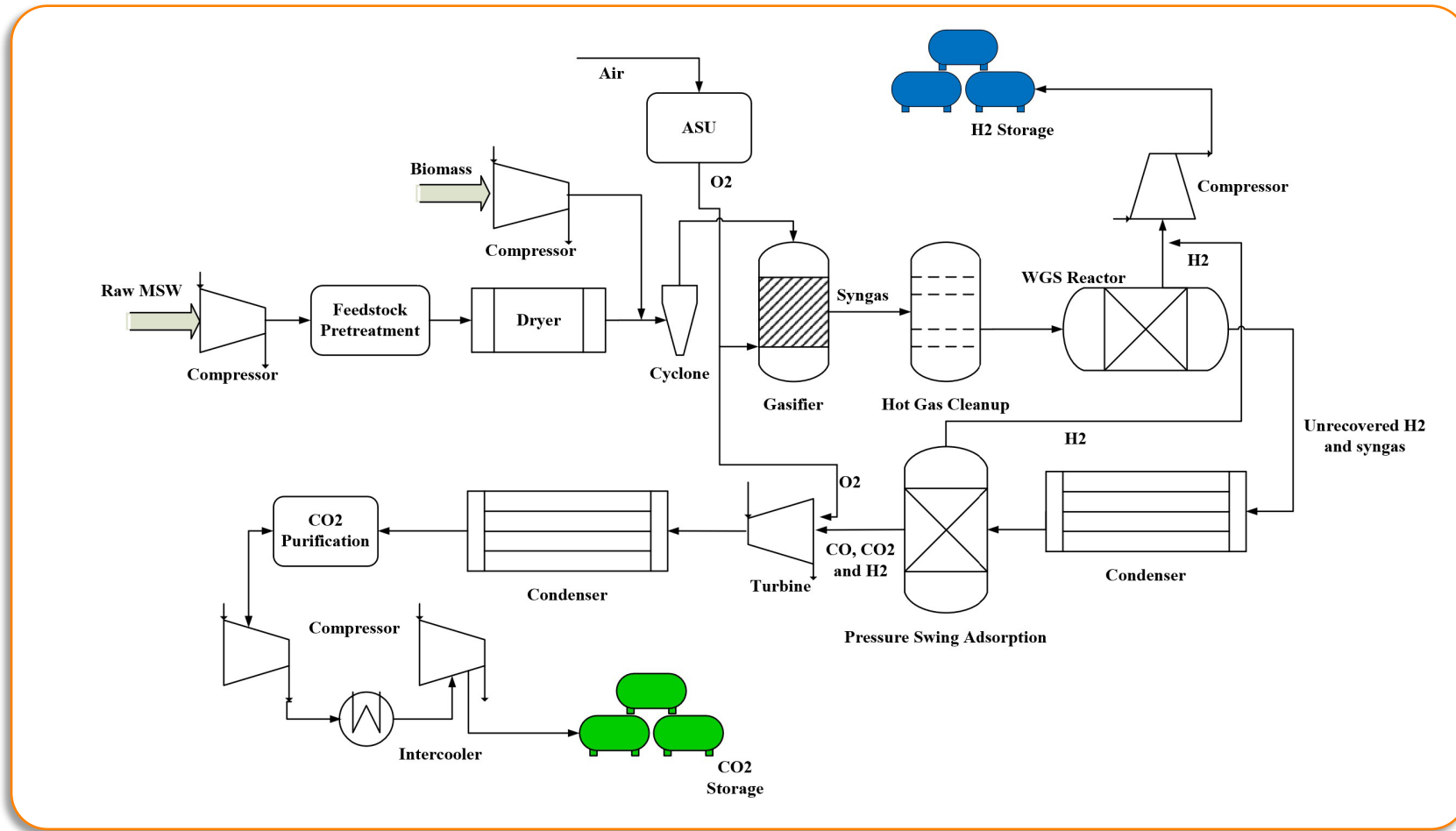


EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON TAR EVOLUTION AT ER 0.3

SENSITIVITY OF HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

PROJECT PROGRESS

TASK 1.1 SYSTEM ANALYSIS



- System Output: 50 Mwe
- Gasifier: Fluidized Bed
- Feedstock: Regional Biomass & MSW and Co-Gasify
- Pressure: 0-30 bar
- Auxiliary: ASU, Scrubber, WGS Reactor
- Power Cycle: CPC
- Pre & Post-combustion CCU

Figure: Initial IGCC Configuration with Post CCS