

University of Notre Dame
College of Science
Department of Physics

SPECIAL SEMINAR

Turning a Farm into a Power Plant

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Converting solar energy into electricity and/or transportation fuels in a carbon-neutral manner is a way out of our economy's dependence on fossil fuels. Photovoltaic systems are part of the solution, but their use is restricted by the availability of suitable raw materials, and their production is expensive. Bio-ethanol production on a large scale is not a solution, unless ways are found to use the cellulosic plant components as well. A more direct and economically feasible method to convert plant mass into electricity and/or transportation fuels is the production of methane through biological fermentation. This is the basis of a biogas power plant, a means of carbon-neutral energy production, which I will explore extensively in this presentation.

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND