



## ECO<sub>2</sub>Capture™ Inc. Advances Start-up Process

Imagine, a day when many of our commonly used products are derived from pond scum, or perhaps more scientifically speaking – algae.

Algae producers certainly have, indicated by the substantial increase in research and development of the tiny organisms in recent years. Currently cultivated for its use in nutraceuticals, alternative fuels and plastics, (just to name a few), algae is in high demand across a variety of commercial industries. In fact, total market demand for algae production technologies alone (not including the algae itself) is projected at \$1.6 billion by 2015.

Meeting these projections can be made difficult however without a cost-effective mechanism for producing algae, one of the leading challenges currently facing the algal industry. Producers of current technologies are now faced with the task of finding a way to lower the cost of algae production in order to make the algae products cost competitive with substitute products such as other bio-fuels.

Carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, is algae's main feedstock, and without a readily available cost-effective supply, the algae industry will have difficulty meeting an increasing demand for algae-derived products.

ECO<sub>2</sub>Capture™ Inc., based in Athens, Ohio, is on its way to finding that cost-effective supply of CO<sub>2</sub>. Founding members of the start-up company, David Bayless, Ben Stuart and Jesus Pagan of Ohio University (OU), are currently developing a commercial portfolio of proprietary technologies invented at OU that will supply “free” atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> to the expanding algae industry, meaning lower costs and higher productivity for algae producers.



*ECO<sub>2</sub>Capture members at the 2011 Algae Biomass Organization Summit. From Left: Dave Bayless, Mary Rosenthal (Executive Director, Algae Biomass Organization), Jesus Pagan*

Headquartered in Ohio University's Innovation Center, ECO<sub>2</sub>Capture is formulating a strategy to guide it through the commercialization process with help from industry players including Advanced Algae Solutions and Algae Producers of America, as well as from southeastern Ohio partners such as OU's Innovation Center, Technology Transfer Office, and Voinovich School's Center for Entrepreneurship, as well as TechGROWTH Ohio, the East Central Ohio Tech Angel Fund and Athenian Venture Partners.

With the market demand for algae products estimated to increase annually, and its pilot project prepared for takeoff this summer, ECO<sub>2</sub>Capture is well on its way to occupying a niche role in the algae market.

For more information contact Dave Bayless at [bayless@ohio.edu](mailto:bayless@ohio.edu).

## OSU hosts 6th Annual UCEAO Conference



### SECURING OHIO'S ENERGY AND ECONOMIC FUTURE

April 2 & 3, 2012 • The Blackwell • Columbus, OH

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual University Clean Energy Alliance of Ohio (UCEAO) Conference, “Securing Ohio’s Energy and Economic Future” was held on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio April 2 & 3.

Featuring partnership recognition awards, exhibits, research posters, and a variety of featured speakers and panelists from across Ohio, the two-day event aimed “to promote Ohio’s energy assets, leverage Ohio’s diverse energy resources, and address the opportunities and challenges surrounding Ohio’s energy and economic future.”

The nearly 300 faculty, staff, students, government officials, business leaders and environment advocacy group members in attendance heard from a diverse group of leaders and experts during multiple speaker sessions. Topics of discussion ranged from research, education, and academic/industry partnerships to renewable energy, workforce development, energy facility management and energy policy. Another conference highlight was the Clean Energy Student Business Networking Reception, sponsored by Ohio University.

Unique to this year’s conference was its pledge to be a Zero Waste Event, reducing waste produced by diverting 90% of trash from landfills through methods of recycling and composting in an effort to promote sustainability.

For more information on this year’s event, including information on featured speakers and sessions, visit:

<http://www.uceao.org/conference/>.

## Recap: Ohio Shale Energy 2012

Local and regional businesses learned about the factors driving the shale energy industry at Ohio Shale Energy 2012 in Cambridge, Ohio on April 11, 2012.

The conference, entitled, “Discovering Supply Chain Opportunities,” brought together leaders and regional suppliers in the shale industry to hear from experts on opportunities for identifying existing and potential business for the industry, as well as strategies for meeting the needs of the growing shale energy industry.

Scott Miller, Director of Energy and Environmental Programs at Ohio University’s Voinovich School said that such an opportunity is imperative for those interested in the industry. “It’s important that we begin to talk about specific requirements oil and gas companies need their suppliers to meet such as safety, quality, capital needs and workforce training,” he said.

With panel sessions on oil and gas operations, business planning, market entry preparation, certification and training, and logistics and distribution, the conference aimed to inform both companies currently in the supply chain as well as those interested in learning of the industry’s potential “to serve as an economic engine for business and communities in eastern and southeastern Ohio.”

Ohio Shale Energy 2012 was presented by the Ohio Manufacturers’ Association, Ohio University, TechGROWTH Ohio, USDA, Ohio Shale Coalition, Ohio Energy Resource Alliance, Ohio Oil & Gas Energy Education Program, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, Zanesville-Muskingum Port Authority, WIRE-Net and Edison Welding Institute.

For more information on the Ohio Shale Energy 2012 conference, and to register your business into the Ohio Shale Energy Supply Chain Database, visit: <http://www.ohioshaleenergy.com/default.aspx>