

# Production of sustainable and renewable biomass-derived monomer: conceptual process design and techno-economic analysis

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## Electronic Supplementary Information

## Reaction condition and yield

Table S1. Specific reaction condition and yield per reactor (corresponding to Fig. 1 in flowsheet).

Reactor	Reaction	Yield (%)	Condition	Solvent
R-1	<p>Cellulose → HMF Cellulose → LGO Cellulose → LGA Cellulose → Glucose Cellulose → Levulinic acid + Formic acid Cellulose → Furfural + Formaldehyde</p>	42.0 2.0 0.1 1.0 1.9 3.2	T: 483 K, P: 68.0 atm Catalyst: $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$	THF, water
R-3	<p>HMF → 2,5-Furandicarboxylic acid (FDCA) HMF → Polymer</p>	93.7 6.3	T: 383 K, P: 40.0 atm Catalyst: 5% Pt/C	GVL, water
R-4	<p>Levulinic acid → GVL Levulinic acid → 2-Methylbutyraldehyde (2-MBA) Formic acid → <math>\text{H}_2 + \text{CO}_2</math></p>	99.0 1.0 100.0	T: 493 K, P: 35.5 atm Catalyst: $\text{RuSn}_4/\text{C}$	GVL, water

## Economic parameters and assumptions

Table S2. Major economic parameters and assumptions.

Cellulose price (\$/ton) <sup>a</sup>	450.0
Sulfuric acid price (\$/ton) <sup>b</sup>	110.0
Hydrogen price (\$/ton) <sup>b</sup>	1367.5
Tetrahydrofuran price (\$/ton) <sup>c</sup>	1532.0
Oxygen price (\$/ton) <sup>d</sup>	40.0
RuSn <sub>4</sub> /C catalyst (\$/kg) <sup>e</sup>	539.3
Pt/C catalyst (\$/kg) <sup>g</sup>	194.0
Activated carbon price (\$/ton) <sup>f</sup>	1200.0
Gypsum disposal cost (\$/ton) <sup>b</sup>	30.9
Cooling tower chemicals (\$/ton) <sup>b</sup>	3671.4
Plant financing by equity (%) <sup>b</sup>	40.0
Plant life (years) <sup>b</sup>	30.0
Income tax rate (%) <sup>b</sup>	35.0
Discount rate (%)	10.0
Interest rate for debt financing (%) <sup>b</sup>	8.0
Term for debt financing (years) <sup>b</sup>	10.0
General plant depreciation (years) <sup>b</sup>	7.0
Working capital (% of fixed capital investment) <sup>b</sup>	5.0
On-stream percentage after startup (%) <sup>b</sup>	90.0
Startup time (years) <sup>b</sup>	0.5
Revenue and costs during startup	
Revenue (% of normal) <sup>b</sup>	50.0
Variable costs (% of normal) <sup>b</sup>	75.0
Fixed costs (% of normal) <sup>b</sup>	100.0
Construction period (years) <sup>b</sup>	3.0
First 12 months' expenditures (%) <sup>b</sup>	8.0
Next 12 months' expenditures (%) <sup>b</sup>	60.0
Last 12 months' expenditures (%) <sup>b</sup>	32.0

<sup>a</sup> Taken from Abels et al.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>b</sup> Taken from Davis et al.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>c</sup> Taken from He et al.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>d</sup> Taken from Dorris et al.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>e</sup> Taken from Sen et al.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>f</sup> Taken from Motagamwala et al.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>g</sup> Taken from Han et al.<sup>7</sup>

### Assumption:

- 10% of the catalyst is refurbished every 6 months at a cost equivalent to 20% of its original value.<sup>7</sup>

## Important stream information

Table S3. Process stream information (from flowsheet in Fig.1).

Stream number	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	14	16	18	20	26	30	36	38	41	43
Components mass flow (ton/hr)																	
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	125.1	121.3	97.0	121.3	0.0	3.9	0.0	76.2	0.1	24.8	69.2	7.7	70.6
GVL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	121.2	0.0	0.0	74.4	0.0	1.8	71.4	8.0	74.4
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
THF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1091.2	1091.2	873.0	1091.2	1090.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cellulose	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Glucose	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
HMF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.2	1.7
FA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Furfural	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Formaldehyde	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.1	30.1	24.1	30.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Humins	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LGA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	5.1	0.0	0.1	4.9	0.5	5.1
2-MBA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CO <sub>2</sub>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
O <sub>2</sub>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
H <sub>2</sub>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Lime	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FDCA	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	14.6	13.9	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.7
AC (polymer)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	1.1
Total mass flow (ton/hr)	37.5	1.3	0.9	0.8	1281.1	1242.6	994.1	1242.6	1241.7	37.2	11.5	173.5	14.0	26.7	149.2	16.7	153.8
Temperature (K)	298.2	298.2	298.2	298.2	483.2	376.7	376.7	331.9	333.3	433.6	873.2	383.2	352.5	373.5	378.3	379.1	378.4
Pressure (atm)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	68.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	68.0	3.0	20.0	40.0	1.0	1.0	35.0	1.0	

## Heat integration

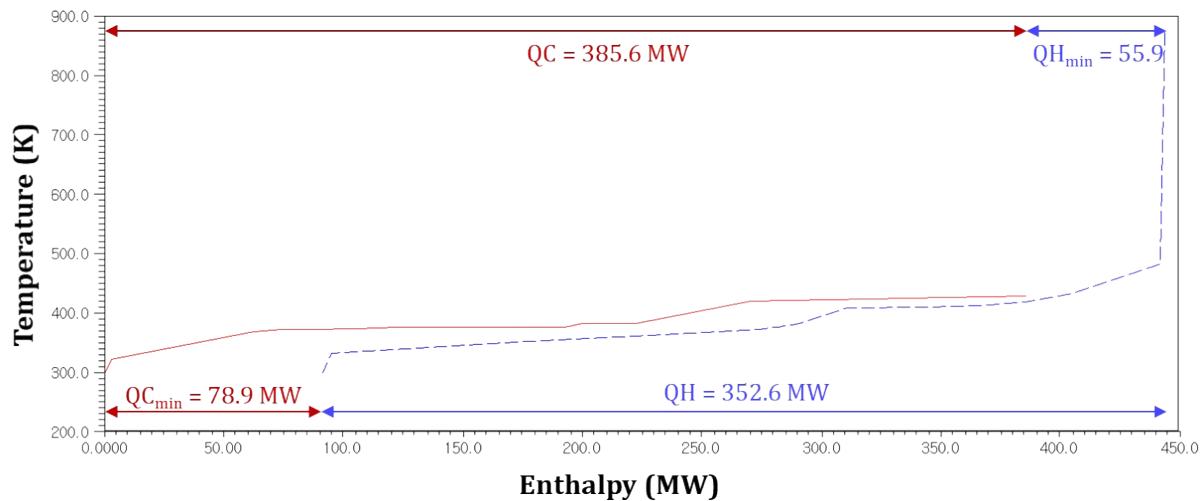


Fig. S1. Composite curve (obtained using Aspen Energy Analyzer) for the Strategy A. Minimum temperature difference ( $\Delta T_{\min}$ ) is 10 K.  $QH_{\min}$ : total minimum hot utility requirement,  $QC_{\min}$ : total minimum cold utility requirement.

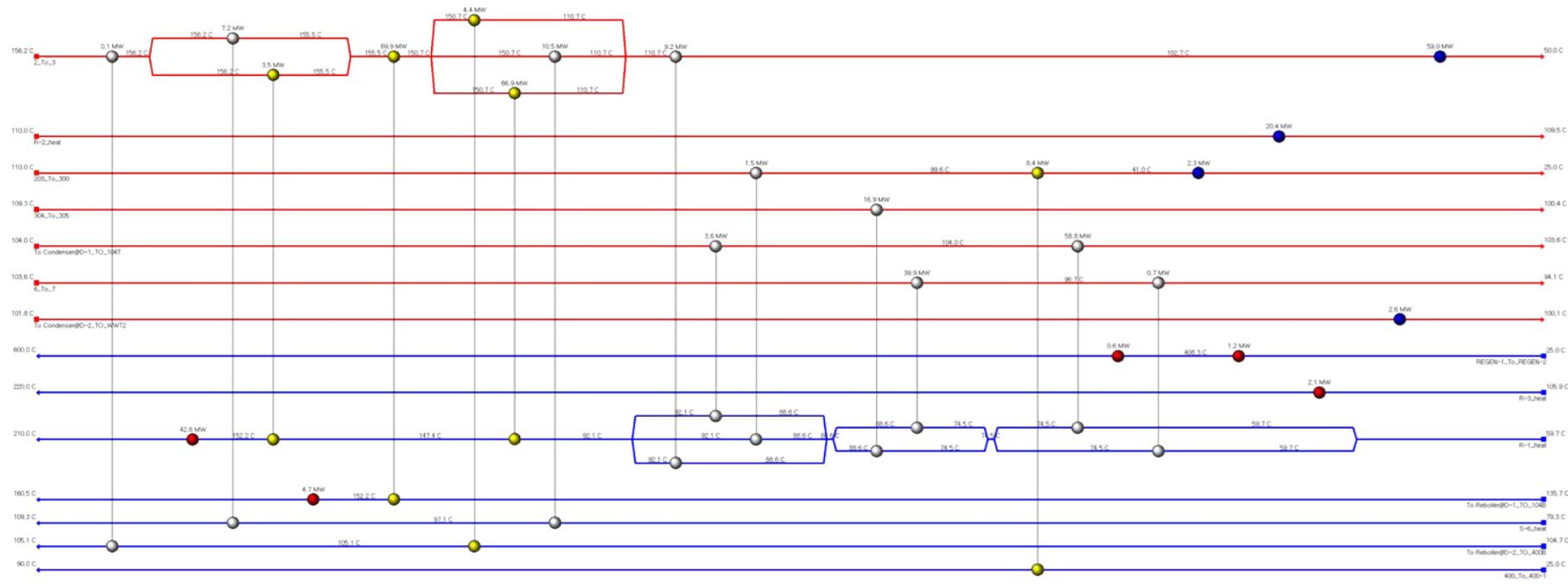


Fig.

## Project cost

Table S4. The calculation method of major equipment cost.

Subsystem	Equipment type	Equipment ID	Equipment cost (\$)	Installed cost (\$)	Calculation method
HMF production	Reactor	R-1 <sup>a</sup> /R-2 <sup>b</sup>	12,207,273	94,972,442	Scaled on area <sup>a</sup>
	Distillation column	D-1	926,907	2,224,577	Scaled on flow <sup>b</sup>
	Adsorption bed	A-1	4,619,000	8,314,201	APEA <sup>c</sup>
	Compressor	CP-1	8,375,702	11,725,983	Scaled on electricity <sup>a</sup>
FDCA production	Reactor	R-3	4,577,793	10,071,144	Scaled on area <sup>a</sup>
FDCA separation	Separator	S-2/S-3/S-4	1,334,726	2,182,072	Scaled on flow <sup>a</sup>
Solvent recovery	Reactor	R-4	87,500	148,750	APEA <sup>c</sup>
	Distillation column	D-2	259,300	622,320	APEA <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The cost is scaled based on the size and cost data provided in the NREL reports.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>b</sup> The cost is scaled based on the size and cost data provided in the technical report.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>c</sup> The cost is estimated by Aspen Process Economic Analyzer.

<sup>d</sup> The cost is scaled based on the size and cost data provided in the NREL reports.<sup>9</sup>

Table S5. Project cost worksheet.

Subsystems		Installed cost
HMF production		\$ 121,546,372
FDCA production		\$ 10,268,484
FDCA separation		\$ 2,903,232
Solvent recovery		\$ 1,202,400
Wastewater treatment		\$ 9,695,442
Storage		\$ 3,506,387
Utilities		\$ 5,032,961
<b>Total installed equipment cost</b>		<b>\$ 154,155,278</b>
Warehouse	4.0% of ISBL <sup>†</sup>	\$ 5,436,820
Site development	9.0% of ISBL <sup>†</sup>	\$ 12,232,844
Additional piping	4.5% of ISBL <sup>†</sup>	\$ 6,116,422
<b>Total direct cost (TDC)</b>		<b>\$ 177,941,363</b>
Prorateable expenses	10.0% of TDC	\$ 17,794,136
Field expenses	10.0% of TDC	\$ 17,794,136
Home office & construction fee	20.0% of TDC	\$ 35,588,273
Project contingency	10.0% of TDC	\$ 17,794,136
Other costs (start-up, permits, etc.)	10.0% of TDC	\$ 17,794,136
<b>Total indirect cost</b>		<b>\$ 106,764,818</b>
<b>Fixed capital investment (FCI)</b>		<b>\$ 284,706,181</b>
Land		\$ 831,603
Working capital	5.0% of FCI	\$ 14,235,309
<b>Total capital investment (TCI)</b>		<b>\$ 299,773,093</b>

<sup>†</sup> Inside battery limits (ISBL): HMF production, FDCA production, FDCA separation, and Solvent recovery.

## Pioneer plant analysis

Table S6. Pioneer plant analysis parameters and equations.

Parameter	Definition	Range	Value
<i>Plant performance</i> <sup>a</sup>		0–89	25
NEWSTEPS	number of new process steps based on block	≥ 0	4
BALEQS	percentage of heat and mass balance equations based on actual prior plant data	0–100	0
WASTE	factor for waste handling encountered during development	0–5	1
SOLIDS	factor for presence of solid feedstock or products	0 or 1	1
<i>Cost growth</i> <sup>b</sup>		>0	0.46
PCTNEW	estimate (%) of unproven technology incorporated in commercial use	0–100	66
IMPURITIES	factor for impurities present in process	0–5	3
COMPLEXITY	block count of all process steps in plant	≥ 1	8
INCLUSIVENESS	percentage of three factors: pre-startup personnel costs, pre-startup inventory cost, and land purchase	0–100	100
PROJECT DEFINITION	levels of site-specific information and engineering included in estimate	2–8	8

<sup>a</sup>  $Plant\ performance = 85.77 - 9.69 \times NEWSTEPS + 0.33 \times BALEQS - 4.12 \times WASTE - 17.91 \times SOLIDS.$

<sup>b</sup>  $Cost\ growth = 1.1219 - 0.00297 \times PCTNEW - 0.02125 \times IMPURITIES - 0.01137 \times COMPLEXITY + 0.00111 \times INCLUSIVENESS - 0.06361 \times PROJECT\ DEFINITION.$

Table S7. Assumptions and equations for pioneer plant analysis.

### Assumptions

1. The parameter of plant performance increases 20 % every year until it reaches full capacity (100 %).
2. If plant capacity fails to reach 40 % after year 1, it is hard to achieve design capacity without a significant capital investment.

### Equations

1. Total capital investment (pioneer plant) = Total capital investment (*n*th plant)/Cost growth
2. Variable operating cost (pioneer plant)  
= Variable operating cost (*n*th plant) × Plant performance
3. Annual product sales (pioneer plant) = Annual product sales (*n*th plant) × Plant performance

## Discounted cash flow

Table S8. Discounted cash flow calculations.





## Life-cycle assessment

Table S9. Input and output database for the LCA.

Materials	Name of data set	Database
Acetic acid	Acetic acid, without water, in 98% solution state {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Ash	Dummy_Disposal, fly ash, to unspecified landfill/kg/RNA	USLCI
Average incineration residue	Average incineration residue {RoW}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Biomass	Wood chips, wet, measured as dry mass {RoW}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Chemical factory	Chemical factory, organics {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide, biogenic	Ecoinvent 3.6
Electricity	Electricity, medium voltage {RER}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Gypsum	Waste gypsum {RoW}   market for waste gypsum  APOS, S	Ecoinvent 3.6
H <sub>2</sub>	Hydrogen, liquid {RoW}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
H <sub>2</sub> O	Water/m3	Ecoinvent 3.6
H <sub>2</sub> O	Water, cooling, unspecified natural origin, RER	Ecoinvent 3.6
H <sub>2</sub> O	Water, completely softened, from decarbonized water, at user {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Hazardous waste	Hazardous waste, for underground deposit {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Hydrocarbons	Hydrocarbons, aromatic	Ecoinvent 3.6
Heavy oil	Heavy fuel oil {RoW}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Heat	Heat, district or industrial, natural gas {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Heat	Heat, district or industrial, natural gas {RER}   market group for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Heat	Heat, district or industrial, other than natural gas {RER}   market group for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Lime	Lime, hydrate, packed {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
N <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen, liquid {RER}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
NaCl	Sodium chloride, brine solution {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide, without water, in 50% solution state {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
NMVOC	NMVOC, non-methane volatile organic compounds, unspecified origin	Ecoinvent 3.6
Particulates	Particulates, < 2.5 um	Ecoinvent 3.6
Particulates	Particulates, >10 um	Ecoinvent 3.6
Particulates	Particulates, > 2.5 um, and < 10 um	Ecoinvent 3.6
O <sub>2</sub>	Oxygen, liquid {RoW}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Steam	Steam, in chemical industry {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Sulfuric acid	Sulfuric acid {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Tetrahydrofuran	Tetrahydrofuran {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6
Xylene	Xylene {GLO}   market for   Cut-off, U	Ecoinvent 3.6

Table S10. The results of environmental impact for the biomass-derived FDCA production.

Impact category	Unit	Biomass	H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	THF	Heavy oil	NaCl	Lime	H <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>2</sub>	Heat	Electricity	Gypsum	H <sub>2</sub> O	Ash
Climate change	kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq	0.096	0.013	0.156	0.006	0.003	0.027	0.001	0.675	0.038	0.580	0.001	0.000	0.000
Ozone depletion	kg CFC-11 eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Terrestrial acidification	kg SO <sub>2</sub> eq	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000
Freshwater eutrophication	kg P eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Marine eutrophication	kg N eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Human toxicity	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.013	0.030	0.055	0.001	0.004	0.001	0.000	0.221	0.001	0.206	0.001	0.000	0.000
Photochemical oxidant formation	kg NMVOC	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000
Particulate matter formation	kg PM10 eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Freshwater ecotoxicity	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.000	0.001	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.008	0.000	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.000
Marine ecotoxicity	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.000	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.000
Ionising radiation	kBq U235 eq	0.007	0.002	0.010	0.003	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.066	0.000	0.080	0.000	0.000	0.000
Agricultural land occupation	m <sup>2</sup> a	7.015	0.001	0.008	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.009	0.000	0.013	0.000	0.000	0.000
Urban land occupation	m <sup>2</sup> a	0.032	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.004	0.000	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.000
Natural land transformation	m <sup>2</sup>	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Water depletion	m <sup>3</sup>	0.000	0.002	0.007	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.015	0.000	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.000
Metal depletion	kg Fe eq	0.004	0.005	0.006	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.005	0.000	0.005	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fossil depletion	kg oil eq	0.033	0.012	0.055	0.017	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.168	0.015	0.145	0.000	0.000	0.000

Table S11 The results of environmental impact for the petroleum-derived TPA production.

Impact category	Unit	Acetic acid	Chemical factory	N2	NaOH	Steam	H2O	Xylene	Electricity	Heat; NG	other than NG	Incineration residue	Waste
Climate change	kg CO2 eq	0.086	0.067	0.012	0.002	0.202	0.000	1.113	0.208	0.026	0.082	0.002	0.000
Ozone depletion	kg CFC-11 eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Terrestrial acidification	kg SO2 eq	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.003	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Freshwater eutrophication	kg P eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Marine eutrophication	kg N eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Human toxicity	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.036	0.191	0.008	0.001	0.022	0.000	0.020	0.131	0.000	0.018	0.008	0.000
Photochemical oxidant formation	kg NMVOC	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Particulate matter formation	kg PM10 eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Freshwater ecotoxicity	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.001	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000
Marine ecotoxicity	kg 1,4-DB eq	0.001	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.004	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000
Ionising radiation	kBq U235 eq	0.011	0.006	0.006	0.000	0.006	0.000	0.003	0.109	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.000
Agricultural land occupation	m2a	0.003	0.016	0.001	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.001	0.022	0.000	0.030	0.000	0.000
Urban land occupation	m2a	0.001	0.002	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.002	0.001	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000
Natural land transformation	m2	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Water depletion	m3	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.019	0.003	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.000
Metal depletion	kg Fe eq	0.005	0.048	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.003	0.003	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fossil depletion	kg oil eq	0.054	0.016	0.003	0.001	0.061	0.000	0.948	0.054	0.010	0.020	0.000	0.000

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