

Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative Farmer-Led Climate Smart
Commodities Initiative: Building Success from the Ground Up

**Climate Finance Governance Board
Narrative,
without budgetary disclosures**

Climate Finance Governance Board (CFGB)

The CFGB will provide the project manager and all involved stakeholders with structure and guidance to assure the optimization of value from carbon management efforts. As represented by the thoroughness and complexity of standard-bearing markets such as the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard or California and Oregon's Low Carbon Fuel Standards, clarity of information needs and practices behind the origination of carbon reduction/avoidance claims will be the cornerstone of carbon credit formation in this Climate Smart Commodity project. The CFGB intends to cooperatively investigate and develop a guidance process for all stakeholders involved in the project. The CFGB will provide continuous assistance to the project's management team throughout the duration of the project, continuously updating and revising technical and policy considerations. The CFGB will also act, in concert with the project's leadership, in sharing outcomes, lessons-learned and advice to USDA and other CSC projects.

Objective of CFGB

To guide and assist in the development of a process that enables carbon credit formation, origination, registration and ownership at the farm-level;

To maximize commodity financial market acceptance and liquidity of the farm-originated carbon credit instruments;

To ensure that farm-level decision models accurately support viable, verifiable and trustworthy carbon management practices that will generate fungible and liquid carbon credits;

To optimize technical services and the activities of technical service providers in support of assisting farm operators to meet and exceed quantity and quality of information requirements to generate carbon credits from farm practices.

To guide all stakeholders, USDA and other CSC projects in the formation of carbon credits in a matter and method that such credits shall meet the standards necessary to be openly traded and consumed by global commodity markets. That such credits will meet and/or exceed all criteria and standards necessary for compliance in regulated or voluntary markets within the U.S. or EU.

CFGB Structure

The members of the CFGB include three nationally recognized leaders in agriculture, climate finance and law:

EcoEngineers, headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa with operations in Texas, California and Brazil, helps organizations create sustainable solutions for a better tomorrow. Our work at the intersection of low-carbon fuel policy, innovative technologies, and the carbon marketplace.

Our people are trusted guides who help navigate the ever-changing energy landscape, providing the right tools, guidance, and knowledge to reduce your carbon footprint, and to assess the potential risk to your business from the uncertainties caused by a changing climate and low-carbon policies. Through our systematic approach, we deliver value and proven expertise through the entire clean energy continuum, including education, regulatory engagement, life-cycle analysis, asset development, compliance management, audit, and verification.

Ever.Ag, headquartered in Frisco, Texas, with multiple branch offices in 9 additional states, sits at the intersection of agriculture, markets, and technology. Our software solves problems at every step of the dairy supply chain—milk scheduling, hauler payments, lab interfaces and data management, producer payments, producer portals, milk billing, mobile data collection, on-farm data visualization, ingredient scheduling and settlement, transportation procurement and much more. Our comprehensive agriculture Financial Services division provides access to exchange-traded agriculture futures and options markets, OTC, and government sponsored insurance products. Together with market leading proprietary software, Ever.Ag tailors its services to meet the needs of the ever advancing dairy, livestock and grain value chains. Due to this broad range of interests, our value proposition and vertical integration continues to expand, reflected in a diverse product development and innovation pipeline.

From farm to table, the Ever.Ag team partners with farms, food processors, and end-users of agricultural products. We work with these clients to assess market opportunities and risk, craft strategies to address them and deliver first-class execution of those strategies across the many product lines which we have access to. Our passionate team and software combines supply chain, market intelligence, and data with individual client metrics and position profiles for greater tracking, forecasting and informed strategic decision making power.

Michael Best & Friedrich, LLP. A national law firm with Midwest roots, Michael Best has extensive experience in representing production agriculture over the last three decades. Michael Best lawyers have expertise in agriculture, environmental law, energy law and policy and environmental services markets. Michael Best has represented owners and developers on renewable energy projects across the country and will provide the CFGB and project participants with legal advice and counsel concerning standards, disclosures, claims and transactions.

University of Wisconsin-Madison. The CFGB efforts will be coordinated and supported by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension's Tim Baye. Baye is a professor of energy finance and business development. Baye also serves as a State Energy Specialist.

CFGB Deliverables

To support overall project three main deliverables are planned to be generated within initial 12 months of project launch.

- A) Comprehensive assessment of market and stakeholder needs regarding carbon management, finance and monetization. Assessment will inform other project participants on farm financial, technical and planning assets, tools and expected outcomes. Assessment process will engage

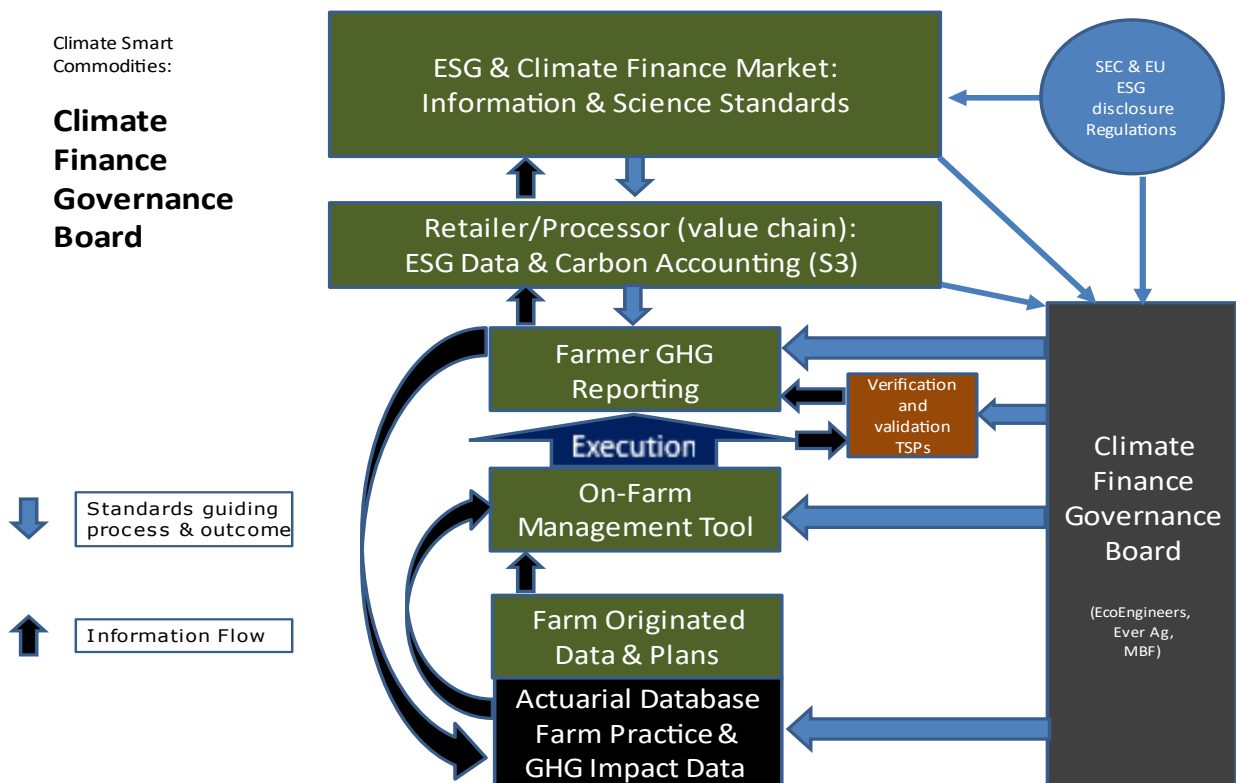
major processors, farm-operators, financial and business support firms and other stakeholders, including regulators:

- B) Development of carbon management, finance and monetization “guidebook;”
- C) Continuous updating of carbon finance guidelines, advisory to project management team and technical service providers to optimize on-farm carbon credit origination and monetization

To support these deliverables, three substantive investigations and results will be generated by the CFGB members.

1. Assess current international climate registry and sustainability metrics, accounting platforms, on-farm management practices and comparable environmental attribute & monetization systems (Principal investigator: EcoEngineers)
2. Assess current environmental commodity finance practices and market expectations for commoditized natural solution originated GHG credits. Evaluate commercial service providers capable of contributing to carbon actuarial database & model. (Principal Investigator: EverAg)
3. Assess legal, financial and corporate underpinnings and expectations for sustainability metrics and environmental attribute instruments within the voluntary/ESG derived markets. Assess related/expected regulatory impacts on GHG management and the implications of such on farm-based natural solution efforts. (Principal Investigator: Michael Best).

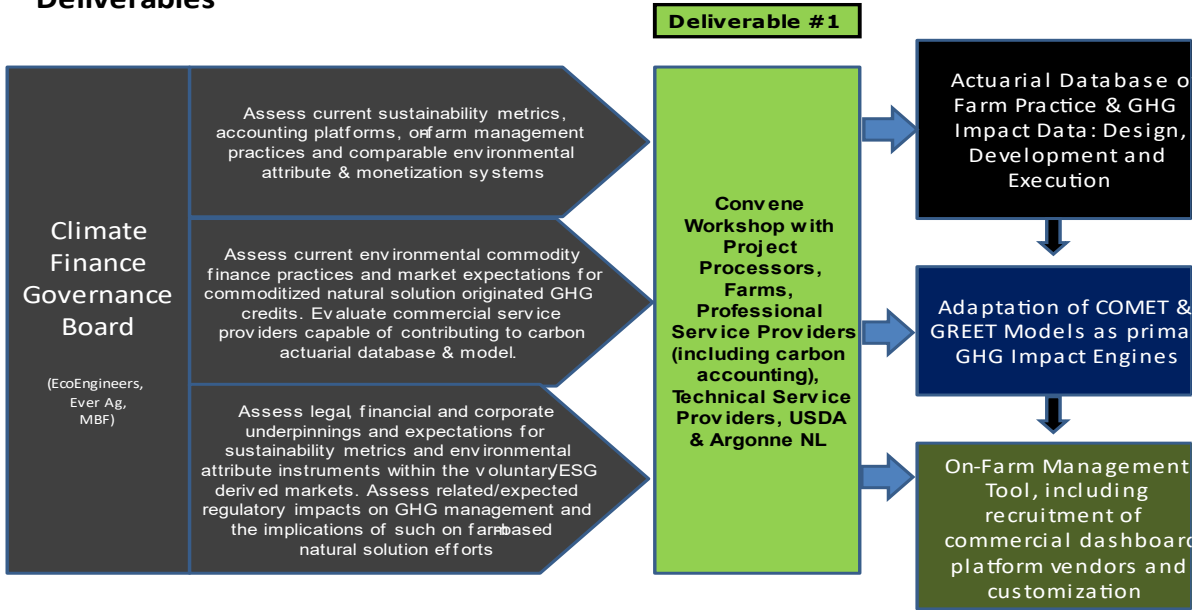
The following diagrams illustrate the form and function of the CFGB in support of and within the project.



Climate Finance Governance: Deliverables

↓ Standards guiding process & outcome

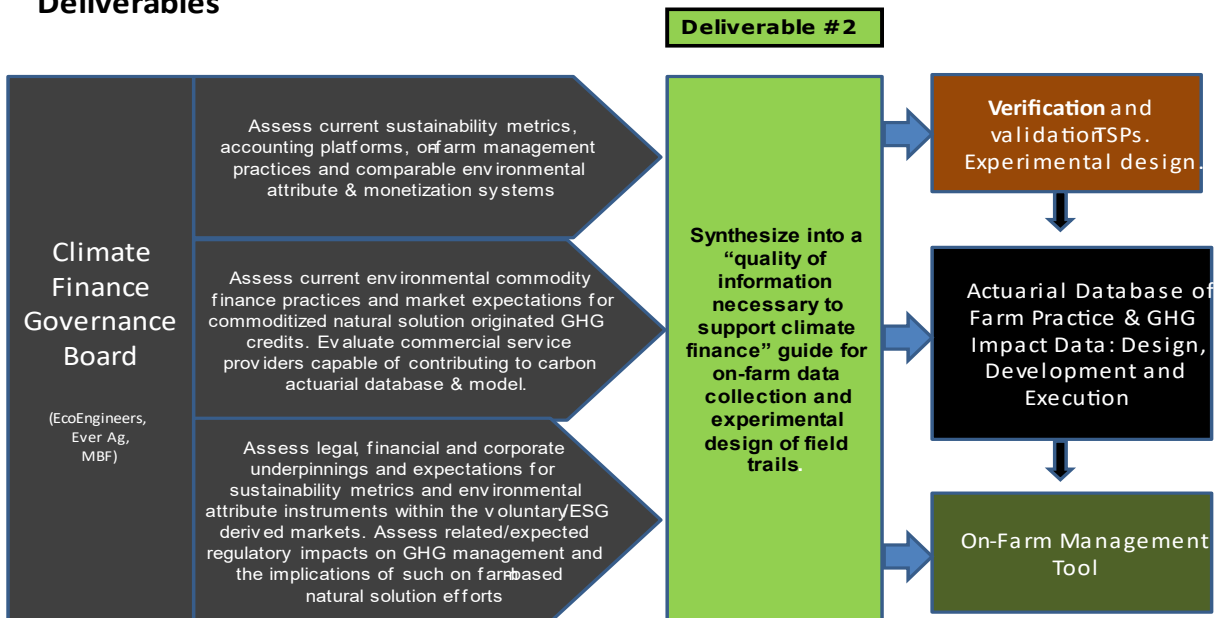
↓ Information Flow



Climate Finance Governance: Deliverables

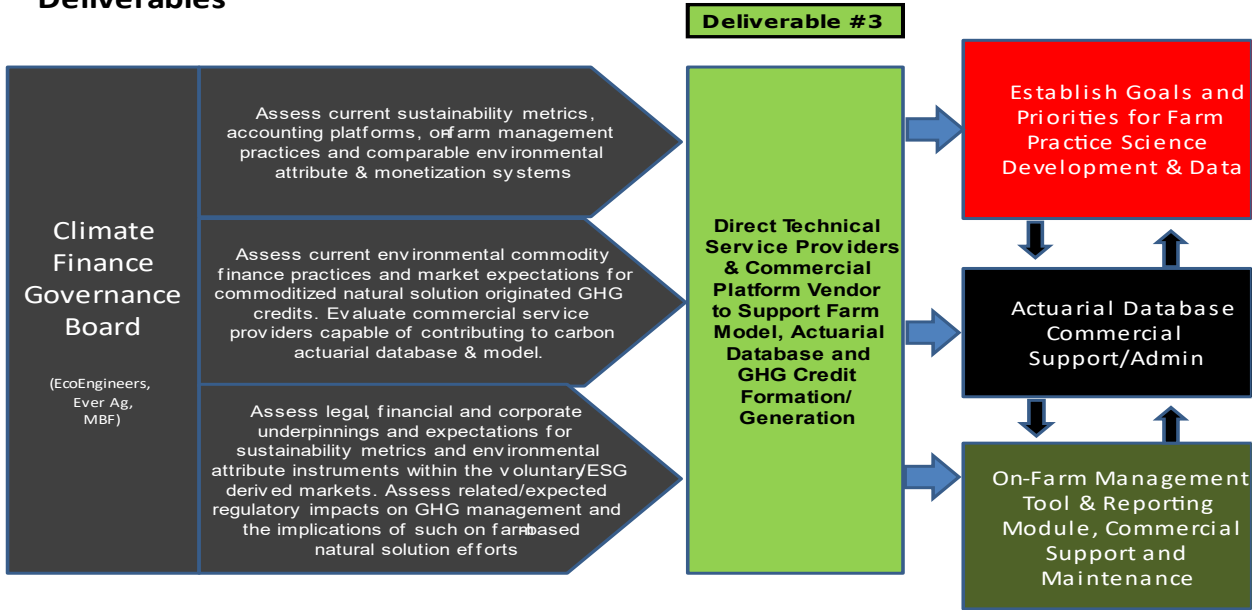
↓ Standards guiding process & outcome

↓ Information Flow



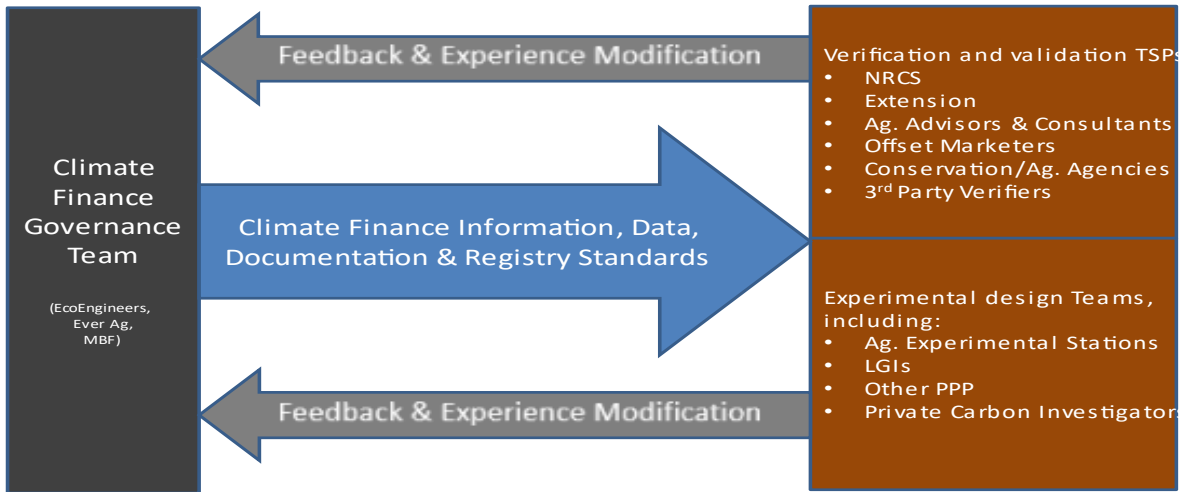
Climate Smart Commodities:

Climate Finance Governance: Deliverables



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Building Carbon Conversion Platform (Actuarial Database): CFGT & TSPs



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Key to this overall effort is the establishment, at large-scale demonstration level, of a transparent and publicly available farm practice-to-carbon outcome database, that provides bankable, reliable, auditable,

and replicable reference data to support all carbon reduction/avoidance claims embedded in any farm-originated and registered credit instruments.

CFGB Members

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Timothy Baye, CFGB Director. Tim Baye is a Professor of Business Development and Energy Finance with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension. Baye serves as a State Energy specialist. His research and educational efforts serve business, professional and policy leaders in the pursuit of energy, alternative energy and clean technology projects. Baye has developed, taught and managed business education and research programs serving executives, professionals and policy leaders throughout Wisconsin, and beyond.

Baye has been a leader in the development of specialized educational, research and advisory programs for Wisconsin's bioenergy, agri-business and manufacturing sectors. He was a principle consultant for both the UW-Madison Agribusiness Center and the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Baye is a frequent speaker at international, national and regional bioenergy and renewable energy conferences. Baye's expertise includes: business formation and modeling; marketing strategy and strategic planning; project analysis and development; capital budgeting; financial analysis and pricing; and, business planning.

Since 1985, Baye has held a senior position with ReCon Associates, an energy consulting and project development advisory firm. As an executive of ReCon Associates, Baye provides his clients in-depth project analysis, business development, investment counsel and professional development services. Baye's clients include numerous renewable energy, agri-business and manufacturing companies, the Open Society Institute, the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Agency for International Development, World Bank, and Wisconsin's Department's of Agriculture, Energy and Development. Baye has extensive international experience, including work throughout Western and Central Europe, Mexico, Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Morocco, Nicaragua and Australia. Most of Baye's ReCon Associate practice involves both conventional and renewable energy projects and international business development.

Baye serves as overall CFGB manager and "conductor."

EcoEngineers

Shashi Menon (overall strategy and QA/QC). Mr. Menon holds over 20 years of business strategy and business development experience in finance, commercial real estate investments, and renewable energy consulting. He has worked closely with federal and state regulators and the biofuel industry over the past 10 years to frame policy to enable successful projects. He collaborated with USEPA throughout the QAP rulemaking process to develop a balanced rule that controls costs and promotes credit liquidity. Mr. Menon has also contributed comments and technical input to help refine biogas rules under the RFS leading to significant growth in biogas project development activities. With sound biogas regulations in place under the RFS, he has worked with the State of Iowa to assess the availability of biogenic carbon and to quantify the benefits of renewable energy projects from biomethane.

Mr. Menon is committed to building a clean energy economy. His formula for a successful renewable energy project is to deliver the following services: training and education, regulatory engagement, life-cycle analysis, asset development consulting, compliance management, and audit services.

Dr. Zhichao Wang (overall LCA, GREET/COMET). Dr. Zhichao Wang is an agricultural and environmental engineer and carbon analyst with more than 15 years of research and industry experience

focused on renewable energy production, waste treatment and management, and life-cycle analysis (LCA).

Dr. Wang's background includes experience with biomass feedstock management and frontier biofuel production technologies such as fermentation, pyrolysis, gasification, and trans-esterification. He is also a national expert in conducting life-cycle analysis on all kinds of renewable energy systems. He has assisted numerous domestic and international biofuel producers with applications for obtaining United States Environmental Protection Agency Renewable Identification Number (RIN) credits and California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) credits.

Dr. Wang has published over 20 works in numerous industry-related papers and journals, six Department of Energy technical reports, and two book chapters. He has presented at the ASABE Annual International Meetings, the Biofuels Financial Conference, the Annual ACE Conference, LCA XIV in San Francisco, and other biofuels related conferences. He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural and biological engineering from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He earned both a Master and Bachelor of Science in environmental engineering from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

Dr. Lei Zhu (GHG validation/verification). Dr. Zhu serves as a Carbon, Compliance Analyst and the Team Lead of EcoEngineers' Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Verification program. He holds over eight years of research and development experience in biomass, agricultural and forest products, oil and gas refinery projects, and renewable energy projects. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural and biosystems engineering from Washington State University and B.E. in chemical engineering and forest products from Beijing Forestry University.

In his role at EcoEngineers, Dr. Zhu brings a deep understanding of the LCFS, working closely with California Air Resource Board (CARB) and EcoEngineer's Audit Team to develop and improve the LCFS validation and verification services. He has completed more than 15 fuel pathway validations across various fuel types as an accredited Lead Verifier of LCFS Fuel Pathway Reports and Fuel Transaction Reports.

Dr. Zhu's work applies the scientific principles, analytical skills, and critical thinking toward innovative and customized solutions to advance the development and growth of the biofuels industry. He has a deep understanding and technical knowledge of biomass and biofuels and extensive experience with research and industry projects of pyrolysis, biochar, bioethanol, biodiesel, jet fuel and waste-to-energy. He has authored and co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed research papers and spoken at major international in-house research and technology conferences.

Dr. Ranjan Parajuli (LCA farm practices/USDA grant recipient) Ranjan is a Senior Carbon Analyst and Consultant for EcoEngineers, focusing on carbon intensity modeling and evaluation of renewable/compressed natural gas and biofuels as per Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) and Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Programs. His long-term research experience has given him broad exposure to life-cycle analysis (LCA) work, including LCA of US fruits and vegetables supply chains; LCA modeling of different consumer-based products; LCA of rice production systems under various management practices. Other areas of focus include global GHG emission meta-data analysis for soybean/soy products, maize, and chicken; and environmental sustainability evaluation of Wastewater Treatment Plants.

David LaGreca (Voluntary markets). David LaGreca is an environmental scientist with experience in all

major GHG programs across the Americas. He has worked in the validation, verification, and development of a diversity of offset project types in biogas, oil & gas, and renewable energy. He was lead consultant for abandoned well methane methodology development, flare reduction, municipal/community GHG inventory development, and CDM disclosure projects. Along with GHG audits, he has developed corporate sustainability plans and conducted market analysis for environmentally preferred purchasing standards for retailers. David has conducted feasibility analyses for offset project developers as well as for advancing corporate performance within LEED and Energy Star building rating systems. He has been the carbon advisor for two mid-sized, private equity-funded oil companies from the Powder River and Denver-Julesburg basins including assisting in the development of new ESG and net-zero emissions plans. He has conducted feasibility and pre-feasibility studies for a variety of offset project types and provided educational presentations to companies regarding the scientific and market opportunities in emissions reductions. He is also a guest lecturer and consultant for Colorado State University on carbon project development.

Mark Heckman (sustainable farm practices and carbon markets and Project Lead) Mr. Heckman started as a Senior Regulatory Consultant for EcoEngineers, but now serves as the Ethanol Services Director. As a farmer in a family partnership of approximately 1,500 acres of corn and soybeans in West Liberty, Iowa, Mr. Heckman is an agricultural leader with a focus on soil health and sustainable farming practices. He holds a Bachelor of Science in agricultural business from Iowa State University, with minors in finance and agri-business management.

Mr. Heckman is passionate about sustainable agriculture and has dedicated much of his career to assisting producers and companies to focus on specialty markets and renewable fuels. He is an adviser to the U.S. Grains Council and is currently serving on the Animal Ag and Environment Committee for Iowa Corn.

In addition to his farming expertise, Mr. Heckman previously served as a grain, feed, and livestock consultant for an Iowa agricultural company. He assisted clients in planning and executing marketing strategies for greater profits while minimizing risks. He has experience in grain cash management, regenerative agricultural practices, and microbiology for grain producers. He has worked to improve producers' profitability by introducing suite of cash grain contracts, carbon sequestration agreements, and agronomy services.

Mr. Heckman's accomplishments include selling and shipping the first oceanic vessel of low-carbon fuels from the United States Great Lakes and coordinating the construction and implementation of a landfill gas pipeline to supply steam and energy to a corn processor.

Brad Pleima (Dairy RNG and compliance markets) Mr. Pleima is a Senior Engineer and Regulatory Consultant at EcoEngineers and has over 17 years of consulting and engineering design experience in water, wastewater, and renewable energy project work. He has a civil engineering degree from Iowa State University and is a licensed Professional Engineer in 10 states.

Mr. Pleima leads the 360° Biogas Solutions efforts for EcoEngineers and has extensive experience working with municipalities and industrial operations on anaerobic digestion, biogas utilization assessments, and biogas upgrading projects at facilities located throughout the United States and has worked with over 150 RNG projects across North America.

As a senior engineer and regulatory consultant, he is responsible for working collaboratively with

clients to develop the “right solutions and strategies” for project scope, budget and schedules. He is also responsible for allocation of internal project resources, providing regulatory guidance, quality assurance and quality control of deliverables, and managing the project to a successful completion.

One of his specialties is helping clients maximize the value of their RNG by participating in national and state clean fuel regulations, such as the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), and Clean Fuels Program (CFP). His deep level of regulatory expertise helps clients optimize design and operations to maximize energy credit revenues, which are key to protecting investments.

Michael Best Friedrich

David A. Crass: David is a senior partner in the Firm’s Regulatory Practice group having more than 30 years’ experience practicing environmental, energy and agricultural law. David serves as the Managing Partner of the Firm’s Washington, D.C. office and is a member of the Firm’s Management Committee. David also co-chairs the Firm’s Agribusiness, Food & Beverage Industry Team and has worked with agricultural producers and processors on environmental matters, including the development renewable energy projects and environmental services markets his entire career. He will serve as the Michael Best Team Lead.

Taylor T. Fritsch: Taylor is a senior associate in the Firm’s Madison, Wisconsin Office. Taylor is an environmental attorney and has work closely with David Crass his entire professional career. Taylor has experience with agriculture production and regulation and environmental services markets, particularly in the developing nutrient water quality trading sector.

Gary M. Bridgens: Gary is a first year associate attorney in the Firm’s Washington, D.C. Office and a member of the Firm’s Regulatory Practice Group focusing his practice on energy and environmental law. Prior to law school, Gary worked for in the consulting and advocacy world focusing his expertise in the energy sector. Since joining Michael Best as a law clerk during his last year of law school, Gary has had the opportunity to work on federal energy regulatory matters, to track greenhouse gas emission legislative and regulatory developments for a national client of the Firm’s and research federal and state regulatory programs.

Ever.Ag

Matt Gould, Senior Director of Strategic Advisory Solutions, is an industry-leading consultant in dairy with a proven track record of developing and implementing solutions to challenging industry problems. Matt has developed and executed strategies to increase the sustainability of American dairy and has also helped companies lower their costs, attack new markets, and uncover new avenues for growth.

For the last year and a half, Matt and Starbucks have developed and implemented a dairy sustainability program worldwide. He has co-led a process to reform a \$1.1-billion government program in California called quota and co-authored the CME whitepaper on hedging fluid milk. Matt has relationships throughout the value chain including at farm-level, among dairy cooperatives, milk processors, end-users and consumer packaged goods companies in the global dairy space.

Matt has spoken on dairy-related topics around the country – from New York to Texas to California – and as far away as South Korea. Matt is regularly quoted in national media, including recent citations in Bloomberg, Reuters, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. He grew up on his family’s dairy farm in Western New York and holds a B.S. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

Colin Kadis, Analyst, leverages his in-depth knowledge of agricultural operations to drive actionable and impactful progress in the dairy industry. Colin has worked on dairies throughout the United States, including Texas, Georgia, New York, and South Dakota and has supported data-driven decision making in organic and conventional milk markets on farms from 150 cows to 150,000.

Colin has worked throughout the dairy supply chain and financial markets in the United States and abroad. He currently holds his Series 3 futures brokerage license and has led initiatives at Ever.Ag to support sustainability. In the last year, Colin was recognized as a winner of the Richard Popp Award for his devotion to innovation within the dairy industry. The award’s namesake, Richard Popp, helped to develop environmental regulations in the dairy industry in the ‘90s.

Colin grew up in Boston, MA and holds a B.S. in Dairy Business Management from Cornell University. He is a member of Alpha Gamma Rho agricultural fraternity.