

# Decarbonising Maersk - The role of bio-fuels

**Jacob Hjerrild Zeuthen**

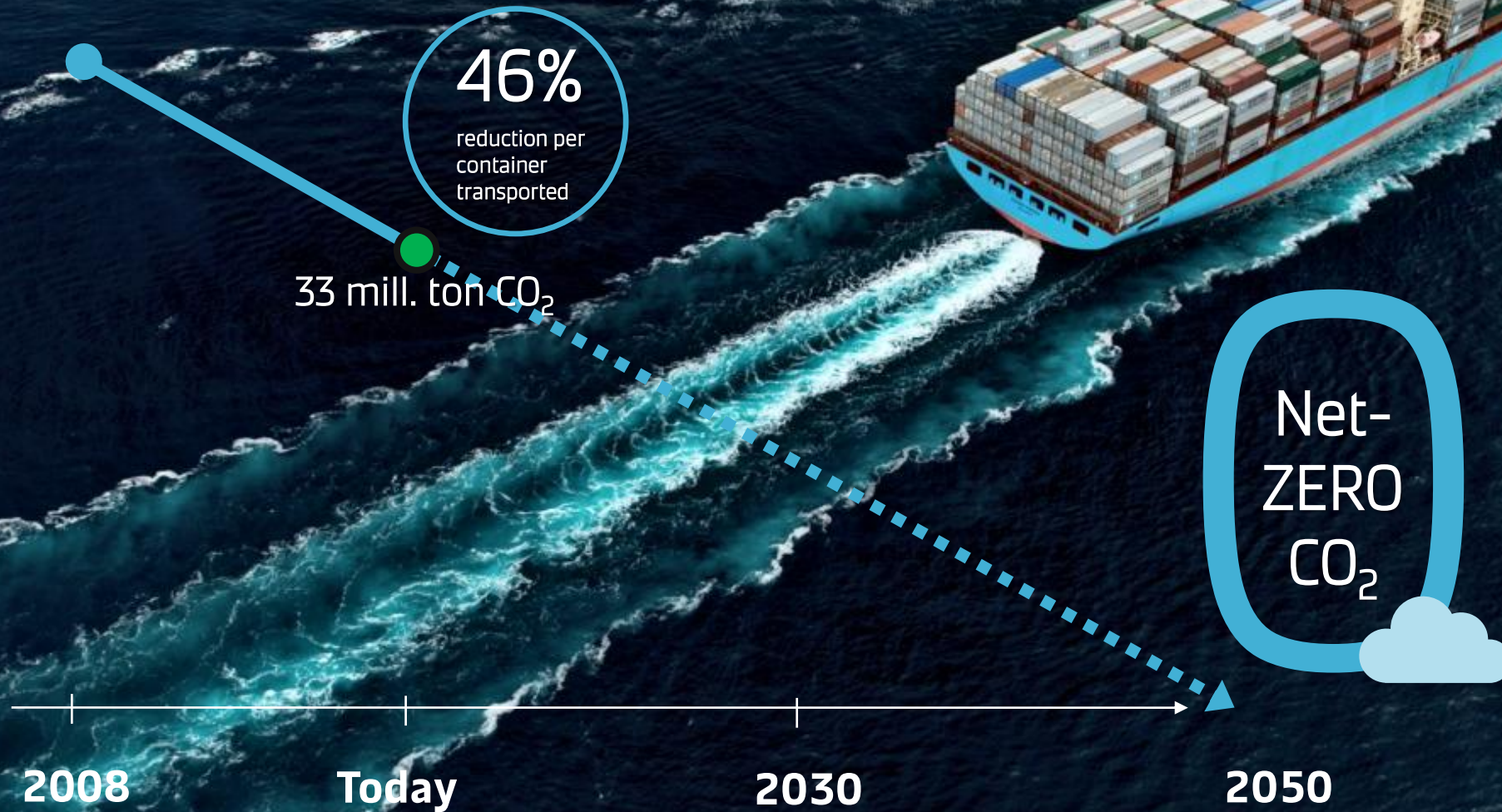
Senior Future Fuels Manager, A.P. Moller – Maersk

IEA Bioenergy conference - Industry session, 3 December 2021





# In 2018, we committed to cutting CO<sub>2</sub> to net-zero





In 2018, we committed to cutting CO<sub>2</sub> to net-zero

46%

reduction per  
container  
transported

33 mill. ton CO<sub>2</sub>

**DECARBONISE ASAP!**

Net-  
ZERO  
CO<sub>2</sub>

2008

Today

2030

2050



# The climate challenge in shipping is huge

- The maritime sector consumes **300 mio. ton fuel oil/year**, and emits **3%** of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- Maersk's 700+ container ships consume **10 mio. ton fuel oil/year** and emit **0.1%** of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions



# 'Facts' to remember regarding the shipping sector and decarbonisation

- Shipping is (normally) a **low-margin business** → challenge to suddenly pay 2-3 times the fuel cost
- Fossil fuel purchase is based on **SPOT markets** → now we need to engage in long term offtake agreements
- **Used to run on the 'residual oils'** of poor quality → This is an opportunity for us when we need to find green fuels

# We depend on customers to value and pay for carbon-neutral transport and we believe they (continue to) do so

**20% increase in shipping rate**  
(equivalent to +100% increased fuel costs)



A pair of running shoes  
for \$100 would increase by

**+ \$0.06**  
[+0.06%]



A computer for \$800  
would increase by

**+ \$0.60**  
[+0.08%]



1 banana for \$0.25  
would increase by

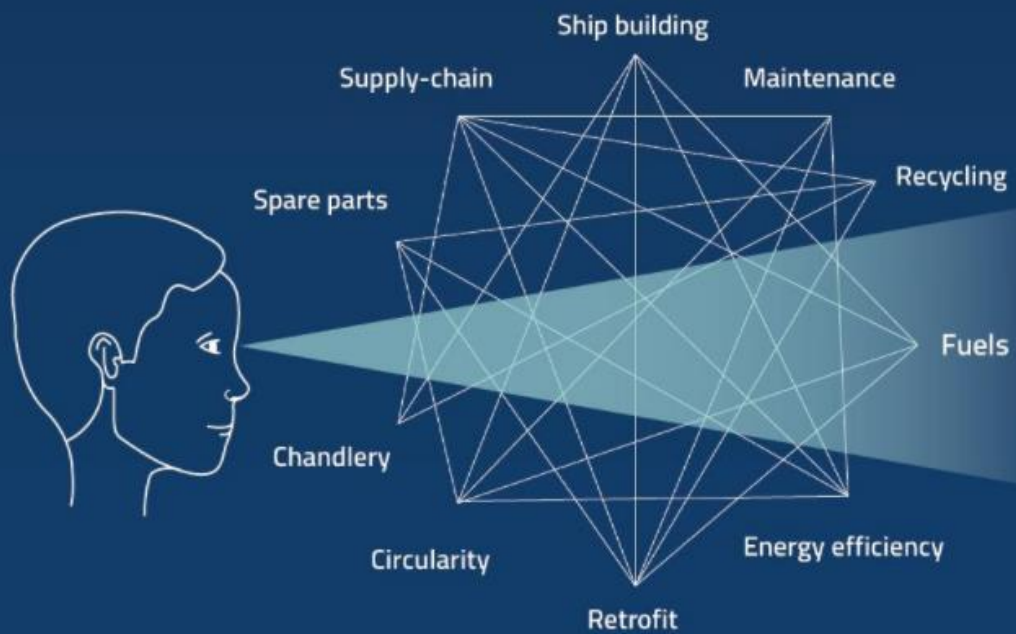
**+ \$0.01**  
[+5%]

Source calculations by Maersk



# We need more than new fuels

## The Maritime Tunnel Vision



Maritime net-zero ambitions

ReFlow

# Potentiel technologies & drop-in fuel options

	Technology	Learnings sofar...	Doable?	
●	Battery	Viable for short-sea shipping, but not deep sea shipping	No	} not only change of fuel
●	Hydrogen	Perhaps viable (ICE/FC) for short sea, not deep sea shipping due to storage iss.	No	
●	Nuclear	No public acceptance + regulatory challenges	Monitoring	
●	CC - onboard	Storage of CO <sub>2</sub> onboard an issue	Monitoring	
●	Fuel Cells	Especially SOFC promising due to multi fuel & high efficiency	Yes, long-term	



# Potentiel technologies & drop-in fuel options

Technology	Learnings sofar...	Doable?	} not only change of fuel
● Battery	Viable for short-sea shipping, but not deep sea shipping	No	
● Hydrogen	Perhaps viable (ICE/FC) for short sea, not deep sea shipping due to storage iss.	No	
● Nuclear	No public acceptance + regulatory challenges	Monitoring	
● CC - onboard	Storage of CO <sub>2</sub> onboard an issue	Monitoring	
● Fuel Cells	Especially SOFC promising due to multi fuel & high efficiency	Yes, long-term	
Fuel	Learnings sofar...	Doable?	} fuel blending + old ship
● Biodiesel (FAME)	Feedstock limitations, regulatory concerns	Short-term	
● Ren. diesel (HVO)	Feedstock limitations, regulatory concerns	Short-term	
● Pyro/HTL fuels	Promising: Cheap, 2. G feedstock, 'dirty', drop-in fuel & MeOH from gassific.	Med.-term	
● Jet-bottoms	Promising: 'Leftover' from SAF, high quality, price uncertain	Med.-term	
● Lignin-alcohols	Promising if lignin value remains low: cheap, drop-in for MeOH in ICE	Joker	
● Alcohols-to-heavy oil	Promising drop-in fuel if efficient conversion is developed ('alcohols-to-jet')	Perhaps	
● Fischer-Tropsch	Heavy end of Fischer-Tropsch might be blend-in quality	Perhaps	



# Anything that burns...

- Possible to handle most fuels on a ship

1

Quality biofuels will be used for aviation etc

- HVO from triglycerides is limited and cannot be scaled for shipping

2

We are used to utilize poor quality oil!

- HFO: High viscosity, impurities, aromatics, acidity, ...

3

Few hard requirements for new drop-in fuels:

- Flash point (above 60°C)
- Stability
- Miscibility
- ...





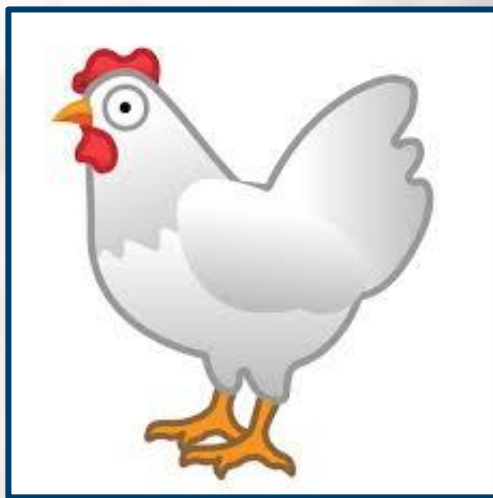
# Potentiel 1-molecule fuel options for decarbonising shipping

Technology/fuel		Learnings sofar...	Doable?	} new fuel + new ship
●	1. G ethanol	Food vs. Fuel issue.	No	
●	2. G ethanol	Tech. has improved, but market price will remain high, depends of road-electr.	Perhaps	
●	Bio-methanol	Relatively mature (biogas & gasification), best overall feasibility profile	Yes, med.-term	
●	E-methanol	Depends on carbon capture (DAC, point-source) and renewable power	Yes, long-term	
●	DME (gas)	Potential use as pilot-fuel for methanol or as single-fuel	Joker	
●	Bio-methane (gas)	Most likely not scalable, slip issues (production & use)	No	
●	E-methane (gas)	Slip issues (use), high energy-loss in production vs. e-methanol	No	
●	E-ammonia (gas)	Uncertainty on safety issues, cheapest e-fuel, regional regulatory differences	Perhaps	



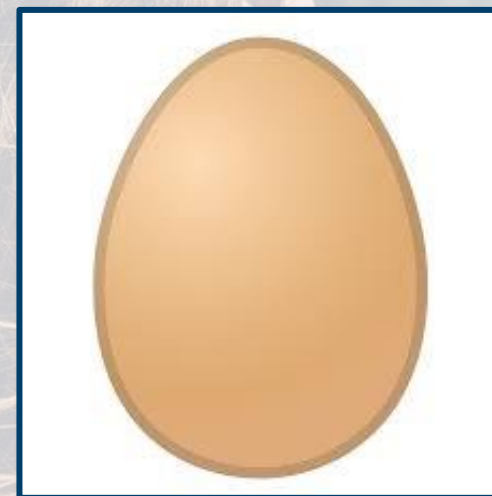
# Chicken & egg dilemma

- an obstacle to urgent action



Who will BUILD A NEW TYPE OF SHIP if there is no fuel or fuel infrastructure?

[Maersk accelerates fleet decarbonisation with 8 large ocean-going vessels to operate on carbon neutral methanol](#)



Who will produce a GREEN FUEL if there are no customers for it?

[Maersk secures green e-methanol for the world's first container vessel operating on carbon neutral fuel](#)

# $\text{CO}_2$ is 'biomass with no energy'! → **E-fuels** need much more hydrogen than **bio-fuels**

To produce methanol an inputs of carbon and hydrogen are needed

General formular for biomass can be written  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_z$

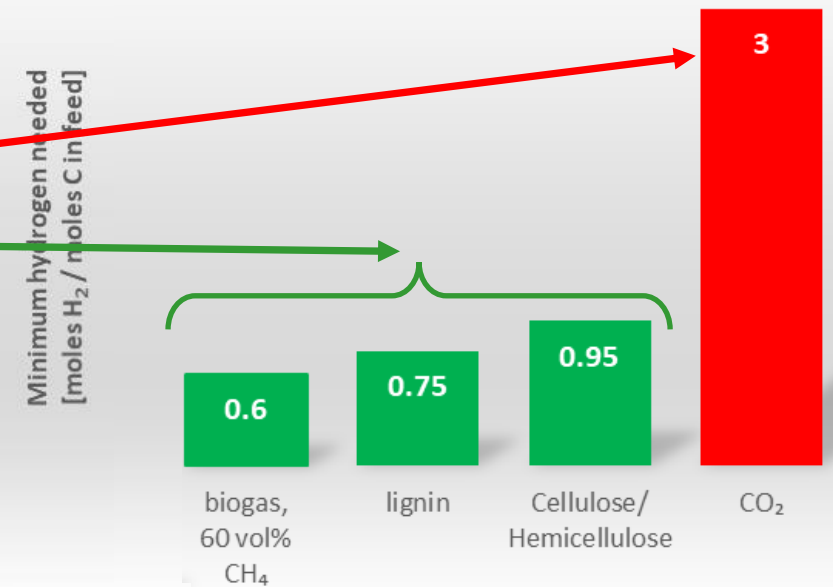
and can also be used to describe  $\text{CO}_2$

The carbon source add much of the energy for the fuel in case of fossil sources, less for **biomass** and none for  **$\text{CO}_2$**

For this reason much more green hydrogen is needed to produce e-methanol than bio-methanol

Example: 4 times more hydrogen to convert  $\text{CO}_2$  than lignin!

Hydrogen needed to produce methanol from  $\text{C}_x\text{H}_y\text{O}_z$



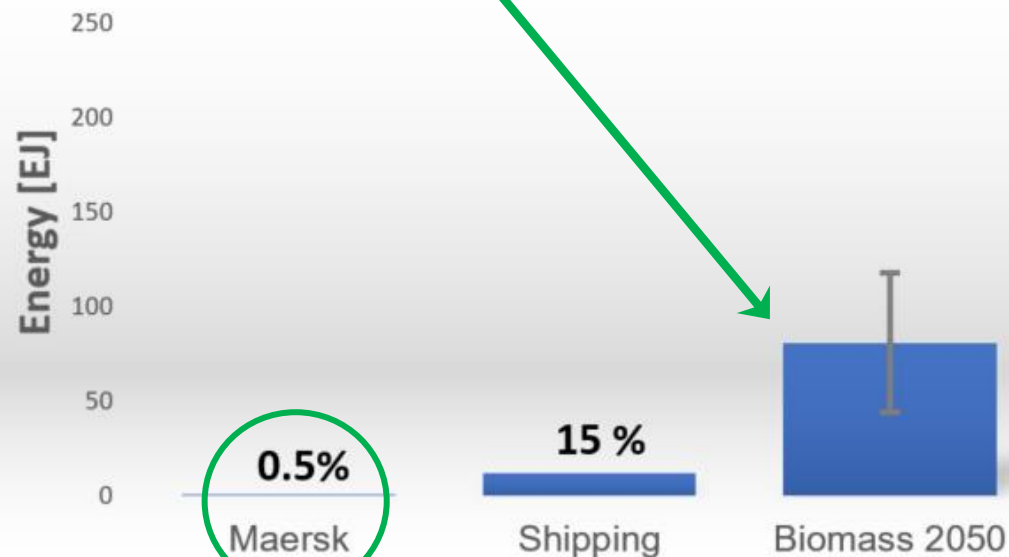


# The global technical potential of bio-energy in 2050 considering sustainability constraints

Helmut Haberl<sup>1</sup>, Tim Beringer<sup>2</sup>, Sribas C Bhattacharya<sup>3</sup>, Karl-Heinz Erb<sup>1</sup>, Monique Hoogwijk<sup>4</sup>

## Discussion and conclusions

Figure 2 summarizes the three components of the technical bio-energy potential in 2050 based on the values reported in Table 2, Table 3, Table 4. We find a technical global bio-energy potential in 2050 of approximately 210 (160–270) EJ/yr. Dedicated bio-energy crops contribute 81 (44–133) EJ/yr, which is at the lower end of the potentials found in previous assessments (Table 1) but higher than the potentials



# Who needs the limited biomass?

200 × energy consumption by Maersk = all the 'bio-energy crops' in the world in 2050!

Maersk entirely on e-fuels (50% conv. Loss) → high need for renewable power: ~ 228 TWh → More than 6 × Denmark's power consumption today or ~ 50 GW offshore wind



A large container ship, the MAERSK NEXUS, is docked at a port at night. A massive gantry crane is positioned over the ship, loading or unloading colorful shipping containers. The scene is illuminated by bright lights from the crane and the ship, creating a high-contrast, industrial atmosphere. The water in the foreground is dark and calm.

Thank you!

**Jacob Hjerrild Zeuthen**

Senior Future Fuels Manager,  
A.P. Moller – Maersk  
[Jacob.Zeuthen@maersk.com](mailto:Jacob.Zeuthen@maersk.com)

