

Elite Research Team Studying Algae to Biofuels
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UK - The Carbon Trust has pulled together an elite research team from nine leading UK research institutions, including Newcastle, Manchester, Sheffield and Southampton Universities in a bid to find a winning formula for cultivating 70 billion litres of algae biofuel a year by 2030.

This will be equivalent to six per cent of road transport diesel and a saving of over 160 million tonnes of CO₂ every year. Funded by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the first step is to screen thousands of strains of algae to identify those that can produce large quantities of a substance similar to vegetable oil. Additional research will develop methods for enabling large-scale production in algae ponds and the Carbon Trust is also planning to start construction of a pilot demonstration plant in an equatorial region where algae are most productive.

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