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IGPC and Sweetwater Investigate Integrated Biorefinery Project

IGPC Ethanol, Inc., an Aylmer, Ontario ethanol producer, today announced an exclusive marketing relationship with Sweetwater Energy, Inc., a Rochester NY-based renewable hydrocarbon producer, to investigate the feasibility of locating Sweetwater's first Canadian project in Ontario. The two companies are looking at building an integrated ethanol refinery capable of producing ethanol from non-food sources, as well as recycling the refinery's carbon dioxide into valuable vegetable oils.

"We couldn't be more excited about collaborating with Sweetwater," says Jim Grey, CEO of IGPC. "We know they are looking at several provinces for their Canadian solution for an integrated biorefinery. Such a project will make domestic fuel and other products that are increasingly better for the environment and better for the economy. This relationship is consistent with our strategic direction, adding greater value to the industrial platform we have established in Aylmer"

Sweetwater uses two types of technology to aid biorefineries such as IGPC. The first technology extracts valuable hydrocarbons from waste plant material, such as wood or agricultural residues. Those hydrocarbons, in the form of sugar, can be added directly into an ethanol facility's corn mash to produce additional ethanol. The second technology captures the carbon dioxide that is released as part of the ethanol fermentation process and converts it into high-value vegetable oils, which in turn can be converted into biodiesel or many biochemicals.

"We're creating a wraparound solution for IGPC," says Arunas Chesonis, chairman and CEO of Sweetwater Energy. "We're helping stabilize their feedstock price volatility, and helping reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. We think there is a tremendous opportunity here, and we're looking forward to growing this solution with IGPC."

Sweetwater's business model was patented in 2012 for the manufacture and deployment of distributed pretreatment units designed for the extraction of sugars from any cellulosic feedstock. This proprietary process allows Sweetwater to provide broad scale diversity for cellulosic ethanol production that takes full advantage of economic and capacity constraints surrounding cellulosic biomass. In 2013, Sweetwater announced a joint venture with Naturally Scientific to develop and deploy the carbon dioxide to sugar technology, which Naturally Scientific has had in full operation for two years at their demonstration plant in Nottingham, UK.

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