



UMass microbiologist Derek Lovley wins \$1 million U.S. Department of Energy grant

By Diane Lederman, The Republican

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The Republican file photo

University of Massachusetts microbiologist Derek Lovley and colleagues won a \$1 million grant to develop a clean, highly efficient new technology for converting carbon dioxide into transportation fuels.

AMHERST - The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded an initial \$1 million grant to microbiologist Derek Lovley and colleagues at the University of Massachusetts to develop a clean, highly efficient new technology for converting carbon dioxide into transportation fuels.

The process will yield the fuel butanol and other useful chemicals, among them butanediol, from which plastics are made.

UMass was among 37 leading research institutions to receive funding for projects that could fundamentally change the way the country uses and produces energy, according to a statement from Vice President Joe Biden.

The money is coming from Recovery Act funding.

Lovley, who said he just learned of the funding today, said "I was elated. This is such a great research topic." And he said the money will allow him conduct his research on a much larger scale.

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