



Ohio Biomass Energy Program Newsletter

Fall 2003

Midwest Biomass Energy Strategy Meeting

A Midwest Regional Biomass Strategy meeting was held October 1-2, 2003 in Indianapolis. The goal of the meeting was to share information between the U.S. DOE, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Midwest state energy and agriculture offices, as well as to achieve more effective collaboration between federal and state agencies in implementing biomass programs and projects in the Midwest. The meeting was led by **Peter Dreyfuss**, Director of the Chicago Regional Office of U.S. DOE.

Participants discussed ways in which biomass energy and agriculture offices could work more closely together, especially with regard to funding resources provided in the 2002 Farm Bill. Areas of increased collaboration will include: 1) biomass outreach in promoting the benefits of using bio-based products, 2) communications among key governmental agency and organization leaders, 3) promotion of policies to encourage Midwest biomass development and use, and 4) cultivation of financial and other resources.

In addition, a U.S. EPA representative discussed the value in identifying environmental costs and benefits of new bioenergy technologies or projects early on in the planning and construction phase in order to avoid problems later.

The participants of the meeting agreed that the Midwest leads the nation in biomass resources, and with a commitment of leadership and resources these states can bring the Midwest to the fore in renewable bioenergy development.

Biomass Program Restructuring

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has consolidated its biomass programs, creating the **Office of Biomass Programs** (see <http://www.eere.energy.gov/biomass.html>). This office also manages the inter-agency **Biomass Research and Development Initiative** to coordinate federal biobased products and bioenergy research and development under the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000. (See Office newsletter, <http://www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov/default.asp>)

National Biomass State and Regional Partnership

Five regional organizations, including the Council of Great Lakes Governors, of which Ohio is a member; the Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) Policy Research Center, Inc.; the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB); the Western Governors Association (WGA) and the DOE Seattle Regional Office; are entering into a multi-year agreement with the DOE through a newly formed **National Biomass State and Regional Partnership**. This new program will replace the Regional Biomass Energy Program, and DOE has given new direction to the regional programs, focusing on outreach, education and technical assistance. The Partnership will help facilitate closer communication and coordination of federal, regional and state biomass activities. The Ohio Biomass Energy Program continues as a state member of the Council of Great Lakes Governors regional organization. **Anne Goode**, Ohio Biomass Energy Program Director, serves as Chair of the Regional Steering Council, and also as a state representative to the **Partnership Council**, an advisory committee.

Federal Biomass Grants Selected

The 2002 Farm Bill allocated \$75 million to USDA over six years to fund research, development and demonstration projects under the Biomass Research

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and Development Act of 2000. The legislation established a governing board co-chaired by USDA and DOE.

In September, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy announced the selection of 19 projects that will receive \$23 million for biomass research, development and demonstration projects. Six of the projects are located in the Midwest region (Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota). They include:

Cargill, Inc. (Minneapolis, Minn.)—Platform Chemicals from an Oilseed Biorefinery - \$1,877,176

Archer Daniels Midland Company (Quincy, Ill./Decatur, Ind.)—Biomass Research and Development for the Production of Fuels, Chemicals, and Improved Cattle Feed - \$1,400,000

GrainValue, LLC (St. Paul, Minn.)—GrainValue Process: Pre-Commercialization Trials - \$1,763,160

Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa)—Biopolymers and Other Value-Added Products from Distillers' Dried Grains - \$1,000,000

Sebesta, Blomberg & Associates, Inc. (Roseville, Minn.)—Biomass Cogeneration Demonstration Plant at Central Minnesota Ethanol Cooperative - \$2,000,000

West Central Cooperative (Ralston, Iowa)—New Technologies for Production of Methyl Esters - \$1,199,646

Additional information on the 2002 Farm Bill can be found at www.usda.gov/farmbill.

Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants

This fall, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the selection of 113 applications for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvement grants in 24 states totaling \$21,207,233. The 2002 Farm Bill authorized the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program for agricultural producers or rural small businesses. Eligible projects include those that derive energy from a wind, solar, biomass, or geothermal source, or hydrogen derived from biomass or water using wind, solar, or geothermal energy sources.

The projects included 35 applications totaling \$7.4 million to support wind power, 30 applications totaling \$7 million for anaerobic digesters, 6 applications totaling \$1.1 million for solar and 16 applications totaling \$3.9 million for ethanol plants/anaerobic digesters, direct combustion and fuel pellet systems. Awards were made on a competitive basis. The funds

can be used to pay up to 25 percent of the eligible project costs.

Demonstrating the strength of bioenergy resources in our region, over 64% of the grant applications came from the Midwest. Five applicants were selected in Ohio for a total of \$2,043,612 in eligible project costs. They include:

Pike Ethanol, LLC	Pike County, Ohio; ethanol production, anaerobic digesters to produce electricity and heat, agricultural co-products	\$500,000
Harrison Ethanol, LLC	Harrison County, Ohio; ethanol production, anaerobic digesters to produce electricity and heat, agricultural co-products	\$500,000
Liquid Resources of Ohio, LLC	Medina County, Ohio; ethanol production using food wastes	\$500,000
AgriEnergy, Ltd.	Wood County, Ohio; straw bale furnace	\$43,612
Central Ethanol, LLC	Perry County, Ohio; ethanol production, anaerobic digesters to produce electricity and heat, agricultural co-products	\$500,000

Ohio contact: **Jim Cogan**, Coordinator, USDA Rural Development, (614) 225-2420; jim.cogan@oh.usda.gov

A-maize-ing "Street Corners" Corn Sculptures on Exhibit in Columbus

Corn sculptures designed by Ohio artists and sponsored by a variety of businesses and organizations have been planted around Columbus at the Statehouse, Arena District, Easton Town Center and St. John Arena. The exhibit celebrates Ohio's native crop and its many uses, including as a feedstock to make ethanol, a renewable, domestically-produced fuel. Many of the sponsors of the sculptures have donated their sculptures to an auction planned for January 23, 2004, that will benefit various charities. The exhibit is the brainchild of **Terri Albanese**, Street Corners Co-Chair.



"Home Grown Pipeline"
Artist: Melissa Taylor
Sponsor: Ohio Corn Marketing Program



"Oh, Say Can You Seed"
Artist: Melissa Taylor
Sponsor: Monsanto

Office of Energy Efficiency Distributed Generation Project Grants

In September 2003, State Development Director **Bruce Johnson** announced that the Ohio Department of Development's (ODOD) Office of Energy Efficiency (OEE) awarded \$924,019 for 26 statewide distributed energy projects.

Distributed energy generation technologies include solar photovoltaics, wind turbines, microturbines and fuel cells and are located near the sites they are intended to serve. Distributed generation can serve remote locations, help reduce demand on the electric grid, and reduce air pollution and green house gas emissions. Biomass applications include microturbines run on landfill gas, anaerobic digesters that generate biogas for electricity generation or combined heat and power, utilizing biogas at wastewater treatment plants, and emerging fuel cell technologies using biomass conversion to hydrogen.

The projects selected include solar photovoltaic and thermal systems, wind turbine, and microturbine applications. The grantees are from industrial, commercial, residential, non-profit, government, agriculture and education sectors, and are geographically distributed across the state. The Office of Energy Efficiency is to be commended for making these innovative projects happen in Ohio. This critical support which will go a long way to help drive more widespread use of currently available distributed, renewable energy technologies.

NREL Has Redesigned Website

Check out DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) web site with an extensive biomass section, including biomass information and technical resources. <http://www.nrel.gov/biomass/>

Two New Biodiesel Pumps Open in Ohio

World Energy Alternatives, a biofuel supplier based in Chelsea, MA, announced recently that it has teamed up with Ohio's Carpenter Oil, Inc. to supply biodiesel to Perry Valley Garage and Staggers Auto Service in Newark, Ohio. The stations will carry B2, a 2% blend of biodiesel with diesel fuel. A third commercial biodiesel pump is located at the Fuel Depot in Delaware, Ohio.

"For the end user, biodiesel has more than just emissions benefits including the fact that it has

higher lubricity than standard petroleum diesel. This can help engines run longer and smoother. These biodiesel benefits can be a product differentiator for retailers, helping to drive more business through the door," said **John Rogers II**, General Manager at Carpenter Oil. Carpenter Oil, Inc. has been in business since 1956 supplying fuels, lubricants and chemicals to the central Ohio area, and operates a bulk plant in Newark, Ohio. Contact: (740) 522-3136 or carpenterinco@alink.com; World Energy Alternatives website, www.worldenergy.net.

The Ohio State University Is Using Biodiesel

Ohio State is using B20, a 20 percent blend of biodiesel with diesel, in campus area transit buses. Carpenter Oil, Inc. is supplying the fuel for the one-year pilot program. The Central Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition worked with the University's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the Center of Automotive Research to develop the program. Use of the fuel provides emissions benefits, engine lubrication, and requires no vehicle modifications. Contact: **Sam Spofforth**, Central Ohio Clean Fuels Coalition, (614) 292-5435; www.cocfc.org

Events Calendar

2003

3rd Annual Biocycle Conference on Renewable Energy from Organics, November 17-19, Minneapolis, MN
Website: jgpress.com/conferences/energy2003/energy2003.html

2004

February 16-18
9th Annual National Ethanol Conference, Miami, FL
Contact: Renewable Fuels Association
Phone: (202) 289-3835
Website: www.ehtnaolrfa.org

April 2, 2004
National AFV Day Odyssey, national advanced-technology and alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) public awareness activities (Ohio events TBA), see: www.NationalAFVDayOdyssey.org

June 22-25, 2004
20th Annual International Fuel Ethanol Workshop & Trade Show
"Where Practical Application & Research Meet to Design the Ethanol Plant of the Future"
Monona Terrace Convention Center
Madison, Wisconsin, USA
<http://www.bbibiofuels.com/few/>
Contact: **BBI**
(719) 942-4353

August 28-Sept. 3, 2004
World Renewable Energy Congress VIII and Expo, see: <http://www.nrel.gov/wrec/>
Key dates: December 5, 2003 Deadline for abstracts; January 30, 2004: Notification of abstract acceptance; April 30, 2004: Deadline for papers

Ohio Biomass Energy Program Priorities

Work with the National Biomass State and Regional Partnership

- ✚ Promote biomass energy development
- ✚ Facilitate project opportunities
- ✚ Build partnerships
- ✚ Promote available state and federal resources and cost-sharing

Information Clearinghouse

- ✚ Biomass energy resources information
- ✚ Business contacts
- ✚ Program referrals
- ✚ Funding assistance
- ✚ Ongoing projects in the state

Public Outreach

- ✚ Program website
- ✚ Publications
- ✚ Electronic communications
- ✚ Networking
- ✚ Responding to inquiries

Collaboration

- ✚ Ohio Biomass Task Force
- ✚ Government agencies, educational institutions, and organizations on promotion of biomass, renewable, and distributed generation energy resources and coordination of development projects

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http://www.puc.state.oh.us/Puco/IndustryTopics/Topic.cfm?doc_id=329

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