



Ohio Biomass Energy Program

Fall 2006

Promoting the development of renewable energy resources in Ohio, including wood and agricultural residues; ethanol and biodiesel biofuels; landfill gas to energy; and energy crops.

PUCO Staff Submits Recommendations to the Commission with Regard to Federal Energy Policy Act

On Aug. 28, 2005 the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) submitted a report outlining recommendations to the Commission in response to provisions of the 2005 federal Energy Policy Act.

The Staff recommendations address the areas of net metering, smart metering, demand response, cogeneration, and small power production, and included:

- ◆ Development of an advanced energy portfolio standard for Ohio with stakeholder participation;
- ◆ Elimination of rules placing limits on net metering;
- ◆ Streamline the interconnection rules that will allow for simplified applications and fee schedules;
- ◆ Establish the Commission as a liaison to self-generators of power for interpreting tariff provisions and facilitating interconnections processes; and
- ◆ Further examination of advanced metering infrastructure technologies.

A public comment period followed issuance of the Staff recommendations. The case is currently under review by the Commission

In 2005, Governor Bob Taft directed the PUCO to work with parties to implement measures to promote new and alternative energy source. The PUCO hosted a series of four technical conferences for interested parties to learn more about the topics under the Commission's review. Comments from parties were used to develop the recommendations in the staff report.

A copy of the PUCO Staff report and public comments filed in response are available at www.PUCO.ohio.gov. Click on the link to the Docketing Information System and enter the case number 05-1500-EL-COI. ◆

The Ohio State University's 2006 Farm Science Review

The annual Farm Science Review agricultural fair was held from Sept. 19-21 in London, Ohio. The PUCO and the Biomass Energy Program joined approximately 600 exhibitors from all over North America at this year's event.

In addition to exhibits and organizations promoting ethanol and biodiesel fuels, there were numerous vendors of outdoor wood boilers, corn furnaces and indoor corn and wood pellet stoves. The growing interest in this equipment, especially in

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*The Ohio Biomass Energy Program newsletter is available electronically. If you would like to receive an electronic copy in your e-mail, send an e-mail to listserv@lists.puc.state.oh.us with a blank subject line and the following in the body of the message: *subscribe ohio_biomass yourfirstname yourlastname.**

The Ohio Biomass Energy Program

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(Farm Science Review, continued from cover)

rural areas where the biomass sources are grown, is being fueled by many factors such as rising propane, natural gas and oil prices.

Gov. Bob Taft announced his support for the “25 x 25” national energy initiative, which calls for 25 percent of the nation’s energy used to be from renewable resources by 2025. For more information about the initiative, visit www.25x25.org.

The governor also outlined current state initiatives to encourage the development of renewable energy sources in Ohio, including the PUCO review of policies with regard to alternative energy and distributed generation, a proposed wind production incentive, increasing the use of E85 ethanol and biodiesel and purchase of flexible fuel vehicles in the state fleet, and incentives for increasing the number of fueling stations offering alternative fuels throughout the state.

More information about the Farm Science Review, including pictures from this year’s event, is available at <http://fsr.osu.edu>. ♦

Ohio: Securing America’s Energy Future Report Published

On March 3, 2006 more than 100 energy experts gathered in Columbus, Ohio for a workshop cosponsored by Sen. George V. Voinovich and Ohio University’s Consortium for Energy, Economics and the Environment (CE3) to engage in a dialogue on Ohio’s energy challenges and opportunities, and to identify diverse, potential energy measures for Ohio. These measures include the areas of fossil fuels and nuclear power, transportation, sustainable development, clean alternative energy technologies, and energy education, with a particular focus on those that offer environmental and economic development benefits.



(Graphic courtesy of Ohio University)

The report titled “Ohio: Securing America’s Energy Future, Options for Increasing Ohio’s role in Our Nation’s Energy Independence” was published in September 2006 and sets forth recommendations identified during the March meeting.

Among the recommendations were that “Ohio should consider adopting a renewable energy portfolio standard



ABOVE: The Public Utilities Commission was represented at a booth at the Farm Science Review. During the Review, staff distributed information and answered questions about the PUCO, Biomass Energy Program, and Ohio Power Siting Board.

LEFT: The Farm Science Review showcased many new technologies and products to promote alternative fuels including biodiesel.

(Photos by Scott Blake, PUCO)

(RPS) with a modest goal requiring 5 percent of all electricity be generated from renewable energy by 2020.” The report noted that increased reliance on renewable sources of energy is important to increasing and diversifying Ohio’s energy supply to meet its projected rise in energy demand.

Ohio’s bioenergy resources were highlighted in the report, including ethanol, biodiesel, biogas production from agricultural wastes and landfills, and cellulosic technologies under development.

For more information, a full version of the report is available at www.voinovichcenter.ohiou.edu. ♦

\$2.2 Million Available in Ohio Energy Grants

On Sept. 7, 2006 Lt. Gov. Bruce Johnson announced the availability of new state Energy Loan Fund grants for advanced energy technologies and energy efficiency.

The distributed energy resources portion of the solicitation covers projects utilizing clean burning and renewable electric generation projects including, but not limited to, industrial heat recovery, combined heat and power, and landfill or biomass methane. Projects from commercial, industrial, institutional and local government are eligible for funding under this section.

Another portion of the solicitation focuses on non-residential renewable energy projects limited to solar electric, wind electric and solar thermal systems.

The initiative also covers projects that implement energy efficiency in manufacturing and small business facilities in Ohio.

Finally, the initiative will focus on the installation of solar photovoltaic systems on new homes in subdivisions.

To be eligible, applicants and projects must be located in the service territory of one of Ohio's four investor-owned electrical utilities: FirstEnergy, Dayton Power and Light, American Electric Power, and Duke Energy. Grant applicants will be accepted and reviewed on a first-come-first-served basis until all funds have been distributed.

Additional information about the grant program administered by the Ohio Department of Development's Office of Energy Efficiency is available online at www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oe/elfgrant.htm. ♦

DOE Offers \$250 Million for Two Bioenergy Research Centers

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced in August that its Office of Science, Genomics: GTL Program will award a total of \$250 million to establish and operate two new Bioenergy Research Centers to accelerate research toward the development of cellulosic ethanol, hydrogen and other biofuels.

Universities, national laboratories, nonprofit organizations, private firms, and consortia comprised of partnerships of two or more institutions are eligible to compete to be named one of the Bioenergy Research Centers. Potential applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of intent by Dec. 5, 2006, and the deadline for proposals is Feb. 1, 2007. The DOE expects to select the centers in late summer 2007, and the centers are expected to be operational by fiscal year 2009.

The grant announcement does not include funding for construction of new buildings. Each center will be funded for up to \$125 million over five years: \$25 million in the first year for start-up costs and up to \$25 million per year for operations during the subsequent four years.

A major focus of the centers will be on efficient conversion of plant fiber, or cellulose, from grasses or agricultural residues into ethanol. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires that 7.5 billion gallons of renewable fuel be blended into the nation's fuel supply by 2012. Last year, 4 billion gallons of ethanol were produced, mainly from corn crops.



Switchgrass, a common cellulose biomass feedstock.

(Graphic courtesy of Genomics: GTL Transforming Cellulosic Biomass, US DOE)

Information about the funding announcement is available at <http://genomicsgtl.energy.gov/centers>. ♦

USDA Awards \$17.5 Million for Rural Development, Four Ohio Projects Awarded Grants

On Aug. 30, 2006, The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the award of \$17.5 million in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program Grants to 375 recipients in 36 states.

Prospective applicants for the 2007 USDA Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program grants are encouraged to begin preparation for the next solicitation in the spring.

Four Ohio projects were awarded grants for the 2006 solicitation:

- ♦ Enviroscope EMC, LTD, for purchase of pelletizing and heating equipment to be used for pelletizing waste straw;
- ♦ Myron Wehr Farms, LLC, for the replacement of a grain dryer with a high-efficiency model;
- ♦ Tusco Display, for energy efficient lighting replacements; and
- ♦ Tusco Display, for replacement of a natural gas furnace with a geothermal heat pump.

The 2002 Farm Bill authorized the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program. Awards are made on a competitive basis for the purchase of renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements, and can be used to pay up to 25 percent of the eligible project costs. Eligible recipients of the funding include agricultural producers or rural small businesses, and funding cannot be used for residential projects. Additionally, the program provides loan guarantees up to \$10 million to fund up to 50 percent of eligible projects.

Projects may 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.

Prospective Ohio applicants for the 2007 program are encouraged to contact the USDA Rural Development Office in Columbus now to begin preparation for the next solicitation in the spring. Contact Randy Monhemius for additional information and assistance with the application at (614) 255-2424 or randy.monhemius@oh.usda.gov. ♦

Save the Date: Upcoming Biomass Events

Ohio Solar Tour

Presented by: Green Energy Ohio, part of the ASES
National Solar Tour
Oct. 7-8, 2006
Tours scheduled in 18 locations throughout Ohio
www.greenenergyohio.org

Green Energy Center: Luncheon and Program

Presented by: Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio
Oct. 8, 2006
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Grove City, Ohio

The event is free and open to the public

Advancing Renewable Energy Conference

Presented by: U.S. Department of Energy and U.S.
Department of Agriculture
Oct. 10-12, 2006
St. Louis, Mo.
www.AdvancingRenewableEnergy.com

Seeding our Future: Clean Energy Development in the Next Farm Bill

Presented by: Environmental Law and Policy Center
Oct. 17-18, 2006
Des Moines, Iowa
www.farmenergy.org

Renewable Energy from Organics Recycling

Presented by: BioCycle; Co-sponsored by Great
Lakes Biomass Regional Partnership
Oct. 30 - Nov. 1, 2006
Minneapolis, Minn.
www.biocycle.net

The Great Lakes Biomass Regional Partnership is co-sponsor of this BioCycle Conference on Renewable Energy from Organics Recycling. This conference will bring together representatives from industry, universities, and the private sector to learn about the best systems for producing renewable energy through bioproducts.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

