

# Ohio Biomass Energy Program

Winter 2008

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.

## Strickland promotes advanced energy and jobs in State of the State

In his recent State of the State address, Gov. Ted Strickland proposed a \$1.7 billion jobs stimulus package to create more than 80,000 jobs. The Ohio Jobs Package includes the issuance of bonds to invest in the state's energy economy. The plan's investments include:

- ◆ \$250 million in the advanced and renewable energy economy, including solar, wind and clean coal
- ◆ \$100 million in bioproducts that use renewable sources instead of petroleum to create plastics and other products

Governor Strickland has given high priority to energy issues from the start of his term, including:

- ◆ Appointing Mark Shanahan, Executive Director of the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority, as Energy Advisor
- ◆ Mandating energy conservation in state facilities and the increased use of biofuels in state vehicles
- ◆ Focusing policies toward job creation and business development in next-generation energy production

- ◆ Promoting his Energy, Jobs and Progress Plan in pending legislation in order to stabilize electric rates and service reliability, and create jobs through an Ohio advanced energy portfolio standard



Senate Bill 221, the legislation comparable to the Governor's plan dealing with electricity market regulatory policy and an advanced energy portfolio standard, is pending in the Ohio House of Representatives following unanimous passage by the Ohio Senate in October. The House Public Utilities Committee has held more than 10 hearings on the bill since November and PUCO Chairman Alan R. Schriber recently provided testimony in support of the bill.

In February, Ohio House Speaker Jon Husted announced an alternative proposal for an advanced energy portfolio standard separate from the electricity market regulatory measures. House Bill 487 sponsored by Rep. Jim McGregor (R-Gahanna) was introduced on Feb. 21, and committee hearings on both bills have been scheduled.

To view a copy of SB 221 or HB 487, visit the Ohio General Assembly Web site at [www.legislature.state.oh.us](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us).

### The Ohio Biomass Energy Program

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

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## Ohio ethanol production growing

Two corn-based ethanol plants are now operating in Ohio. The Poet Biorefining plant in Putnam County produces 60 million gallons annually, and The Andersons plant in Darke County produces 110 million gallons each year.

Three additional plants are near operation, including the 60 million gallon Coshocton plant in Coshocton County, Greater Ohio Ethanol's 54 million gallon plant in Allen County, and VeraSun Energy's 110 million gallon plant in Fayette County. Two other plants are under construction in Marion and Seneca Counties, according to the Ohio Department of Development.

The federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 set a national renewable fuel goal of blending 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel per year by 2022, including 21 billion gallons of advanced biofuels. These fuels include

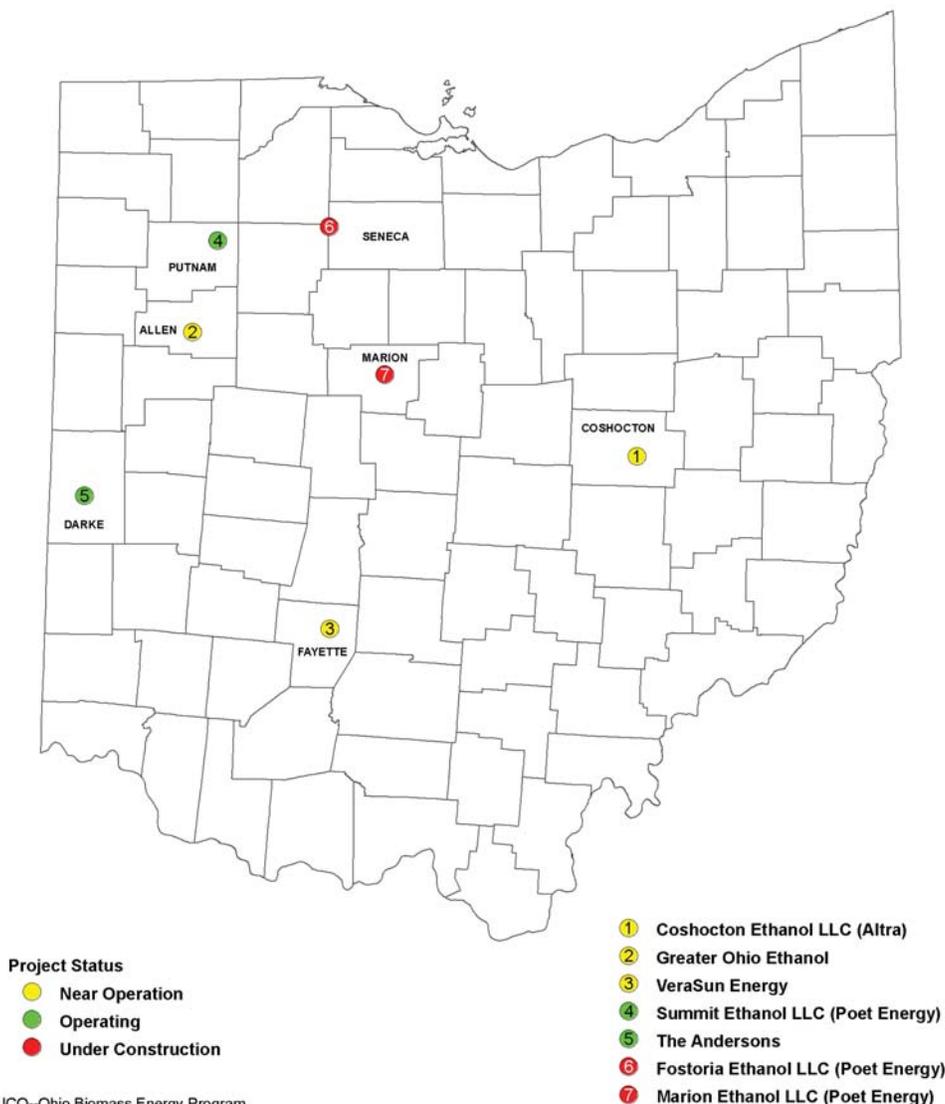


cellulosic ethanol and biofuels derived from biomass feedstocks other than corn starch that offer a 50 percent reduction in life cycle greenhouse gas emissions.

In January, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it will invest up to \$114 million over four years in four small-scale biorefinery projects to be located in Colorado, Missouri, Oregon and Wisconsin. These ten percent of commercial-scale biorefineries will use a wide variety of feedstocks and test conversion technologies to provide data necessary to bring online full-size, commercial-scale biorefineries to produce transportation biofuels. Feedstocks will include wood residues, agricultural and forest product residues, corn fiber, corn stover and switch grass. DOE may select a second round of small-scale projects later this spring.

These projects are part of over \$1 billion DOE has announced within the last year for multi-year biofuels research and development projects, including up to \$385 million for the development of six commercial-scale biorefineries focusing on near-term commercial processes to expand the domestic fuel supply.

Ohio Ethanol Production



## Oberlin College leads in sustainability

In the November/December 2007 issue of Sierra magazine, Ohio's Oberlin College was ranked number one in the country among schools for its green achievements. The magazine noted a number of Oberlin's accomplishments:

- ◆ One-third of the food served in its dining halls is produced locally.
- ◆ The school hosts the first car-sharing program in Ohio.
- ◆ Half of its electricity comes from green sources.
- ◆ A monitoring system tracks electricity consumption in 17 dorms, and a dorm energy reduction competition was held last year.

For more information, visit the Oberlin College Office of Environmental Sustainability Web site, [www.oberlin.edu/sustainability](http://www.oberlin.edu/sustainability).

## First Lego League competition focuses on energy

This winter, 2,000 students from across Ohio explored energy production, consumption and efficiency through the FIRST Lego® League (FLL), an inter-disciplinary program created to engage elementary and middle school students in math, science and technology. FLL combines engineering, computer programming, problem-solving, presentation skills and teamwork into an intense 8-week study period.

Guided by adult mentors, FLL students work in teams to solve real-world challenges, develop important life skills and learn to make positive contributions to society. Each team develops a research project and builds and programs a robot designed to complete tasks on a competition table. Teams compete in a spectator environment and meet with a series of judges who evaluate their robot design, research project, and teamwork.



This year's competition theme was "Power Puzzle," and regional qualifying events hosting 184 teams were held across Ohio. Once the field was narrowed, 48 teams battled it out for the chance to be number one at the state championship event held in January at Wright State University's Nutter Center.

For their research project, teams were required to select a building in their community and evaluate the energy use by performing a building energy audit. Teams proposed solutions to reduce energy consumption or use alternative energy and then shared their ideas with the community to encourage implementation.

In the robot competition, teams were given specific challenges related to energy management and conservation. Teams attempted to solve as many missions as they could with their robots in a 2.5 minute robot round. This year, Ohio Champion's Award went to the Energizer Monkeys of Reading, Ohio who will go on to compete in the Open Minnesota Championship this spring. The Cougars of Columbus won the top Robot Performance Award.



Ohio has a history of success in FLL. The 2006 state champion Mindstorm Troopers team from Westerville went on to the FLL World Championship in Atlanta where they tied for first place in the robot performance award and third place overall.

In May 2009, Ohio is privileged to be the host of a national FIRST Lego League open tournament. Next year's theme will focus on climate changes issues. Businesses who are interested in being a sponsor for this event should contact the Ohio FIRST Lego League Director, Kathy Levine of Wright Patterson Air Force Base Education Outreach at (937) 255-5259, Kathleen.levine@wpafb.af.mil.

## Ohio announces B20 biodiesel school bus grant program

In January, Lee Fisher, lieutenant governor and director of the Ohio Department of Development, announced a new grant program to help school districts, county mental retardation and developmental disabilities agencies and other local K-12 agencies pay for the incremental costs of purchasing B20 fuel. The program is part of a larger state effort to promote the use of domestic, renewable fuel resources.



B20 fuel is a cleaner-burning blend of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petroleum diesel. B20 reduces carbon monoxide emissions, particulate matter and sulfates and can be used in diesel engines without modification.

The B20 school bus grant funding notice is available on the Ohio Department of Development Web site at [www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oe/transportation.htm](http://www.odod.state.oh.us/cdd/oe/transportation.htm).

The maximum grant award is \$25,000, and applicants are asked to provide information about their fleets, refueling practices and estimates of the amount of B20 fuel to be consumed. Complete applications will be funded first come-first served on a reimbursement basis within four weeks of approval. Total funding for the B20 grant program is set at \$250,000 for fiscal year 2008 and another \$250,000 for fiscal year 2009.

In addition, the Ohio Soybean Council is engaged in a Clean Air for Kids campaign. The Council is providing educational materials and opportunities for schools. Contact Tom Fontana at [tfontana@soyohio.org](mailto:tfontana@soyohio.org) for additional information or visit [www.soybiodiesel.org/kids](http://www.soybiodiesel.org/kids).

## Save the date: Upcoming biomass events

### **Bioenergy North America 2008**

Presented by: SCC Americas

March 27-28, 2008

Chicago, Ill.

[www.environmental-finance.com](http://www.environmental-finance.com)

### **Biomass 08**

Presented by: BBI International

April 15-17, 2008

Minneapolis, Minn.

[www.biomassconference.com](http://www.biomassconference.com)

### **2008 Ohio Fuel Cell Symposium**

Presented by: Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition

May 13-14, 2008

Akron, Ohio

[www.fuelcellcorridor.com](http://www.fuelcellcorridor.com)

### **2008 International Fuel Ethanol Workshop and Expo**

Presented by: BBI International

June 16-19, 2008

Nashville, Tenn.

[www.fuelethanolworkshop.com](http://www.fuelethanolworkshop.com)

### **Short Rotation Crops International Conference**

Abstract submission deadline: April 4, 2008

Presented by: University of Minnesota

August 18-22, 2008

Bloomington, Minn.

[www.cinram.umn.edu](http://www.cinram.umn.edu)

### **16<sup>th</sup> European Biomass Conference and Exhibition**

June 2-6, 2008

Feria Valencia, Spain

[www.conference-biomass.com](http://www.conference-biomass.com)

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