THE NATIONAL BIOMASS PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES UPDATE

May 2006

Connecticut
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Connecticut has spent one year implementing the State's 2005 Climate Action Plan, and the first annual report on progress, including success stories, was completed in February 2006. (See link below.) Measures in the plan that relate to bioenergy include: a pilot program using B20 for heating; installing centralized manure digesters; and support for economically viable landfill gas to energy projects.
http://www.ctclimatechange.com/documents/TakingActionwithBookmarks.pdf

Indiana
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Indiana reached another milestone in biofuels availability as Governor Mitch Daniels, joined by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, United States Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman and executives from General Motors and Meijer, opened Indiana's 30th public E85 pump at a Meijer store in Indianapolis and announced plans for 19 additional E85 pumps across the state.
http://www.in.gov/serv/presscal?PF=lgov2&Clist=200&Elist=86442

Kentucky
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April 17, 2006 – Eastern Kentucky Power Cooperative, Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative, and Hardin County officials dedicated Kentucky's latest landfill gas to electricity plant at the Pearl Hollow landfill near Elizabethtown, KY. The plant's three generators provide 2.4 MW of continuous power and there are plans to increase capacity to 4.0 MW in the next few years.

Louisiana
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The Louisiana House of Representatives passed a bill setting minimum requirements for the use of ethanol or biodiesel in fuel. It was noted as a major advance for economic and environmental efforts in the state. The bill (H.B. 685) now goes to the Senate for consideration. The legislation sets minimum standards for ethanol or biodiesel in Louisiana gas and diesel fuels once a certain amount of the renewable fuels are produced in the state. Similar laws are currently in place in Minnesota, Hawaii and Montana.
http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/aboutldaf/presscenter/pressreleases/pressrelease.asp?id=552

Maryland
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The Maryland State Legislature has passed the following legislation that supports biomass: The Agriculture Stewardship Act (H.B. 2): Allows harvesting of cover crops for energy purposes; and a State fleet biodiesel fuel usage mandate (S.B. 54): Requires that by 2008 the State fleet use B5 in at least 50% of all diesel vehicles.

Nevada
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The "Nevada Woody Biomass Workshop: Today's Challenges, Planning for Tomorrow" is a two-day event being held on June 27 and 28, 2006. It is designed for local, state, tribal and federal leaders. Information will be shared on current issues, successes, emerging technologies, future opportunities, and plans for biomass outreach to stakeholders.
http://www.wflcweb.org/about/Biomassworkshopregistration.pdf

Ohio
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Alternative Fuels Legislation: Ohio H.B. 245 cleared the Ohio legislature on May 9, and will be sent to the Governor. The measure contains requirements for state fleet purchases of alternative fuel vehicles; establishes an alternative fuel transportation grant program for the purchase and installation of alternative fuel refueling facilities; allows school districts, municipalities and other fleets to apply for biofuels grants; and authorizes tax credits against corporation franchise and income tax liability for selling ethanol blended gasoline and for installing E85 fuel pumps.

US Virgin Islands
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The draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Virgin Islands Energy Office and the newly formed Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, to implement the activity described last month is being processed for final signature. The activity is to assess the feasibility of the collection and cleaning of landfill biogas, and to use the information to design a Landfill Gas Collection and Control System, Waste Water Treatment Plant, and a Distributed Generation System, to maximize the use of available biogas resources.

West Virginia
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Conceptual Review of West Virginia Biorefinery Options and Preliminary Economic Feasibility: MATRIC, together with the West Virginia Development Office, is undertaking two studies related to biomass conversion. The funding is being provided by the Southeastern Regional Biomass Energy Partnership (www.serbep.org) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy. The studies will examine the economic feasibility of biodiesel production in West Virginia and evaluate opportunities for biorefinery operations in the state. The main objective of the biodiesel study will be to analyze the economic feasibility of a West Virginia biodiesel industry, which could be impacted by the existing manufacturing and chemical production infrastructure. West Virginia produces significant quantities of wood byproducts that could serve

as a raw material for biorefinery operation. The goal of this study will be to identify the most promising outlets for biomass utilization using the biorefinery concept.

Economic Feasibility Study of Biodiesel Production in West Virginia Using Chemical Industry Infrastructure: A team of senior mechanical engineering students from West Virginia University studied the use of alternate fuels to generate steam at Cytec Corporation during the spring semester. Natural gas price increases have forced companies to look at alternate energy sources. The use of available wood resources was assessed with the help of the Appalachian Hardwood Center at the university. A fluidized bed boiler system was designed using wood waste as the primary fuel and found to be economically feasible from an economic and environmental aspect. Further studies will be conducted. The project was supported by the West Virginia Development Office.