

THE NATIONAL BIOMASS PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES UPDATE

October – December 2006

Alabama

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The grand opening was held October 20 for the Jenkins Brick plant in Moody, Alabama that will use landfill gas to fuel its brick kilns. This is the first time a major U.S. manufacturing facility has been sited and built next to a landfill, specifically to use the landfill gas as fuel. Landfill gas will provide 40% of the \$56 million manufacturing plant's energy needs. As the landfill grows over the next 10 years, it is projected the landfill will be able to provide 100% of the plant's energy needs. Jenkins Brick Company, headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama has been using clean-burning landfill gas to fuel its Montgomery brick plant since 1998. The success of this project convinced Jenkins management to build its next manufacturing facility to take advantage of local landfill gas. The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs - Energy, Weatherization and Technology Division will host a workshop for manufacturers later this year to promote landfill gas as a viable alternative source of energy for their manufacturing processes. www.adeca.alabama.gov/EWT

The Energy, Weatherization and Technology (EWT) Division in partnership with the University of Alabama in Huntsville - Alabama Technology Network Center hosted a wood waste/landfill gas workshop entitled "Using Wood Waste and Landfill Gas to Produce Energy" on Thursday, November 30, 2006. The workshop included information on opportunities for businesses to receive financial assistance from ADECA to use energy from wood waste and landfills. The workshop included speakers from Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Jenkins Brick Company and others. The workshop concluded with a tour of the Jenkins Brick Company Montgomery plant that utilizes landfill gas in the manufacture of bricks.

Arkansas

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Legislative Activity: The Arkansas Bioenergy Policy Council Technical Advisory Committee met on October 16 to finalize the Committee's bioenergy legislation recommendations in preparation for presentation to the policy council on Nov. 6.

Commercial Biofuels Production: The state's two biorefineries continued expansion plans to increase biodiesel production at both sites. Across northern Arkansas, wood pellet and other biofuels production facilities using mill residues were completing facilities construction and beginning initial production.

Biofuel Distribution Infrastructure: On the SERBEP funded Central Arkansas Biodiesel Infrastructure Project, participating public fleets began initial purchases of biodiesel under project provisions.

R&D: Trial planting of canola as a winter energy crop was conducted; and early germination and growth results look promising.

Colorado

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Community and Industry Forum on Beetle Kill: U.S. Senator Ken Salazar and the Energy Office co-hosted a forum to inform Colorado mountain community officials on options for removal and productive use of beetle kill timber.

Idaho

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A recent biodiesel feasibility report in the Treasure Valley area is now available.
http://www.idwr.state.id.us/energy/alternative_fuels/FeasibilityStudy.pdf

Illinois

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The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity hosted two one-day workshops aimed at informing and educating Illinois' dairy, swine, and other livestock operations about methane production and power generation from livestock manure. Important issues discussed included: Illinois manure management requirements; the role of anaerobic digestion in reducing air, water, and land quality impacts; integrating combined heat and power (CHP) technologies with anaerobic digesters; and economic, environmental, and financial considerations.

Indiana

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There was a ceremonial groundbreaking at the BioTown Technology Suite in November. The Technology Suite will incorporate gasification, digestion, and pyrolysis of biomass to create electricity, gas, and bio-oil. Paul Cummings will be presenting on BioTown at the Annual BioCycle Conference in Minnesota.

There was a Combined Heat and Power conference in Jasper, IN on Dec. 11. The conference focused on utilizing animal wastes to get energy via digestion and gasification.
http://www.in.gov/isda/pubs/indiana_workshop_dec11.pdf

Michigan

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A request for proposals was distributed for the Biofuels Infrastructure Project Grant Program in support of P.A. 274 of 2006. Two nonprofit organizations, NextEnergy Center and Clean Energy Coalition, were awarded a total of \$200,000 in incentive funds to distribute, and \$50,000 in administrative funds. A statewide announcement on application availability for interested service stations is planned for late October. Also in September, six service stations were awarded \$50,000 in incentives to install and open E85 or B20 refueling systems by December 31, 2006.

Michigan Biomass Energy Program staff hosted a meeting to discuss a grant proposal that will explore opportunities for woody biomass use in Michigan; specifically for use in boiler operations.

MBEP awarded a grant in support of the 2007 Michigan "Harvesting Clean Agri-Energy Conference". The goal of this conference is to lead the agricultural industry to adopt energy technologies and management practices that reduce production costs and minimize negative environmental impacts, while improving economic sustainability. Some session topics include anaerobic digestion, plant biomass opportunities, biofuels, and energy efficiency.

www.michigan.gov/biomass

North Carolina

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NC Biomass Council Committee meetings have been held developing background information used for creating a North Carolina Biomass Roadmap. The NC Biomass Council has three committees: policy outreach, biopower, and biofuels. The NC Roadmap will consist of the following major elements: baseline energy mix for NC, current policies/incentives, potential biomass resources, and action items to achieve biomass goals.

The NC Biomass Council held a workshop to describe and rank North Carolina proposed biomass and biofuel policies, technologies, and partners. This meeting was attended by a cross section of agribusiness, research, and public agency partners. An early version of the NC Biomass Roadmap has been circulated for review. The Roadmap contains a profile of NC Biomass potential and explanations of initiatives necessary to expand the use of biomass in NC.

A dedication event for a “redesigned landfill” occurred and was held in western NC. A landfill in Dillsboro is using methane to provide heat for biodiesel production from vegetable oils, run a blacksmith forge, and heat greenhouses. The million gallon per year biodiesel operation will provide enough fuel for Jackson County government fleet use, neighboring Cherokee Reservation transit vehicles, and possibly Great Smoky Mountain National Park vehicles.

A NC Biofuels Strategic Planning effort is being coordinated through NCSU, NCA&T, the NC BioTech Center, and the NC Rural Development Center as a result of NC Legislative directive. A large group of biofuels related research partners and agencies has met and drafted initial guidelines and recommendations for a NC Biofuels Strategic Plan. Additional meetings are planned to refine the document and clarify recommendations.

Ohio

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An inaugural meeting of the Ohio Renewable Energy Summit was held on November 18 in Columbus at The Ohio State University. Speakers included representatives of the 25 x '25 Initiative, Tom Dorr, Under Secretary, USDA Rural Development, and Bob Dineen, President, Renewable Fuels Association. www.25x25.org

Oklahoma

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OK Governor's Conference on Biofuels: The Governor sponsored a highly successful Conference designed to present information on biofuels potential for the state. The Conference served as an excellent forum for networking among individuals and groups interested in pursuing many different aspects of biofuels from agriculture through refining and distribution

Oregon

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Biomass Energy and Biofuels from Oregon's Forests: This study examines the implications of using woody biomass from thinning overcrowded forests as a renewable source of energy, which at the same time could help restore forest health, reduce the vulnerability of forests to fire and revitalize rural economies. http://www.oregonforests.org/media/pdf/Biomass_Full_Report.pdf

South Carolina

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A grand opening of the second biodiesel production facility in South Carolina was held on Friday, October 27th. Southeast BioDiesel will use waste cooking grease as its primary feedstock and will produce 4 to 6 million gallons a year. The facility will be located in North Charleston in an area formerly occupied by a naval base. www.sebd.biz

South Dakota

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North Central Feedstock Partnership Report: South Dakota State University Sun Grant Center has released a report summarizing the North Central Feedstock Partnership Meeting held in SD in August.

Tennessee

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In late 2005, Memphis Biofuels LLC was formed with the intent to develop a biodiesel production facility that has an annual capacity of 36 million gallons per year, with the capability to increase that production to 100 million gallons. The plant became operational in September 2006. Memphis Biofuels LLC will be a BQ-9000 certified plant operating within the guidelines set forth by the National Biodiesel Board. Memphis Biofuels LLC sets itself apart in the newly emerging biodiesel industry by their access to all forms of transportation. We have direct access to all five Class A railroads in the United States, along with access to the Mississippi River and major interstate highways. Memphis Biofuels LLC also differentiates themselves from other biodiesel producers by its analytical capabilities. We have a full service lab on site, capable of performing the full battery of ASTM-D6751 tests. We will have over 750,000 gallons of storage capacity for finished biodiesel. Lots will be certified in 250,000 gallon increments to make movement of large volumes easier for our customers. Memphis Biofuels LLC will provide consistent quality fuel that meets our customer's demand. We look forward to fueling America's economy with American fuel. <http://www.memphisbiofuels.com/>

Washington

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The number of well financed proposed ethanol and biodiesel facilities has soared since passage of the renewable fuels standard legislation in April 2006. They are in various stages of development. The current list includes 380 million gallons per year of ethanol and 270 million gallons per year of biodiesel (27% of Washington's middle distillate consumption).

West Virginia

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Biodiesel production in West Virginia is currently occurring through local co-ops and/or private individuals using opportunistic supplies of used cooking oil as feedstocks. These activities are encouraged, but such producers need to be sure the biodiesel they are making meets minimum specifications for its use. For many small producers this can be problematic. Simple diagnostic tests are needed to help small biodiesel producers achieve acceptable biodiesel quality.

A study is underway to determine if simple pyrolysis of used cooking oils is a practical way of turning these wastes into gasoline and/or diesel fuels. An alternative, also being studied, is to pyrolyze alkali salts of the fatty acids resulting from the complete hydrolysis of used cooking oils. There is literature precedent for these procedures but little information about their economic potential

Innovative Energy Opportunities in West Virginia Summit: On October 19, 2006 nearly 100 private sector and government policymakers attended a conference based on the Innovative Energy Opportunities in West Virginia report published by the Marshall University Center for Economic Research for the West Virginia Development Office. This report assesses the availability of alternative and renewable energy resources in the state of West Virginia. Like many states in the U.S., West Virginia has multiple non-traditional energy resources that are largely untapped. These resources include wind, waste coal, coal-bed methane, wood residue, landfill gas and other types of biomass waste such as chicken litter. The Summit featured presentations by West Virginia private and public organizations currently utilizing or supporting these technologies. A highlight of the Summit was the keynote address by David Garman, Undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Energy on DOE activities supporting renewable energy opportunities. <http://www.marshall.edu/cber/>

Wisconsin

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Facilitating the Development of a Biodiesel Industry Association: Progress has been made on creating a trade organization focusing on the needs of the emerging biodiesel industry in Wisconsin. The group has established a Steering committee and a number of issue committees – Policy, Transportation and Logistics, Education, and Financial – that meet monthly. They hope to have draft legislation ready for the next session of the legislature.

On December 14th, Wisconsin's Agricultural Innovations Center will host an Ag Venture Fair focusing on the emerging bioeconomy. The program is intended for farmers, industry professionals and potential investors in companies that produce bio-based fuels, energy, chemicals and material products. Major conference sponsors include Badger Ag Vest, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

www.power.wisconsin.gov

Great Lakes Region

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The Great Lakes Biomass State and Regional Partnership (GLBSRP) hosted an informational/educational display at the fifteenth annual I-Renew Energy Expo held in Solon, Iowa. This renewable energy fair drew over 2,000 people from Iowa and throughout the Midwest. In addition to workshops and exhibit booths, the Fair featured an alternative vehicle show with E-85 and biodiesel vehicles and several live demonstrations of biomass combustion equipment. The Partnership has participated in the fair since its inception.

<http://www.irenew.org/>

Hawaii, Oregon and Washington

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Biomass Assessments & Inventories: These 3 states of the PRBEP have existing biomass inventories and assessments. Hawaii is updating its 2002 study. For further information and those working on the Regional Feedstock Partnership please contact each state or Dave Sjoding for the PRBEP perspective.

Northwest States – ID, MT, OR & WA

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Harvesting Clean Energy Conference: Planning for the Seventh Annual Harvesting Clean Energy Conference continues. It will be held in Boise, Idaho January 29-30, 2007. Plenary: How much can we harvest? Dave Sjoding; Key bioenergy tracks include: 1) Ethanol; 2) Forest Biomass to Energy – ID Gerald Fleischmann; 3) Money from carbon – Chad Kruger of WSU; 4) Cellulosic Biorefineries – INL; 5) Owning it ourselves – ID Gerry Galinato; 6) State Policy; 7) Biodiesel I – ID John Crockett; 8) Biogas Digester I - Chad Kruger of WSU; 9) Working with your utility – ID & Northwest CHP Application Center Jeff Brooks; 10) Biodiesel II; 11) Biogas Digesters II; 12) Making Clean Energy Projects Happen; and 13) Renewable energy & the Farm Bill. <http://www.harvestcleanenergy.org/index.html>

Pacific Region

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PRBEP will hold its peer meeting in conjunction with the Seventh Annual Harvesting Clean Energy Conference. <http://www.pacificbiomass.org/>