

**NRBP Update**  
**November 5, 2002**

**Upcoming Meetings, Workshops and Conferences**

Vermont Partners Meeting, November 20, 2002, Burlington, VT  
Contact Paul Frederick (pfrederick@fpr.anr.state.vt.us)

Dedication of new biomass heating system at Mount Wachusett Community College,  
December 2, 2002, Gardner, MA. Contact Rob Rizzo (rizzo@mwcc.mass.edu)

Massachusetts Biomass Working Group Meeting, December 10, 2002.  
Contact Howard Bernstein (howard.bernstein@state.ma.us)

Delaware Biomass Consortium Meeting, January 7, 2003, Dover, DE.  
Contact Dot Abbott-Donnelly (dotad@udel.edu)

**NRBP Completes Report on Bio-Oil as a Replacement for Heating Oil**

The report, "Assessment of Bio-Oil as a Replacement for Heating Oil," is intended to be a first cut assessment of the potential for future development of regional bio-oil production and markets. Although bio-oil has a number of physical characteristics that differ from conventional petroleum-based fuel oil, including lower energy content per gallon and higher acidity, tests and demonstrations to date indicate that bio-oil should be a reasonable fuel for applications such as heating. There are a number of programs or market areas where the renewable nature of bio-oil may make it a viable option for nearer-term applications in heating commercial/institutional-scale buildings. These programs or market areas include federal buildings (where there are specific targets/requirements to increase the use of renewable energy sources), commercial-scale buildings/complexes that are targets of a new federal initiative to facilitate biomass fueled "super" energy saving performance contracts (ESPCs), state programs that are designed to encourage renewable energy use at state-owned facilities, and municipal governments (or institutions such as universities) that have formally adopted policies to reduce the net greenhouse gas emissions from their facilities. The report is available on the NRBP's web site:  
[www.nrbp.org](http://www.nrbp.org)

**NRBP Speaks on Biomass at Two Northeast Meetings**

The NRBP was a feature presenter at two energy-related conferences in October. The Regional Department of Energy State Energy Program (SEP) meeting held an afternoon session on Biomass: New Technologies for Traditional Fuels. The NRBP's director gave a status report on biomass conversion technologies and provided examples of cases where states are expanding the use of renewable biomass fuels. The Regional SEP meeting is an opportunity for state energy officials to share experiences and address barriers to program development. The biomass technology information was provided to help state energy officials feel more comfortable with how bioenergy systems can work, and meet multiple state goals, such as economic development,

greenhouse gas reduction, and energy diversity goals. The NRBP's director was also a featured presenter at the initial Renewable Energy Vermont conference. An overflow crowd of over 200 attended the conference in Montpelier that also featured a debate on renewable energy by the four candidates for Governor. The NRBP's director provided an overview of biomass energy benefits on a panel with the State Air Bureau and the National Wildlife Federation.

### **NRBP Assists Maryland County**

Frederick County, Maryland, ranks first in state in milk production. In 2000, there were 27,000 head of milk cows in the county producing 405 million pounds of milk. Starting in 2004, dairy farms in Maryland will need to comply with new nutrient management regulations. These new regulations would place limits on the amount of certain nutrients that could be placed on the land. This may require that excess manure be processed and shipped out of the county to areas that can absorb the nutrients. Because of its experience with energy and co-product production from animal waste, the Maryland Department of Agriculture invited the NRBP to work with state and county officials to determine the best course of action for the county. With the state's and the NRBP's help, the county will begin to seek funding to conduct a feasibility study to determine if there is a need for an anaerobic digester system or systems to process dairy manure. The NRBP, with its experience at conducting studies and its contacts in the industry, will assist the county with the development of a proposed scope of work for a study. The NRBP also is discussing the possibility of acting as the study's project manager with the state and the county.

### **NRBP Hosts Brown Bag in Washington, D.C.**

The NRBP continues to host a Biomass Brown Bag Lunch at the Hall of the States Building in Washington, D.C. The attendance at the meetings, held about every four or five weeks has been increasing, with representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture, nonprofit organizations, and industry representatives. The Brown Bag Lunch is an informal gathering of Washington, D.C., area people who are interested in bioproducts and bioenergy. There is no formal agenda, the Brown Bag is an opportunity to meet and discuss current issues and to network.

### **Pennsylvania and Rhode Island Hold Working Group Meetings**

Pennsylvania held its second biomass working group meeting in October, with the thirty-member working group receiving updates from several members. The Department of Environmental Protection announced the Pennsylvania Environmental and Energy Challenge (PEEC) Grant awards for biomass. Biomass projects received nearly \$325,000 of the \$1.7 million awarded. The working group also received an update from the Clean Cities Program. The primary agenda item was the establishment of four working group subcommittees and staffing for the subcommittees. The four groups established are: biofuels, co-firing, biomass crops and resource assessment, and anaerobic digestion. The subgroups each selected a chairperson and will set goals and report back to the full working group in January.

Rhode Island held its first working group meeting also in October. The goal of the Rhode Island working group is to provide a forum for sharing information and evaluating state biomass

resources. Interest in using biodiesel for both transportation and heating fuel is high. The working group heard a presentation on the Warwick School District phase I biodiesel heating study. Issues raised at the meeting included the fate and transport of biodiesel and the potential of state tax incentives for renewable fuels. The next meeting of the working group is tentatively scheduled for spring.

### **Massachusetts Biomass Resource Report Available**

The Massachusetts Biomass Working Group recently completed a resource assessment for the Commonwealth: “The Woody Biomass Supply in Massachusetts: A Literature-Based Estimate.” The purpose of this report is to provide a snapshot, based on a review of relevant literature, of the woody biomass supply in Massachusetts. The intention of this "snapshot" is to build overall confidence in estimates of the statewide woody biomass supply, and to serve the needs of early market assessment by project developers.

The Supply Subcommittee estimates the current generation of woody biomass from residues in Massachusetts totals 2,481,308 tons per year. In addition, the forest resource within the Commonwealth is currently growing faster than it is being harvested. The additional wood volume that could be harvested without reducing the current volume of biomass in the forest was estimated to be 1,930,000 tons per year. These estimates are broken down and summarized in the report, indicating a total woody biomass supply of 4.41 million tons per year. The majority of the biomass residues (61%) are currently being recovered and utilized in a range of applications and markets such as landscaping, pulp and paper, and composites for manufacturing. The report is available on the NRBPs web site [www.nrbp.org](http://www.nrbp.org).