

THE NATIONAL BIOMASS PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES UPDATE

July 2006

Colorado

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Colorado has formed the E85 Coalition to increase awareness, availability and usage of E85. The E85 coalition will seek to double, from 10 to 20, the number of E85 pumping facilities over the next 12-18 months. The Coalition has funds available to support the installation or conversion of existing pumps. www.colorado.gov/oemc/programs/transportation/e-85_coalition

Connecticut

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BioPur Inc., of Bethlehem, CT, dedicated its new biodiesel production plant on July 10th, 2006. The plant will make biodiesel from soybean oil transported from the Maryland and Delaware area into Connecticut for processing. The plant will produce between 450,000 and 1.5 million gallons of biodiesel annually, depending on the demand and market growth.

Florida

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Governor Jeb Bush recently signed into law a four year, \$100 million plan to reduce Florida's dependence on imported oil, spur economic growth and increase Florida's investment in cleaner, alternative energy sources such as solar, hydrogen and biomass. The Florida Energy Act creates the Renewable Energy Technologies Grant Program, which provides matching grants for research and demonstration projects associated with the development of biomass energy, biogas, biofuels and other renewables. A Sales Tax Exemption and Investment Tax Credit are also established for infrastructure enhancements supporting biodiesel and ethanol production and distribution in the state. http://www.dep.state.fl.us/energy/fla_energy/energyact.htm

Hawaii

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Governor Lingle signed SB 2927 (Act 240), which facilitates the development of the Hawaii renewable fuels standards. A state government/private partnership of innovative collaboration is needed to meet the goals of the RFS. A Biofuels Summit will be held in August 2006. In addition, a Hawaii Agriculture Bioenergy Workshop will be held in October 2006. Both the summit and the workshop support the recent legislation. PRBEP and DOE are sponsors.

<http://www.hawaii.gov/lrb/legis06/passed06.pdf> and then scroll to page 37 of 95

Indiana

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The Ethanol Summit was held at the Indianapolis Colts Training facility on 6/28/2006. There were 76 people in attendance from local governments across the state. The purpose of the summit was to create E85 leadership at the local level. The summit focused on the purchase of Flex Fuel Vehicles for local fleets, and how to make E85 available to those vehicles.

Presentations: <http://www.in.gov/isda/pubs/index.html>

Kansas

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Drafting concept paper on biomass for use in 2007 Kansas Energy Plan -

<http://www.kansasenergy.org/kec.htm>

Kansas has passed a cellulosic ethanol incentive -

<http://www.kslegislature.org/supplemental/2006/CCRB303.pdf>

The State is funding feasibility studies for ethanol and biodiesel projects and promoting e85 locations - <http://www.e85fuel.com/database/locations.php?state=ks>

Kentucky

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Owensboro Grain officials broke ground on a 50 million gallon biodiesel plant in Owensboro, KY. The plant, one of the largest in the nation, is expected to be in full operation by mid 2007.

<http://www.kentuckycleanfuels.org/news/2006-5-owensborograin.html>

Massachusetts

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DOER and the Northeast Combined Heat and Power Initiative (NECHPI) are planning a joint Biomass Energy Working Group (BEWG)/NECHPI meeting for August 15 at Mt. Wachusett Community College (MWCC). The joint meeting will cover Biomass CHP topics, and be followed by a tour of the new MWCC CHP gasifier, and a BEWG working lunch. Agenda, directions and registration instructions will be available soon.

Also, The Massachusetts Farm Bureau will host a series of 3 workshops on Renewable Energy for Farms and Greenhouses. Topics include solar, wind, and biomass. The forums are scheduled for 7/26, 9/7, and 10/4. The events are open to anyone and the cost is \$20 per person.

<http://www.massfarmbureau.com/news.htm>

Michigan

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The Michigan Biomass Energy Program (MBEP) awarded an \$18,400 Biomass Energy Grant to the City of Ecorse to expand work on small batch biodiesel processing already in progress, and to lay the groundwork for a large-scale biodiesel processor. These projects will serve as an anchor for the City's EcoPark and brownfields redevelopment. This project will also focus on promoting biodiesel use within the City of Ecorse and neighboring communities.

MBEP awarded NextEnergy a \$62,500 Biofuels Infrastructure Grant to market, distribute, and publicize incentives for the retrofit of retail station pumps and for construction of new biofuels pumps to increase distribution and sales of biofuels in Michigan. This infrastructure incentive program is expected to create anywhere from 4 to 20 additional biofuels refueling locations, and to serve as a model for a larger-scale biofuels infrastructure incentive program, created by a legislative initiative.

MBEP published a 60-page report entitled, "Clean Energy from Wood Residues in Michigan", discussing the potential for using wood residues as an energy feedstock in Michigan. The report is available on the Michigan Biomass Program website. www.michigan.gov/biomass

Montana

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Several bioenergy meetings have recently been held including both the initial 25 X 25 meeting hosted by the Montana Farmers Union and a follow-up meeting sponsored by the American Corn Growers Association. In addition, the first of three Montana Biodiesel Production Workshops was held in Whitefish on June 13, 2006. The two other workshops will be in July in Havre and at MSU.

http://montanafarmersunion.com/archived_news/06_07_2006.htm - For 25 X 25
<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/Energy/bioenergy/biodieselConf/index.asp> - For biodiesel workshops

New York

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New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has issued a \$20 million Request for Proposals for “Construction of a Cellulosic Ethanol Pilot Production Facility.” **Proposals are due September 20th**. In order to be considered eligible, the proposed project must include the design, construction, commissioning, and three-year operation of a pilot facility for the production of transportation-grade ethanol from lignocellulosic biomass feedstocks available in New York.

A private corporation in a position to implement the commercialization plan must be a significant part of a team, preferably as the proposer.

<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/RFPS.html>

Nevada

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More than 100 people attended the Nevada Biomass Workshop, which addressed both woody and other biomass. Topics included innovations in harvesting biomass, emerging technologies for woody biomass use, funding opportunities, and a Stakeholders Round Table.

Ohio

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A new 50-acre ethanol production facility in Coshocton broke ground on July 11. Once completed, it is expected to create more than 40 jobs onsite and expected to produce more than 60 million gallons within the first three years of operation. The State of Ohio offered Coshocton Ethanol a competitive incentive package, including an Ohio Job Creation Tax Credit, an Ohio Investment in Training grant and other financing. Ohio Governor Taft's Administration is working to boost Ohio's position as a leader in the production and deployment of alternative fuels through the following efforts: Governor Taft signed House Bill 245 which will implement key components of his energy plan including: investing an additional \$1 million in the alternative Fuel Transportation Grant Program to bring more E85 and biodiesel pumps to the state; increasing the state's commitment to using alternative fuels in state government by requiring all new state vehicles to be flex-fuel models capable of using both gasoline and E85; and doubling the state's commitment to using E85 to 60,000 gallons a year by January 2007. At that bill signing, the Governor, General Motors and Kroger announced a partnership to bring more E85 pumps to gas stations around Ohio.

South Carolina

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Carolina Biofuels, a new division of Carolina Polymers, based in Taylors, rolled out their first load of biodiesel fuel on March 14, 2006. Their manufacturing facilities are currently in full operation, and are expected to produce 10 million gallons of biodiesel fuel in summer 2006. Production is projected to grow to over 30 million gallons annually. A large percentage of the fuel produced at Carolina Biofuels will be sold to the Spinx Company, an upstate petroleum retailer committed to providing South Carolina's drivers with alternative fuels. Carolina Biofuels supports South Carolina industry by using locally-grown soybeans to make their fuel, and as production ramps up, they will create between 20 and 30 jobs in the Taylors, S.C. area.

www.energy.sc.gov

South Carolina

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Publication of Potential for Biomass in South Carolina: A Conspectus of Relevant Information:

The South Carolina Energy Office recently published an informational piece highlighting the availability and use of solid, liquid, and gaseous biomass fuels in South Carolina. The report also

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acknowledged the state's accomplishments, resources, and missing information about biomass energy. The report is intended to be a continuously updated resource available to the general public and can be found on the South Carolina Energy Office and South Carolina Biomass Council websites along with links to all of the publications mentioned in the report. Production of the report was financed through a grant from the National Biomass Partnership. www.energy.sc.gov and www.scbiomass.org

Tennessee

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Tennessee Legislative Information: SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 251 was signed into law by Governor 6/7/2005 - State legislation considering biomass and alternative fuels has been very active 2004 and 2005 with a number of items under consideration or development. The following link includes a simple search engine for further details:

<http://www.legislature.state.tn.us/> An ethanol query of the legislative activity reveals 31 entries, biodiesel indicates 23 entries.

Tennessee Governor Bresden signed Executive Order 33 to establish an interagency alternative fuels working group to make alternative fuels production capacity and infrastructure an economic and community development priority, including biofuels production facilities and biofuels feedstock processing facilities.

The University of Tennessee has become one of five regional centers for the federally funded Sun Grant Initiative poised to help the nation meet President George W. Bush's energy goals. As a critical component of his proposal, he pledged support for "additional research in cutting-edge methods of producing ethanol, not just from corn, but from wood chips and stalks or switchgrass." The Sun Grant Initiative, developed by a national network of land-grant universities, is working to make that goal a reality.

McMinnville, Tennessee has become the first municipality to produce electricity from an alternative fuel – biodiesel.

In January 2006, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and Lewisburg officials joined executives of Agri Energy Management, Inc. (AEM) to announce the company's decision to build and operate the Southeast's first 20,000 gallon per day standalone biodiesel plant in Lewisburg. AEM, which specializes in renewable energy, is expected to produce five million gallons worth of biodiesel fuel per year once the new facility is complete. In addition, the initial start-up plans for the company will eventually allow them to increase its capability and produce upwards of seven million gallons of biodiesel annually per plant with a plan to produce 20 plants with the capability of producing 140 million gallons per year.

US Virgin Islands

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The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Virgin Islands Energy Office and the newly formed Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, to implement the activity previously reported on, is being processed. Language issues expressed by legal counsel from both agencies have delayed finalization of the agreement.

Washington

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The state's Energy Freedom Program received over \$29 million in proposals. These proposals were reviewed and ranked for funding on a competitive basis. Seven projects received \$6.75 million in 1% interest loans. This is part of a \$23 million Energy Freedom Program funding package recently passed by the state legislature. Other parts of the \$23 million included 10.25 million for oilseed crushers and \$6 million for biopower at Grays Harbor Paper. PRBEP staff served on the review team.

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/news-view.asp?pressRelease=316&newsType=1> – For the Governors press release.

<http://agr.wa.gov/bioenergy/default.asp> - For information on Bioenergy Loans

Wisconsin

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Governor Doyle announced the “Declaration of Energy Independence for Wisconsin,” which calls for a joint public-private effort to achieve the following goals: generate 25 % of our electricity and 25 % of our transportation renewable fuels by 2025; capture 10 % of the market share for the production of renewable energy sources by 2030, helping America kick its addiction to foreign fossil fuels and bringing tens of thousands of new jobs to our citizens. Achieving this goal would bring \$13.5 billion annually into Wisconsin's economy by 2030; and become a national leader in groundbreaking research that will make alternative energies more affordable and available to all – and to turn those discoveries into new, high paying jobs in Wisconsin.

<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us>

Governor Doyle accepted the final report from his Consortium on Biobased Industry. This 20-member consortium identified opportunities for Wisconsin businesses to expand their role in the emerging bioeconomy. See the final report at the website www.bioeconomy.wi.gov. The technical research paper that supported their work “Wisconsin Biobased Industry – Opportunities and Advantages” is located at www.ecw.org

Great Lakes Region

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The Great Lakes Biomass State and Regional Partnership hosted an informational/educational display at the 17th annual Midwest Renewable Energy Fair held in Custer, Wisconsin. This is the largest fair of its kind in the world and draws over 17,000 people. In addition to workshops and exhibit booths, the Fair featured an alternative vehicle show, which featured numerous E-85 and biodiesel vehicles. The Partnership has participated in the fair since its inception in 1990.

www.the-mrea.org

Northeast Regional Biomass Program

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The NRBP has provided each Northeast state with a biodiesel education kit, curriculum and an outline for biodiesel education in high school science classes. The kits contain all materials required to produce biodiesel from vegetable oil. In addition to hands-on experience on how biodiesel is made, the curriculum teaches students about the environmental, energy, and economic benefits of the biofuel. The program outlined by the NRBP includes student presentation to the school board or school transportation committee to encourage the school to use biodiesel in their fleets. The NRBP also encourages the schools to get local press coverage of the biodiesel projects.