

The National Biomass Partnership

Forum on Food vs. Fuel: A Conversation for State Officials

September 10, 2008 at 2:00- 4:00 p.m. (EDT)

The National Biomass Partnership invites you to participate on September 10, 2008 in the “Forum on Food vs. Fuel,” a Webinar designed to provide state energy and other state officials with the most current and objective information on the impact of U.S. corn-based ethanol production on domestic and global food supply and prices, including the impacts on land use patterns. This forum seeks to address these issues and to put them in the context of states’ broader interest in such objectives as reduced petroleum use, reduced vehicle emissions, expanded economic opportunities, and expanded ethanol production from cellulosic resources.

This webinar is designed for state energy and other state officials who may have an interest in or may be directly responsible for energy, environmental, economic development and consumer issues in your state government. The webinar will combine live, conference-like presentations by distinguished, nationally recognized experts including:

- John Urbanchuk – LEGC, LLC
- Nathanael Greene – Natural Resources Defense Council
- Mark Muller – Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

A brief description of topics to be covered and speaker information is attached. We look forward to your involvement in this important conference.

Pre-registration is required for participation. You can register for an online event at:
<https://www.livemeeting.com/lrs/8000875801/Registration.aspx?PageName=9v3825fx92k1 dd96>

For questions regarding programmatic content, please contact:

Rick Handley, rhandley@nycap.rr.com or (518) 899-9572

For questions regarding technical aspects or logistics, please contact:

Alex Schroeder, aschroeder@westgov.org or (303) 623-9378

The National Biomass Partnership is committed to providing objective, reliable and timely information on a broad range of biomass topics. The Partnership is a collaboration of four regional Governors’ organizations – the Coalition of Northeastern Governors, Policy Research Center, Inc.; the Council of Great Lakes Governors; the Southern States Energy Board; and the Western Governors’ Association – and the Pacific Regional Biomass Partnership at Washington State University. The Partnership represents all 50 states, two territories, one commonwealth and the District of Columbia.

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The webinar will start promptly at 2:00 p.m. (EDT) on September 10, 2008. Each invited speaker will address one or more of the topics listed below followed by a ten minute question and answer period. The webinar will conclude by 4:00 p.m.

Discussion Topics

The U.S. renewable fuels standard – which has contributed to increased demand for corn ethanol – has been described by some analysts as a significant contributor – directly and indirectly – to the recent run-up in global demand and prices for corn and other grains, and to subsequent food shortages. Please comment and discuss the evidence and analysis of these relationships.

- How is ethanol demand part of, or separate from, increased world demand for grain?
- What other factors are influencing world grain and food prices? What are their relative impacts?
- Is the recent rise in food prices expected to persist? Might the food prices stabilize if global grain markets adapt to price signals?

How has the increased demand for the production of ethanol in the United States impacted choices made by U.S. farmers? Choices made by non-U.S. farmers?

- Is the U.S. experiencing, or expect to experience, a significant change in acres planted in corn?
- Where are those acres likely to come from (e.g., shift from lands planted with soybean or wheat? Removal from conservation reserve programs)?

What if any are the environmental impacts of increased demand for corn? How does it impact water use and water quality?

What is the intent of the federal renewable fuels standard; what is the importance of ethanol as a fuel?

How might the advancement of cellulosic ethanol affect market demand and price for corn and other grains?

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Information on the Speakers

John Urbanchuk, Director, LEGC, LLC

As a Director with the global expert services firm LEGC, LLC, Mr. Urbanchuk is responsible for managing and providing a broad range of economic, planning, marketing, and policy consulting services to firms and associations involved in such industries as agriculture, renewable fuels, and consumer foods. Mr. Urbanchuk has extensive experience in agriculture and the biofuels industry. He provides expert economic analysis and has undertaken a wide range of economic feasibility studies and business plans for agriculture and renewable fuels issues. Mr. Urbanchuk has testified as an expert witness before numerous congressional and state legislative committees and in federal court proceedings. Prior to joining LEGC, Mr. Urbanchuk was with AUS Consultants, Hill and Knowlton, Inc., Wharton Econometrics, and Campbell Soup Company. He holds a BS in economics from Penn State University and an MA in economics from Temple University.

Nathanael Greene, Director of Renewable Energy Policy, Natural Resources Defense Council

As a Director of Renewable Energy Policy and Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Nathanael Greene is the NRDC senior energy policy specialist. He works on such issues as utility restructuring, energy taxes, energy efficiency, renewables, and low-income services. He has particular expertise in clean energy technologies including wind, solar and biomass energy, fuel cells, combined heat and power and energy efficiency and in regulations and policies to promote these technologies. For the last few years he has been focusing on assessing the sustainable potential for biofuels and developing policies to advance them. NRDC is the nation's largest grassroots environmental action organization devoted to using science and law to protect wildlife, wild places and ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Public Policy from Brown University and a Master of Science Degree in Energy and Resources from University of California Berkeley.

Mark Muller, Senior Fellow, Environment & Agriculture, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

As Senior Fellow for Environment and Agriculture at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), Mr. Muller works on a wide variety of issues, including agricultural diversification, nutrient management, agricultural transportation, regional food systems and renewable energy production. He has been involved in both regional project initiatives and national policy development. His opinion pieces on agricultural policy appear in newspapers throughout the Midwest. Prior to joining IATP, Muller worked as an environmental engineer and high school science teacher. Mr. Muller has a B.A. in physics from the State University of New York at Geneseo and a M.S. in environmental engineering from Manhattan College.