

THE BIOMASS R&D ACT OF 2000: THE MULTIAGENCY BIOMASS PROGRAM

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THE MULTIAGENCY BIOMASS PROGRAM

Agencies Involved:

- Biomass R&D Board: DOE, USDA, DOI, EPA, NSF, OSTP, OFEE
- Biomass R&D TAC: industry, academia, commodity trade associations, environmental organizations, State government, agriculture, economists
- R&D Initiative/Joint Solicitation: DOE and USDA

Description:

An R&D focused program to promote the conversion of biomass into biobased industrial products for the benefit of national interests

Issues/Challenges

1. “Turf” boundaries
2. Administration of the procurement process and varying agency funding rules
3. Joint validation of projects selected
4. Tracking progress

Resolution of Issues

1. Separation of funding sources, program policy factors, and solicitation categories
2. Meetings between source selection officials and rotation of procurement process leadership
3. Affirmation of selected projects by Biomass R&D Board and involvement of Biomass R&D TAC in solicitation review and recommendations to Congress
4. Development of a project tracking matrix

Lessons Learned

- Interagency efforts can be successful
- Interagency efforts work best when led by a strong champion
- Cooperation, willingness to compromise, and accepting new ideas are all important
- Recognition of common goals and objectives is important (Biomass National Drivers)
- An outside group that applies equal pressure to involved agencies and gives independent advice is helpful (Biomass R&D TAC)