

NAREEE Update

Carol Keiser-Long

Report and Recommendations of the Renewable Energy Committee of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board

Executive Summary: The Renewable Energy Committee (REC) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board was established in 2008 and charged to study the scope and effectiveness of research, extension and economics programs within the USDA Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area.

The 2010 report addresses previous recommendations in greater detail identifying a long term forward thinking approach to research, education and economics with respect to renewable energy. The Renewable Energy Committee developed recommendations which address USDA/REE's emphasis in Bioenergy:

- USDA/REE should validate the development of a cellulosic feedstock system and determine which feedstocks indicate significant sustainable potential in various regions of the US.
- USDA/RE E should support cross-functional educational and outreach programs in agriculture, chemistry and engineering disciplines to support a new workforce that has a strong foundation in chemurgy skills.
- USDA/RE E should increase resources to support research and cross-functional educational programs to address challenges for utilization of agricultural derived bioproducts and biomass.
- USDA/RE E should evaluate bio-power from biomass in terms of efficiencies, regionalization, liquid fuels and electricity. RE E also should effectively communicate its vision and the potential scope and research needs for biomass crops.
- USDA/RE E should continue to support the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics Report of which ERS and NASS are an integral part and also should broaden the scope of its data analysis to include the Forest Service and NRCS.