

Biomass Program



Biomass Program Monthly News Blast

Departments of Energy, Agriculture, and Navy Seek Input from Industry to Advanced Biofuels for Military and Commercial Transportation

On August 30, 2011, Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, and Secretary of Navy Ray Mabus announced the next step in the creation of a public-private partnership to develop drop-in advanced biofuels. The Secretaries issued a Request for Information (RFI) laying out the Administration's goals, assumptions, and tools and requesting from industry specific ideas for how to leverage private capital markets to establish a commercially viable drop-in biofuels industry. The critical information gathered through this process will help accelerate the development and use of these biofuels, reduce the nation's demand for foreign oil, and strengthen rural America. The RFI can be viewed [here](#). The RFI closes September 30, 2011.

Billion-Ton Update Workshop

On September 28–30, 2011, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) will host a workshop for the *U.S. Billion-Ton Update*. The workshop—titled, “*Billion-Ton Study: What Can be Learned about Bioenergy Sustainability?*”—will include a field trip to select ORNL facilities in Vonore, Tennessee, as well as several breakout discussions that will cover report material and implications. Information and registration can be found on [ORNL's CBES website](#). For those who cannot attend in person, ORNL is also offering a live webinar feed of the proceedings. Click the [Live Meeting registration form](#) to secure a spot.

Agenda 2020 Technology Alliance Visits Argonne National Laboratory

[Agenda 2020 Technology Alliance](#), a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to

advancing research and development (R&D) in the forest products industry and is represented by R&D leaders from across the industry. Initiated in 1994 in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to improve energy efficiency in the industry's manufacturing processes, Agenda 2020 is now organized as a membership alliance to accelerate the research, demonstration, and deployment of breakthrough technologies. Agenda 2020 is focused both on developing new renewable products from forest products and improving the sustainability and economic performance of products made from forest materials.

On September 7, 2011, Agenda 2020 spent the day discussing Argonne National Laboratory's (ANL) R&D programs in catalysis, membrane separations, life-cycle analysis, sustainable biomass feedstock growth, new biobased products, transportation research, and nanotechnology. Agenda 2020 already has strong relationships with the USDA Forest Products Laboratory and used the meeting to build a relationship with the DOE national laboratory. Agenda 2020 members and ANL investigators will pursue individual project opportunities in the future.

Past and Upcoming Events with Biomass Program Representation

- Plant-Based Chemistry Conference, September 5–7, 2011, Paul Bryan, Paris, France
- The Science of Gene Flow in Agriculture and its Role in Co-existence, September 7–8, 2011, Joanne Morello, Washington, D.C.
- Second Annual U.S.-China Advanced Biofuels Forum, September 23, 2011, Valerie Sarisky-Reed and Alison Goss Eng, Washington, D.C.
- 2011 International Conference on Thermochemical Biomass Conversion Science, September 28–30, 2011, Valerie Sarisky-Reed, Paul Grabowski, Alicia Lindauer, and Melissa Klembara, Chicago, Illinois
- Renewable and Sustainable Energy Initiative Seminar, October 11, 2011, Paul Bryan, Boulder, Colorado
- Northeast Biomass Conference and Tradeshow, October 11–13, 2011, John Ferrell, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- 2011 AIChE Annual Meeting, October 16–21, 2011, Brian Duff, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- College of Chemistry Advisory Board Meeting, October 23–24, 2011, Paul Bryan, Berkeley, California
- Algae Biomass Summit, October 24–27, 2011, Joyce Yang, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Alternative Energy for Defense Conference, October 25–26, 2011, Zia Haq, Washington, D.C.
- Society of American Foresters, November 2–4, 2011, Barbara Twigg, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, November 8–9, 2011, Elliott Levine, Washington, D.C.

- Advanced Biofuels Markets, November 8–10, 2011, Paul Bryan, San Francisco, California
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Funding Opportunity Announcements

- “Biomass Research and Development Initiative” in partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Invitations to submit full proposals were sent out the week of August 21, 2011.
- “Integrated Process Improvements for Biochemical Conversion of Biomass Sugars: From Pretreatment to Substitutes for Petroleum-based Feedstocks, Products, and Fuels.” Negotiations are currently underway.
- “Catalytic Upgrading of Thermochemical Intermediates to Hydrocarbons.” DOE made selection announcements on August 31, 2011.

Request for Information

- [“Advanced Drop-in Biofuels Production Market Research.”](#) Request for Information for input from industry released by the Departments of Energy, Agriculture, and Navy on August 30, 2011.

Recently Released Report

- [Sustainable and Adequate U.S. Biofuel Feedstock Production: Recommendations for Federal Research and Development](#), A Report by the Feedstock Production Interagency Working Group, released July 2011.
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Bio-Blogs and News Updates

- [The Faces of Energy: Richard Kauffman's Journey From The Oil Crisis to Clean Tech](#), Karissa Marcum, September 22, 2011.
- [Green Racing Marks Its 25th Competition](#), Lee Slezak, September 13, 2011.
- [Department of Energy Announces up to \\$12 Million in Investments to Support Development and Production of Drop-In Biofuels](#), DOE Public Affairs, August 31, 2011.
- [USDA, Departments of Energy and Navy Seek Input from Industry to Advance Biofuels for Military and Commercial Transportation](#), DOE Public Affairs, August 30, 2011.

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