

COUNCIL ON SUSTAINABLE BIOMASS PRODUCTION



Contact: John Heissenbuttel
Executive Director, CSBP
hnrc@volcano.net
209/296-4889

CSBP Launches First U.S. Standard for Sustainable Biomass Production

(WASHINGTON, June 12, 2012) The Council on Sustainable Biomass Production (CSBP) -- the first organization to develop a cellulosic biomass standard specifically designed for use in the United States -- announced today the release of the first consensus version of the CSBP Standard (attached).

CSBP focuses on ensuring that the projected large amounts of biomass needed to support the growing bioeconomy are produced sustainably, and that the resulting energy produced from that biomass is also produced sustainably. "This is an exciting day for CSBP and US bioenergy," says Jody Endres, assistant professor at University of Illinois and current chair of the CSBP. "Our diverse set of members have been able to agree that in order to grow a biomass-based energy program in the U.S. and for export markets, it must be done responsibly and sustainably. We actively have been solving environmental, social and economic challenges through a certification standard that any farmer can adopt."

The CSBP is a broad-based, multi-stakeholder program (membership list attached) developing a U.S. standard and educational materials to help growers and energy producers alike ensure sustainable production of a biomass-based energy industry. The standard has been built through a process of consensus among environmental, economic and social members.

The growers' cooperative, Show Me Energy, based in Centerview, Missouri will be the first major organization to use the CSBP standard. Steve Flick, Board Chairman of Show Me Energy, says "We are very pleased to be part of the development of a sustainability standard that makes sense for biomass producers in the U.S. and especially honored to be the first user of the standard." Show Me Energy producers represent 26 thousand acres of bio-diverse native grass mixture committed to the sustainable production of biomass.

The CSBP is supported through contributions by its members and grants from the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service. The organization is actively seeking additional participation from a full range of stakeholders interested in biomass production and use for energy. The CSBP will release detailed implementation guidance for participants over the next few months.

###