Biomass Program

Micro-Modular Biopower System for Cooling, Heating, and Power

This Congressionally-mandated project seeks to test a micro-modular biopower system for use on the Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC) campus. The system will be used to provide cooling, heating, and power to an on-campus daycare center.

The micro-modular biopower system will use a Community Power Corporation 50 kWe Biomax® gasifier. Biomax® uses a downdraft gasifier to convert high bulk density fuels such as woodchips and nut shells to produce both heat and power.

The partnership with MWCC is part of a product validation program Community Power Corporation is undertaking in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Energy. The 50 kWe micro-modular biopower system will be tested to gather information on its technical and economic viability.



The micro-modular biopower system is based on the BioMax® system, shown above.

R&D Pathway

MWCC will test and evaluate the micro-modular power system at a daycare facility on the community college campus. During the two year R&D program, researchers will: (1) monitor the performance and measure the electrical energy displaced by the system; (2) compare and document the integration of various prime mover options; (3) determine energy conversion efficiencies of the modular system; (4) evaluate the use of different feedstocks; and (5) begin developing an education outreach program.

Congressionally Directed Bioproducts R&D

Benefits

 Generate electricity, heat, and cooling using renewable biomass feedstocks

Applications

Viable modular biopower systems will enable small customers to convert biomass residues to heat and power.

Project Partners

Mount Wachusett Community College Community Power Corporation

Project Period

FY 2004 - FY 2007

For more information contact:

John Scahill
DOE Golden Field Office
John.Scahill@go.doe.gov

EERE Information Center 1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)

Visit the Web site for the Office of the Biomass Program (OBP) at www.eere.energy.gov/biomass.html

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