

Biomass Program



Biomass Program Monthly News Blast

Register for Biomass/Clean Cities Webinar

On January 13, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. EST, the Biomass Program will host a webinar with DOE's Clean Cities Program. This webinar will highlight recently conducted and ongoing studies of bioenergy workforce needs and gaps. As a follow up to the Biomass 2011 conference session on workforce development, the webinar presenters will provide a more state and local-focused perspective on the current bioenergy workforce and directions for development. Daniel Cassidy, National Institute of Food and Agriculture; Jill Stuckey, Georgia Center of Innovation for Energy; and Troy Runge, University of Wisconsin, are scheduled to present. Register for the webinar today at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/882160512>.

Replace the Whole Barrel Widget is Live

"When the price of oil goes up, we push the panic button. When the price of oil goes down, we push the snooze button. And this is not a really good plan."

--Secretary of Energy Steven Chu, July 26, 2011, [Biomass 2011 Conference Keynote Address](#)

The United States is heavily dependent on oil imports, spending nearly \$1 billion per day on crude oil and petroleum products from other countries. This dependence contributes significantly to the trade deficit and makes the U.S. economy vulnerable to disruptions in oil supplies due to natural disasters, political upheaval, and price volatility.

Domestically produced biofuels and bioproducts can play a key role in diversifying U.S. energy supplies and improving economic security. A new flash-based 'widget' provides any website with an easy-access, interactive summary of the U.S. Department of Energy's research and development efforts to help grow the biofuels and bioproducts industry.

The new "Replacing the Whole Barrel Widget" describes:

- The different kinds of products that are refined from a typical barrel of crude oil
- The variety of biomass-based products that can replace those traditionally derived from oil
- Conversion technologies used to turn biomass resources into biofuels and bioproducts
- Private companies and research institutions that are partnering with the Department of Energy in order to develop the U.S. biofuels and bioproducts industry.

Putting the barrel widget on your Web page is as easy as sharing a YouTube video. [Test drive it on the Biomass website](#), and get the coding to share it by clicking the "get widget" tab.

Biomass Program Launches Ethanol Yield Calculator

The Biomass Program has recently launched the newly designed [Information Resources section](#) of the site, which includes a widget to enhance the user experience. The widget is based on the assumptions and methods of the existing Theoretical Ethanol Yield Calculator and is located on the [Analytical Tools page](#). This interactive tool calculates the theoretical yield of ethanol from potential biomass feedstocks when you enter the dry mass percentage of a material's sugar components. You will be able to share the calculator widget on Facebook, Twitter, websites, and more. The revamped Information Resources pages also include new glossary terms, navigation options, as well as updated information. Visit the [Biomass website](#) to see all of the exciting new changes!

Valerie Reed Hosted Live Twitter Chat

On Friday, December 16, 2011, Valerie Reed, Acting Program Manager for the Department of Energy's Biomass Program, hosted a live Twitter chat via the Department of Energy's Twitter account. Dr. Reed took questions and discussed the importance of advancing the domestic biofuels industry to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil and ensure a secure energy future.

One highlight from the event came from @Johnny_De_Vito, who asked @Energy "Companies like Shell and BP are investing in #biofuels too. Is the US Gov ahead or behind the curve in terms of \$'s invested?"

Dr. Reed responded with multiple tweets: "It's a huge undertaking to create a new 2nd gen #biofuels industry. The industry will need to construct a large number of biorefineries in order to meet the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). This requires not only government investment, but active participation by the private sector. The government currently is currently investing in over 25 biorefineries of varying scales."

To view the full conversation, visit the [Department of Energy's Twitter page](#).

Past and Upcoming Events with Biomass Program Representation

- Conceptual Models and Endpoints for Environmental Impacts of Biofuels, November 29–December 1, 2011, Alison Goss Eng, Dave Muth, Ranyee Chiang, Alexandria, Virginia
 - Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative General Meeting, November 30–December 1, 2011, Zia Haq, Washington, D.C.
 - U.S. DRIVE Meeting with the National Research Council, December 5–6, 2011, Valerie Reed, Washington, D.C.
 - Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability Biomass Conference, December 6, 2011, Zia Haq, Raleigh, North Carolina
 - Workshop on Conversion Technologies for Advanced Biofuels, December 6–9, 2011, Biomass Program Conversion Staff, Washington, D.C.
 - Integrated Biorefinery Research Facility Collaborative Showcase, December 14, 2011, Leslie Pezzullo, Golden, Colorado
 - Biomass Research and Development Board Meeting, January 10, 2012, John Ferrell, Washington, D.C.
 - Biomass and Clean Cities Webinar: Workforce Development, January 13, 2012, Alicia Lindauer, Webinar.
 - 2nd Annual Municipal Solid Waste to Biofuels Summit, February 7–8, 2012, Brian Duff, Chicago Illinois
 - AAAS Annual Meeting, February 16–20, 2012 Brian Duff, Vancouver, Canada
 - Biomass Program Quarterly Meeting, February 16, 2012, All Program Staff, Washington, D.C.
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Funding Opportunity Status

- “Biomass Research and Development Initiative” in partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Full proposals are being reviewed, and an announcement has been targeted for the first quarter of 2012.

Request for Information Update

- “Advanced Drop-in Biofuels Production Market Research.” The responses to the Request for Information are being reviewed by the Departments of Energy, Agriculture, and Navy. An "industry day" that will be open to the public is being planned for early 2012.
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New Bio-Blogs

- [Producing Clean, Renewable Diesel from Biomass](#), Paul Bryan, November 30, 2011
 - [Fueling the Navy's Great Green Fleet with Advanced Biofuels](#), Aaron Crowell, December 5, 2011
 - [Advanced Biofuels: How Scientists are Engineering Bacteria to Help Drive America](#), Liisa O'Neill, December 6, 2011
 - [Atlanta Suburb Greases the Path to Savings with Biodiesel](#), Chris Galm, December 7, 2011
 - [How Sweet It Is: Agrivida's Next-Gen Sugar Biofuel](#), April Saylor, December 8, 2011
 - [Drop-in Biofuels Take Flight in Commerce City, Colorado](#), John Schueler, December 8, 2011
 - [What in the World are Feedstock Logistics?](#), Steven Thomas, December 9, 2011
 - [Biomass for the Nation: How One Energy Department Expert Has Helped Lead the Way](#), Howard Marks, December 12, 2011
 - [Researchers Borrow From Fir Tree to Create Biodiesel](#), Charles Rousseaux, December 12, 2011
 - [Bioenergy Pumps New Life into Pulp and Paper Mills](#), Neil Rossmeissl, December 13, 2011
 - [World War II Shortages Spur Veteran Into Action](#), Howard Marks, December 16, 2011
 - [Move over Flash Pyrolysis, There's a New Bioenergy Sheriff in Town](#), April Saylor, December 16, 2011
 - [Farming Out Heat and Electricity Through Biopower](#), Julie McAlpin, December 16, 2011
 - [Sapphire Energy Out to Prove That Crud Can Take On Crude](#), Christine English, December 16, 2011
 - [Disappearing Pens Cross Out Petroleum](#), Joyce Yang, December 21, 2011
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