

Conference Announcement

Northern Plains Biomass Economy: What Makes Sense?
Biomass and the Bioeconomy in the Northern Great Plains: What Makes Sense?

Ramada Plaza & Suites
1635 42nd St S
Fargo, North Dakota
Monday, September 29, 2008

Congress set a goal in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to annually produce 36 billion gallons of ethanol by 2022 but implied that as much as 21 billion gallons would be derived from sources such as cellulosic feedstock. The question is how does the Northern Plains fit into this national vision?

The conference will examine issues related to the production of fuels and materials from cellulosic biomass and the potential impact on North Dakota and the surrounding region. Attendees will

- Review the Federal mandate and examine Congressional goals for bio-energy
- Learn about the economic impact of corn and cellulose-based ethanol on U.S. agriculture
- Acquire an understanding of the process technologies of the cellulosic industry, including pre-treatment technologies
- Be updated on the ongoing research and development efforts of the NDSU/MBI Biomaterials initiative aimed at the commercialization of biobased nanofibers and biocomposites
- View exhibits of innovative ideas about opportunities in the bio-economy
- Consider the implications for agricultural producers, including the agronomics, harvesting, transportation, storage and economics of producing cellulosic feedstock
- Examine the community and regional socio-economic impacts of the bio-economy
- Gain valuable insight in the financing, profitability and development of biofuel projects
- Learn about the work of the North Dakota Empowerment Commission
- Develop ideas to answer "What Makes Sense for the Northern Plains?"
- Enhance invaluable contacts for bioeconomy projects

Conference Organizer:

North Dakota State University
Office of Vice President for Agriculture and University Extension
Center for Agricultural Policy and Trade Studies (CAPTS)
NDSU/MBI Biomaterial Initiative
Bio-Energy and Product Innovation Center (BioEPIC)

Conference Planning Committee:

Won Koo, Larry Leistriz, D.C. Coston, Nancy Hodur, David Saxowsky, Ken Hellevang, Scott Pryor, Cole Gustafson

Registration:

The conference registration fee is \$75 for those registering by September 15, 2008. Late registration fee is \$90. The registration fee includes conference materials and one lunch and refreshments during breaks.

For more information about registration, contact

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