

FORESTRY BIOFUEL STATEWIDE COLLABORATION CENTER

Research to turn trees into liquid fuel got a boost with approval of the \$410 billion federal omnibus spending bill in March. The bill allocated \$1.4 million for a new biofuel research program at the Michigan State University Upper Peninsula Tree Improvement Center in Escanaba.

The funds allow MSU and Michigan Technological University scientists to work together to find solutions to the complex problem of supplying woody feedstocks to the bioenergy industry for the production of renewable energy, chemicals and fuels, such as ethanol. The funding for the center came from the U.S. Department of Energy and was distributed by the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

Northern Michigan is heavily forested and is at the heart of both the existing forest products industry and the emerging wood-based biofuels industry, so is the perfect place to investigate and demonstrate the best ways to use the state's vast forest resources to expand Michigan's rural economies in environmentally, economically and socially sustainable ways.

"The Forestry Biofuel Statewide Collaboration Center will be a place where new and existing research, development and outreach projects at Michigan State and Michigan Tech can be focused," said Ray Miller, MSU forest biomass development coordinator.

Research at the center builds on work funded through the state's Forest Feedstock Supply Chain Center of Energy Excellence. MSU and MTU received \$2 million through that program to support the Mascoma Corporation's proposed cellulosic ethanol plant in Chippewa County.

Projects will:

- Develop a complete forest-based biomass assessment for Michigan that is geo-referenced and available online in a user-friendly system.
- Improve harvesting, processing and transportation systems for woody biomass.
- Improve forest feedstock productivity and sustainability.
- Engage landowners and communities in producing woody biomass feedstocks through education and outreach programs and materials.



MICHIGAN STATE
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EXPANDING THE BIOECONOMY
WITH WOODY BIOMASS

FACT SHEET

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.MAES.MSU.EDU/UPTIC OR WWW.BIOECONOMY.MSU.EDU

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