

MSU-MTU RENEWABLE FUELS WORKING GROUP

Established in 2007, the Working Group consists of eight Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University scientists (four from each university) working together on research, outreach and economic development programs centered on fuels and energy made from forest biomass.

To identify priority research and outreach topic, the Working Group hosted a summit in February 2008 for representatives of industry, local government, state agencies and other interested organizations. Summit participants identified six critical research and outreach needs for the forest-based bioeconomy:

- Quick development by the Michigan legislature of renewable **portfolio standards** for electricity and biofuels in Michigan.
- Creation of a comprehensive and detailed inventory of woody biomass feedstocks in forests in the state.
- Establishment of **sustainability guidelines** based on sound science for managing and using woody biomass feedstocks.
- Expanding **technology and information transfer** to forest landowners, bioeconomy industries and the public.
- Development of a **supply chain model** to understand the effects of innovations on the system's economic and biological variables throughout the woody biomass production, harvest and processing system.

- Continued **technological innovations** in the production, harvest, transport, and conversion of woody biomass that can be integrated into the supply chain model.

The Working Group recommended creating steering committees to focus on each critical area:

- A **woody feedstock inventory steering committee** would coordinate the efforts of MSU, MTU, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Forest Inventory and Analysis unit in Houghton, and the Governor's Energy Office.

- A **feedstock sustainability steering committee** would coordinate the development of "Best Woody Biomass Feedstock Management Guidelines" for Michigan. This group may expand the scope of the guidelines to include carbon cycling since the subject will be the cause of much discussion.

- A **technology and information transfer steering committee** would oversee this critical need. Members should include MTU, MSU Extension, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Governor's Energy Office, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service Rural Development Program, the U.S. Forest Service Northern Institute of Applied Carbon Science, trade associations, landowner associations, the Society of American Foresters, and industry representatives.

Collaborative work at both universities has begun to address all these issues through the Feedstock Supply Chain Center of Energy Excellence and the Forestry Biofuel Statewide Collaboration Center projects.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

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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