

Biomass Program



Monthly News Blast

January 2012

Save the Date: Biomass 2012 Location and Date Announced

On July 10–11, 2012, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Biomass Program will host its fifth annual conference, Biomass 2012: Confronting Challenges, Creating Opportunities – *Sustaining a Commitment to Bioenergy*. This year’s conference will examine the dynamic playing field of bioenergy in 2012, as exciting new technologies move forward within a shifting policy and economic landscape. Situated just blocks away from Capitol Hill, the White House, federal agencies, and the headquarters of numerous national and international organizations, the conference will provide a superb forum for an open dialogue about overcoming common challenges and sustaining our national commitment to building the advanced bioenergy economy. Check your email for more information in the coming weeks.

Biomass Program Held Roadmapping Session for Conversion Technologies Advanced Biofuels (CTAB)

On December 6–8, 2011, the U.S. Department of Energy’s Biomass Program hosted a workshop at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, to update its existing technology roadmaps to focus on advanced hydrocarbon biofuel production from lignocellulosic materials. The new roadmaps will highlight research barriers to scale-up process technologies that are necessary to generate carbohydrate and bio-oil intermediates from biomass and upgrade those intermediates to fungible “drop-in” replacements for gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel.

In addition to identifying key barriers and research and development activities, the participants also addressed feedstock supply and logistics considerations and fuel blending requirements. Other innovative niche topics were addressed in special

sessions, including the utilization of lignin, hybrid biochemical/thermochemical processing routes, solvent and separation systems, and processing of genetically modified biomass feedstocks.

A webinar documenting the outcomes of the conference will be held from 2:30–5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, February 9. Please [reserve your webinar spot](#) and visit the [CTAB website](#) for more information and to download presentations given at the meeting.

Please contact Daniel Lehrburger at 202.586.4541 or Daniel.Lehrburger@ee.doe.gov with additional questions.

Blake Simmons at Sandia National Lab Elected into College of Fellows

Blake Simmons, senior manager of Biofuels and Biomaterials Science and Technology at Sandia National Lab and Biomass Program leader for the Lab, has been elected into the College of Fellows for the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE). The 107 inductees were nominated by their peers, screened by committees of Fellows within their specialties, and were finally elected by the full college as the official class of 2012.

Blake was selected for his work on the “development of sustainable technologies that provide low energy routes for the biological production of fuels and chemicals.” The College of Fellows is composed of the top two percentage of medical and biological engineers in the country. A formal induction ceremony will be held during AIMBE’s 21st annual event at the Grand Hyatt in Washington, D.C., on February 20. For more information about the event, visit www.aimbe.org.

Past and Upcoming Events with Biomass Representation

- Workshop on Conversion Technologies for Advanced Biofuels, December 6–9, 2011, Biomass Program staff, Washington, D.C.
- Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability Biomass Conference, December 6, 2011, Zia Haq, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Integrated Biorefinery Research Facility Collaborative Showcase, December

14, 2011, Leslie Pezzullo, Golden, Colorado

- Biomass R&D Board Meeting, January 10, 2012, John Ferrell, Washington, D.C.
- 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, British Columbia, Canada
- National Ethanol Conference, February 22–24, 2012, Howard Marks, Orlando, Florida
- ARPA-E Summit, February 27–March 2, 2012, Brian Duff, Washington, D.C.
- Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, March 1–2, 2012, Elliott Levine, Washington, D.C.
- Advanced Biofuels Leadership Conference, April 2–5, 2012, Brian Duff, Washington, D.C.
- Biomass 2012: Confronting Challenges, Creating Opportunities – *Sustaining a Commitment to Bioenergy*, July 10–11, 2012, Biomass Program staff, Washington, D.C.

Funding Opportunity Status

“Biomass Research and Development Initiative” in partnership with United States Department of Agriculture. Full proposals are being reviewed and an announcement has been targeted for 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.

Bio Blogs and News Updates

- [Austin Using Green Innovation to Beat the Utility Blues](#), Todd Allen, January 17, 2012

- [Disappearing Pens Cross Out Petroleum](#), Joyce Yang, December 21, 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
- [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
- [Bioenergy Pumps New Life into Pulp and Paper Mills](#), Neil Rossmeissl, December 13, 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
- [What in the World are Feedstock Logistics?](#) Steven Thomas, December 9, 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
- [Atlanta Suburb Greases the Path to Savings with Biodiesel](#), Chris Galm, December 7, 2011
- [Advanced Biofuels: How Scientists are Engineering Bacteria to Help Drive America](#), Liisa O'Neill, December 6, 2011
- [Fueling the Navy's Great Green Fleet with Advanced Biofuels](#), Aaron Crowell, December 5, 2011

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