



News From the Environmental and Energy Study Institute

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Carol Werner, Executive Director

DOE and USDA Announce Awardees for Section 9008 Biomass Research and Development Grants

July 28, 2004

On July 16th, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Energy announced awards of \$25,480,628 in grant funding for 22 projects. These projects are funded under the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (Section 9008 of the 2002 Farm Bill). The awards were solicited jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The two agencies officially awarded grants separately with \$13 million awarded by USDA and \$12 million awarded by DOE. During the selection process, over 400 applications were reviewed by multiple evaluators from both agencies.

The 22 projects span 17 states with funds being used for the research and development of energy technologies that utilize biomass (see end of press release for a chart of awardees.)*

Update on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Rural Development Grant Program (Section 9006)

As of July 28th, the USDA's Office of Rural and Community Development has received **237 applications** for the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grant program totaling **\$36.6 million** in requested funds. The closing date for grant applications was July 19th, with a few last minute applications still being received in the mail. This week will mark the beginning of the review and selection process. Last year USDA received 148 applications and funded 114 for a total of \$21.7 million. Most of the project proposals rejected were for incomplete applications or large-scale land sites requiring environmental reviews unable to be completed in time for the fall announcement deadline.

William Hagy, Deputy Administrator for Business Programs, foresees a significantly "more competitive atmosphere" this year. All applications will undergo a series of technical and programmatic reviews in order to be ranked more effectively. Mr. Hagy said, "I have a feeling we will have higher quality applications this year because we have one year behind us and people will know what to expect." Projects that had been rejected last year have the opportunity to revamp their applications and reapply. Because the Section 9006 grant program is authorized \$23 million by the 2002 Farm Bill, there will be a significant number of viable projects unable to be funded.

The 237 applications currently being reviewed come from 35 states and represent roughly 7 renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. Technology categories include solar (large- and small-scale), wind (large- and small-scale), efficiency (building and industrial), geothermal, bioenergy (biomass), anaerobic digesters, and hybrid projects. The breakdown of project applications by technology categories and state are as follows:**

Technology Category	# of projects
Anaerobic Digester	46
Bioenergy (biomass)	20
Efficiency, Buildings	79
Efficiency, Industrial	18
Geothermal	5
Hybrid	2
Solar, large-scale	6
Solar, small-scale	8
Wind, large-scale	34
Wind, small-scale	19
Total	237

State	# of projects	State	# of projects
Alabama	4	Montana	2
Arizona	2	North Carolina	1
California	13	North Dakota	5
Colorado	1	Nebraska	16
Connecticut	2	New Hampshire	1
Delaware	1	New York	10
Florida	3	Ohio	5
Georgia	3	Oklahoma	10
Iowa	20	Oregon	2
Idaho	3	Pennsylvania	2
Illinois	7	South Carolina	1
Indiana	1	South Dakota	1
Kansas	3	Texas	5
Maine	2	Utah	2
Michigan	3	Virginia	3
Minnesota	27	Washington	2
Missouri	1	Wisconsin	29
Mississippi	44	Total	237

**Information provided by USDA.

***Table of Section 9008 Awardees**

STATE	AWARDEE	PROJECT	AMOUNT	AGENCY
Alabama	Southern Research Institute	Trace-Metal Scavenging from Biomass Syngas with Novel High-Temperature Sorbents	\$769,376	DOE
Arkansas	Bioengineering Resources Inc.	Thermochemical Conversion of Corn Stover	\$1,989,365	DOE
California	Membrane Technology and Research, Inc	BioSep: A New Ethanol Recovery Technology for Small-Scale rural Production of Ethanol from Biomass	\$1,032,045	USDA
California	Watershed Research and Training Center	Hayfork Biomass Utilization and Value Added Model for Rural Development	\$503,400	USDA

California	Electric Power Research Institute	Small-scale, Biomass Fired Gas Turbine Plants Suitable for Distributed and Mobil Power Generation	\$241,933	USDA
Georgia	Southern Forest Research Partnership, Inc	Sustainable Forestry for Bioenergy and Biobased Products	\$1,000,000	USDA
Illinois	Gas Technology Institute	Engineering New Catalysts for In-Process Elimination of Tars	\$1,995,932	DOE
Iowa	Iowa State University	Integrated Feedstock Supply Systems for Corn Stover Biomass	\$1,999,724	USDA
Maryland	Antares Group Inc.	Catalytic Hydrothermal Gasification for Eastman Kingsport Chemical Production	\$1,142,925	DOE
Massachusetts	New Energy Solutions, Inc.	Design and Demonstration of a Commercial Prototype for Onsite Production of High Purity Hydrogen from Farm Animal Wastes	\$1,456,931	USDA
Minnesota	University of Minnesota	Development of Existing Biomass Resources through Education of Key Supply Bottlenecks	\$397,711	USDA
Mississippi	Mississippi State University , Forest Products Department	Development of a Wood Preservation System from Wood BioOil Fractions	\$1,409, 011	USDA
Nebraska	Imperial Young Farmers & Ranch	Biomass Opportunity for Imperial Nebraska Region	\$2,000,000	USDA
New Jersey	Princeton University	Cost-Benefit Analysis of Gasification for Fuels/Chemicals Production at Kraft Pulp Mills	\$552,620	DOE
North Carolina	Research Triangle	Biomass Gas	\$2,000,000	DOE

	Institute	Cleanup Using a Therminator		
North Carolina	Weyerhaeuser Company	Advancement of High Temperature Black Liquor Gasification Technology	\$1,078,080	DOE
North Carolina	USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station	Technology Transfer and Education Programs for the Southern US	\$1,000,001	USDA
North Carolina	North Carolina State University	Development of Workable Incentive Systems for Biobased Products, Biofuels and Biopower	\$450,000	USDA
Ohio	Technology Management, Inc	Fuel Cell Systems Operating on 100% Bio-Liquid Fuels	\$965,161	USDA
Pennsylvania	Rohm and Haas Co.	New Sustainable Chemistry for Adhesives, Elastomers and Foams	\$2,000,000	DOE
Tennessee	University of Tennessee	Integrated Size Reduction and Separation to Pre-Fractionate Biomass	\$717,399	USDA
Utah	University of Utah	Investigation of Pressurized Entrained Flow Draft Black Liquor Gasification in an industrially Relevant Environment	\$779,069	DOE

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