



THE
HEINZ
CENTER

**Ensuring Forest Sustainability in the
Development of Wood Biofuels and Bioenergy:
Regional Strategy for the US South**

**NCSU Arboretum
Raleigh, NC
August 26-27, 2009**

Agenda

Forum purpose and goals: identify common goals and objectives for environmentally sustainable development of a wood biofuels/bioenergy industry in the US South; develop the basis for consistent and reliable estimates of sustainable woody biomass supply; and review regional and state efforts to develop safeguards for sustainable woody biomass production and harvesting.

Wednesday, August 26

8:00 AM Coffee and pastries available

8:30 **Introduction.** *Al Sample*, Pinchot Institute, and *Robin O'Malley*, Heinz Center

9:00 **Panel 1: Providing reliable estimates of sustainable biomass supply.** What are the recent developments in methodologies for producing consistent, reliable estimates of how much woody biomass can be sustainably supplied (nationally, regionally, locally) as a basis for siting new or expanded bioenergy/biofuels capacity? What longer-term opportunities are there to increase inventory and net growth over current levels?

- Speaker: *Ken Skog*, *Dave Wear*, US Forest Service

Discussants:

- *Marie Walsh*, University of Tennessee/US Dept of Energy
- *Bob Abt*, North Carolina State University
- *Mike Clutter*, University of Georgia

10:30 **Break**

10:45 Discussion

12:00 **Lunch**

1:00 **Panel 2: Facilitating effective utilization of biomass supply information.** How can information best be presented to facilitate its incorporation into decisions by local governments and industry? When and in what form is the information needed? What do energy industry and government planners need to know to be informed users of forestry information?

- Speaker: *Ron Barmore*, Range Fuels

Discussants:

- *Marvin Burchfield*, Decker Energy International
- *Matt Langholtz*, Bio-Resource Management Inc.
- *Sonya Negley*, Florida Economic Development Corporation
- *Bill Early*, Hertford County North Carolina Economic Development Department

2:30 **Break**

2:45 Discussion

5:00 **Reception**

Thursday, August 27

8:30 AM Recap of discussions from day 1

9:00 **Panel 3: Options for build-out of a sustainable wood bioenergy/biofuels industry in the South.** What is the range of near-term options for developing the wood bioenergy/biofuels industry, and what factors determine the choice of type of facility? What factors should be considered in matching the choice of facility to local circumstances, in terms of community economic development goals and sustainable management of forest resources? How can a regional bioenergy strategy maximize the contribution of woody biomass to achieving renewable energy goals, while minimizing the additional demands on forest resources?

- Speaker: *Dan Richter*, Duke University

Discussants:

- *Reed Wills*, Adage
- *Albert Morales*, American Renewables
- *John Bonitz*, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

12:00 **Lunch**

continued

1:00 **Panel 4. Forest management and biomass harvesting guidelines.** How is forest management expected to evolve to accommodate long-term increased use of wood for energy? Are biomass harvesting and/or procurement guidelines needed, and if so how should they be developed? What is the potential role for certification and other nongovernmental sustainability programs?

- Speaker: *Burl Carraway*, Southern Group of State Foresters/Texas Forest Service

Discussants:

- *Mike Harris*, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- *Ben Larson*, Union of Concerned Scientists
- *Eric Vance*, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement

2:30 Break

2:45 **Next steps.** The development of a regional wood bioenergy strategy is an ongoing process in the South, involving a broad diversity of stakeholders. How can the information developed in this workshop best contribute to this regional dialogue, particularly in terms of ensuring the long-term sustainability of wood bioenergy facilities as they are developed in the South? What is needed to ensure that emerging national policies on renewable energy are flexible enough to support state-level policies and programs that are best suited to the unique circumstances in the South?

General facilitated discussion

4:00 **Forum adjourned**

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