



PINCHOT  
INSTITUTE  
FOR CONSERVATION

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THE  
HEINZ  
CENTER

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## **Ensuring Forest Sustainability in the Development of Wood Biofuels and Bioenergy in the Great Lakes Region**

*Convened by*

University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources  
Pinchot Institute for Conservation  
Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum  
University of Minnesota  
3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska MN 55318

### *Agenda*

**Forum purpose and goals:** Identify common goals and objectives for environmentally sustainable development of a wood bioenergy/biofuels industry in the Great Lakes region; develop the basis for consistent and reliable estimates of sustainable woody biomass supply; review public and private efforts to develop safeguards for sustainable woody biomass production and harvesting; and facilitate the development of a regional wood bioenergy strategy in the context of national policy goals for renewable energy and sustainable forest management.

### **Wednesday, September 9**

7:45 Van available for transport from AmericInn

8:00 Coffee and pastries available

8:30 **Introductions and Meeting Goals and Objectives**

Robin O'Malley, Heinz Center; Al Sample, Pinchot Institute

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*, US Forest Service

Discussants:

- *Dennis Becker*, University of Minnesota
- *Joe Maure*, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- *Steve Betzler*, Minnesota Power

- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Facilitated discussion
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 **Panel 2. Sustainability safeguards.** How is forest management expected to evolve to accommodate long-term increased use of wood for energy? What biomass harvesting and/or procurement guidelines have been developed? What is the potential role for certification and other nongovernmental sustainability programs?
- Speaker: *Paul DeLong*, Wisconsin Division of Forestry
- Discussants:
- *Matt Dallman*, The Nature Conservancy
  - *Janet Sumner*, Wildlands League
  - *Tat Smith*, University of Toronto
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 Facilitated discussion
- 5:00 Adjourn for the day  
Van available for transport to Houlihan's / AmericInn
- 6:00 Reception/dinner at Houlihan's (next to AmericInn, 530 Pond Promenade, Chanhassen)

### **Thursday, September 10**

- 7:45 Van available for transport from AmericInn
- 8:00 Coffee and pastries available
- 8:30 Summary of previous discussion
- 9:00 **Panel 3: Options for build-out of a sustainable wood bioenergy/biofuels industry in the Great Lakes.** 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: *Donna LaCourt*, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
- Discussants
- *Fred Souba*, NewPage
  - *Pam Porter*, Biomass Energy Resource Center
  - *Rob Lyng*, Ontario Power

10:15 Break

10:30 Facilitated discussion

12:00 Lunch

1:00 **Panel 4: Great Lakes regional bioenergy strategy and lessons for renewable energy policy.**  
What is the continuing role of state/provincial renewable energy, economic, and natural resource policy in guiding development along optimal lines [vision/principles framework as springboard for regional action plan?]; regional “lessons learned” that need to be reflected in flexible national renewable energy policies.

- Speaker: *Dennis Becker*, University of Minnesota

Discussants:

- *David Donovan*, Excel
- *Cara Boucher*, Michigan DNR
- *TJ Morice*, Marth/Biomass Thermal Energy Council

Facilitated discussion

3:30 Summary and parting observations

4:00 **Adjourn**

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