

Action Plan: Bio-Economy

MFRP Minnesota Forest Futures Conference: TAKING ACTION!

Wednesday and Thursday: December 10-11, 2014

Arrowwood Lodge

Baxter, Minnesota

Bio-Economy

Recommendation # 1. Create bio-markets to use sawmill and forest residuals, with specific initial focus on pellet technology that can replace propane with locally grown and produced renewable fuels in schools and other public buildings (DNR, DEED, IRRRB)

Action Steps / • Tasks	Responsible Parties Lead/Support Persons	Benchmarks	Timelines
Action Step 1: Develop education materials/communication tools, focusing on carbon neutrality/EPA clean power plan (how can wood be used for compliance)	U of M, DNR, NRRI, MnSCU, State Wood Energy Team		End of 2 nd qtr; before next heating season
Action Step 2: Establish demonstration projects in strategic areas: Duluth, Hermantown, DNR building in Grand Rapid, in the woods drying demonstration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislature for funding projects - State to identify state bldgs suitable for demonstration 		Ongoing; 1 st & 2 nd quarter to implement demo projects
Action Step 3: Review building codes to determine specific barriers to demonstration project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State, local agencies, individual businesses 		
Action Step 4: Assess the supply side of potential markets?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State, local 		In progress

Review: how many residuals available to supply feedstock for various initiatives.	agencies, and individual businesses		
Action Step 5: Build and expand on MN Statewide Wood Energy Team (MN-SWET) effort	- Legislature, DNR, MN-SWET partners	Planning past when MN-SWET grant ends	
Action Step 6: Cost of capital: policy mechanisms (production incentives) to access capital/drive demand of commercial and light industrial facilities	- Legislature		In progress/should be ongoing discussion
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Recommendation # 2 Request state funding for U of M targeted specifically at earlier stages of the bio-economy research and development continuum. (Governor, UMN, Legislature)

Action Steps / • Tasks	Responsible Parties Lead/Support Persons	Benchmarks	Timelines
Action Step 1: Develop a project portfolio describing available assets (resources), map of what we have and can do, current research efforts. Assets description should extend beyond R & D, but the broader set of available assets that would make it attractive for business to locate and grow in Minnesota.	- Private interests, start-up renewable chemical companies, established forest products industries		Immediately
Action Step 2: Create a stakeholder group to help define the problem; what are we trying to solve. Stakeholder group should be made up of public and private interests and represent a diversity of perspectives.	U of M, NRRI, MnSCU, chambers of commerce		Immediately
Action Step 3: Deployment strategy: Minnesota’s marketing strategy for all elements that can support businesses (infrastructure, financing, R&D)	- UP/industrial partners in state and out state, research institutions and		Immediately

	public agencies.		
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