

2011 Work Plan

Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee

Background

The Biomass Research and Development (R&D) Technical Advisory Committee (Committee) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy and their points-of-contact (POCs) as proscribed by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000 and as amended by the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA), within the regulations of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager, Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Under Secretary for Science Steven Koonin, Department of Energy (DOE) are the Departmental POCs for 2009-2011.

The Committee was established by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000 [7 U.S.C. 7624 note] (as amended) to provide:

- Advice on the technical focus and direction of requests for proposals issued under the Biomass R&D Initiative, and
- Advice on the procedures for reviewing and evaluating the proposals.

The Committee shall also:

- Evaluate and perform strategic planning on program activities relating to the Biomass R&D Initiative.

Additionally, the Committee shall have the following duties:

- Advise the POCs with respect to Biomass R&D;
- Make recommendations in writing to the Biomass Research and Development Board to ensure that:
 - Funds authorized for Biomass R&D are distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the objectives, purposes, and considerations of the Biomass R&D Initiative;
 - Solicitations are open and competitive with awards made annually and that objectives and evaluation criteria of the solicitations are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest;
 - Activities are carried out in accordance with the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000.

For each fiscal year for which funds are made available to carry out the Biomass R&D, the POCs provide a report to Congress, via the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy that takes into account any recommendations that have been made by the Advisory Committee.

2011 Activities

Required 2011 Activities

Recommendations to Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy:

To be discussed throughout the fiscal year. At the last meeting of FY 2011, recommendations will be approved by majority vote for inclusion in the annual report to the Secretaries and Congress. The Biomass R&D Act of 2000 requires that the recommendations consider the following:

- Feedback on the results of the FY 2011 joint USDA – DOE biomass R&D solicitation.
- Recommendations for the FY 2011 joint solicitation.

Recommended 2011 Activities

- Coordination between Subcommittees and Biomass R&D Board Interagency Working Groups
- Communicate with the Biomass R&D Board (Board), both as a group and with individual agencies' members, regarding Committee activities and priorities for biomass R&D. As required by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000, meet with the Board at least once during the year.

2011 Deliverables

- Recommendations to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy on biomass R&D

Timeline for Generation of Recommendations

In order to provide recommendations for the annual report to Congress for fiscal year 2011 before its due date of December 20, 2011, formal approval of recommendations must be prompt. Members agreed to allow submission of recommendations up to the final due date via email at rtiley@bcs-hq.com. Submission via other means is possible by contacting Roy Tiley at 410-997-7778 x220. Two weeks after each public meeting, a list of all submitted recommendations will be provided to all Committee members. If members cannot access email, a hard copy of the list is provided via fax or regular mail. A timeline will be included in updated versions of this Work Plan, to provide all deadlines for submission of recommendations for the FY 2011 Annual Report.

Recommended Committee Meeting Schedule

In 2011, the full Committee will meet at least quarterly, as stated in its charter.

Date	Purpose
Q1 2011 March 2-3, 2011 1.5-Day Meeting Place: Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DOE and USDA FY2010 Awards ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation ▪ Overview of DOE Biomass Program for 2011 ▪ Subcommittee Breakout Meetings with agency representatives ▪ Updates on Board Working Groups ▪ Feedstock Logistics ▪ Biopower Presentation ▪ NAREEE Committee Update ▪ Finalize 2011 Work Plan
Q2 2011 TBD Week of May 16, 2011 1.5-Day Meeting Place: Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Annual Recommendations to the Secretaries ▪ Subcommittee Breakout Meetings with agency representatives ▪ NAREEE Committee Update ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation ▪ US DOE Office of Science Updates ▪ Overview of BioPreferred Program ▪ Overview of USDA Regional Biomass Research Centers ▪ Update on EPA Renewable fuel Standards ▪ Catalyst-based Conversion Technologies Panel ▪ Overview of DOE and USDA Loan Guarantee Programs
Q3 2011 TBD Week of August 22, 2011 1.5-Day Meeting Place: Champaign, IL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalize Annual Recommendations to the Secretaries ▪ Subcommittee Breakout Meetings with agency representatives ▪ Forest Research Advisory Council Committee Update ▪ Updates to the Billion-Ton Study ▪ GMO Regulations ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation ▪ GREET Model Development ▪ Top 10 Facts about Ethanol Blends
Q4 2011 TBD Week of November 7, 2011 1.5.-Day Meeting Place: Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on Biomass R&D Board Activities ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation ▪ Draft 2012 Work Plan ▪ Present Annual Recommendations to the Points of Contact ▪ Bioproducts/biochemicals ▪ OBP MYPP Update ▪ Impacts of energy independent ▪ Oil refiners perspective on incorporation of biofuels in the fuel mix ▪ Feedstock/Sustainability Standards Development

Overall themes

- Basic vs. applied research
- Agency focus & priorities
- Getting to commercialization
- Future agency presentations focus less on government process/organization and more on R&D funding and results.