

NAREEE Advisory Board Renewable Energy Committee Report

Carol Keiser-Long
Renewable Energy Committee Chair
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Renewable Energy Committee

Purpose

- ▶ The Renewable Energy Committee (REC) of the NAREEE Advisory Board was established in 2008 and charged to study the scope and effectiveness of research, extension and economics programs within the USDA Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area.

Directive & Mandates

- ▶ The Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) calls for the production of 36 billion gallons per year of renewable fuels by 2022 and establishes new categories of renewable fuel, each with specific volume requirements and life cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) performance threshold standards (Energy Independence and Security Act [EISA], 2007)., As mandated by EISA, the Renewable Fuel Standard was implemented in 2009. 15 Billion Gallons per year of corn ethanol; 21 BGY of “advanced biofuels” with a 50% reduction in life cycle GHG emissions, compared to fossil fuels; 16 BGY of that coming from cellulosic sources with a required 60% reduction in life cycle GHG emissions. An addition one BGY of biomass-based diesel is also required.

Teamwork!

- ▶ With the collaboration of the Bioenergy Work Group, the REC developed the following six recommendations to support USDA/REE's emphasis in bioenergy.

Recommendation #1

- ▶ USDA/REE should determine where funding is needed and reallocation is necessary to avoid duplication, and emphasize accountability for renewable energy project funding;
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Recommendation #2

- ▶ USDA/REE should determine the advantages and disadvantages of all feedstock production systems relative to land use and regionalization;

Recommendation #3

- ▶ USDA/REE should ensure that there is an agriculture information base relevant to renewable energy both to benchmark current status and to assess changes in feedstock production systems and other renewable energy-related systems resulting from agriculture production.

Recommendation #4

- ▶ USDA/REE/ National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) should adopt a public relations strategy to communicate research, education & economics accomplishments to the general public in applicable and practical terms;

Recommendation #5

- ▶ USDA/REE should consider emerging feedstock production systems including algae in the bioenergy supply chain.

Recommendation #6

- ▶ USDA/REE should expedite development of electronic and user-friendly tools such as, the Feedstock Readiness Level (FSRL) Tool to assist stakeholders in decision making, as well as businesses and producers in implementing best business practices.
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REC Future Plans:

- ▶ Continued discussions relevant to benchmarking current status in feedstock production systems, communicate accomplishments and accountability relevant to renewable energy project funding.
 - ▶ Biomass Research Center site visit.
 - ▶ Regional meeting to study scope & effectiveness of REE programs.
 - ▶ Interested in the progress & acceptance of electronic & user friendly tools like the Feedstock Readiness Level (FSRL) Tool.
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On behalf of the NAREEE
Renewable Energy
Committee,
Thank You!

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