



New Year, New Name

As changes to the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy are put into place, the Biomass Program is being rebranded. Effective in 2013, we'll be known as the "Biomass Technologies Office."

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New Funding Opportunity Announcement: Carbon, Hydrogen, and Separation Efficiencies (CHASE) in Bio-Oil Conversion Pathways

The U.S. Department of Energy has issued a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for projects that will focus on reducing the cost of producing gasoline, diesel, and jet fuels from biomass. The FOA will award up to \$12 million for a maximum of five projects that address the three main barriers to efficiency in bio-oil conversion, which were identified at the "Conversion Technologies for Advanced Biofuels" stakeholder workshop and outlined in a Request for Information in November. The three areas for research and development (R&D) applicants to focus on are:

- Carbon Efficiency: Developing selective fractionation and separation systems in bio-oil processing
- Hydrogen Efficiency: Improving hydrogen production, use, and transfer in biomass liquefaction and bio-oil upgrading
- Separations Efficiency: Developing technologies for use and mitigation of the aqueous fraction of bio-oil.

This funding opportunity is open to universities, national laboratories, industrial entities, and non-profit organizations. Successful applicants will be evaluated based on an R&D work-plan that addresses the technical barriers that must be overcome to produce a hydrocarbon fuel blendstock at the gasoline cost equivalent and demonstrates the potential to transfer findings to pilot- and demonstration-scale systems. All candidates must use non-food-based lignocellulosic biomass as the source to create biomass.

For more information, view the full FOA (*DE-FOA-0000812*) on the [EERE Exchange website](#).

Concept papers are **due no later than midnight on January 13, 2013**. Full submissions

are **due no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, February 13, 2013**. Please send all inquiries about the content of this funding announcement to the [CHASE FOA email address](#).

Turning the Holidays into Green Energy



What happens to all of those Christmas trees once the holiday season comes to close? Over 30 million Christmas trees are discarded in the United States every single year. If all those trees were converted into biofuels, using bioenergy conversion technologies

supported by the Biomass Program, they could produce 68 million gallons of renewable gasoline—enough to drive from New York City to Los Angeles over 700,000 times!*

*Conversion is based on the U.S. Department of Energy's [Fast Pyrolysis Design Case](#). Retired Christmas tree value based on [National Christmas Tree Association](#) estimates. Total trips were calculated using a 25 mpg vehicle.

In the Spotlight: Communications Lead Howard Marks

Howard Marks, Director of Communications, Outreach, and Legislation, was in the spotlight this month as part of a new video series featuring Biomass staff. Watch [Episode 2](#) of the Biomass Technologies Office Staff Spotlight Series to hear why Howard first became interested in the field of bioenergy and how far the industry has come on the [Bioenergy KDF's YouTube channel](#).

Did you miss Episode 1? [Watch Acting Program Director Valerie Reed](#) talk about her thoughts on the state of the biomass industry.

BioBlogs

In the month of December, the [Biomass Program Blog](#) is featuring a post on the [December 12th webinar](#) presenters, John Gordon and Pete Silks, who, along with their Los Alamos National Laboratory team members, had a new article published this month on their research.

Be sure to [check out the blog](#) in the upcoming weeks to read more about the Program.

Past and Upcoming Events with Biomass Program Representation

- [National Institute of Standards and Technology Biofuels Standards Conference](#); November 13–15, 2012; Zia Haq, Prasad Gupte; Gaithersburg, Maryland
- [The International Energy Agency Bioenergy Conference 2012](#); November 13–15, 2012; Paul Grabowski; Vienna, Austria
- [Global Bioenergy Partnership: Working Group on Capacity Building for Sustainable Bioenergy](#); November 15, 2012; Bryce Stokes; Rome, Italy
- [National Advanced Biofuels Conference & Expo](#); November 27–29, 2012; Houston, Texas
- [Roadmap to Commercialize Thermochemical Biofuels and Bio-Products Processing in the Midwest Workshop](#); December 10–12, 2012; Prasad Gupte; Ames, Iowa
- The National Alliance for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts 3rd Annual Meeting; January 22–25, 2013; Roxanne Dempsey; Tempe, Arizona
- [ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit](#); February 25–27, 2013; Dan Fishman, Prasad Gupte, Erin Searcy, and Joyce Yang; Washington, DC

Upcoming Industry Events

- [BIO Asia International Conference](#); January 29–30, 2013; Tokyo, Japan
- [The Renewable Fuels Association National Ethanol Conference](#); February 5–7, 2013; Las Vegas, Nevada
- [The American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting](#); February 14–18, 2013; Boston, Massachusetts

To view past Monthly News Blasts, visit the [Biomass Program's Newsletter page](#)