



The North Central Bioeconomy Consortium is a partnership between land grant universities and state departments of agriculture in twelve Midwestern states. It was founded in April 2006 in Madison, WI and is funded by a grant from the Energy Foundation and annual dues from our members. NCBC has the following goals:

- **Expand the use of biomass** in the Midwest to replace fossil fuels and the production of energy, fuels, and products.
- **Raise the profile of the bioeconomy** in the media and among policymakers.
- **Create a clearinghouse for reliable information** about the bioeconomy.
- **Help facilitate coordinated regional approaches** for working with DOE, USDA, and other federal agencies.
- **Develop a regional approach for attracting venture capital investment** for projects that advance the bioeconomy.
- **Reach consensus on regional policies** (such as preferential purchase agreements) for encouraging the use of biomass.
- **Strive for multi-state collaboration** through implementation of regional policy goals.

The Great Plains Institute, the Midwestern Association of State Departments of Agriculture (MASDA), the North Central Regional Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NCRA) and the North Central Cooperative Extension Association (NCCEA) staff the organization, with GPI and NCRA serving as the primary fiscal agents. The NCBC is governed by a three member elected Executive Committee representing one member from each of the organization types that constitute its membership – all of whom also contribute staff support to the effort. More information is available at www.thebioeconomy.org

NCBC 2007 Achievements:

- **Successful Consortium launch:** Organizing and launching the Consortium was a significant achievement, requiring the development of an organizational charter, agreement on Consortium structure, rules, and priorities, signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, election of an Executive Committee, and organization of a press conference. The Consortium was officially launched on April 20 in Madison, WI and received extensive press coverage throughout the region.
- **Senate Agriculture Committee:** At the request of Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, NCBC member Dr. Steve Slack of Ohio State University testified before the full Committee in a hearing on May 7.

- **House Agriculture Committee:** At the request of House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, NCBC members developed and presented a report on research and demonstration projects on perennial bioenergy crops in the Midwest.
- **Midwestern Governors Association:** The NCBC was asked to staff a stakeholder process to develop recommendations on bioenergy policy. Consortium members appointed a stakeholder group of bioenergy leaders from around the region, organized a meeting and conference call, and wrote a draft platform document for Governors' consideration. NCBC staff also participated in meetings of the MGA Energy Summit steering committee, composed of Governors' staff, and offered input throughout the process. The Midwestern Governors met in Milwaukee, WI November 15, 2007 to sign the Platform document.
- **Midwestern Legislative Conference:** NCBC staff were invited to present at a July meeting of the MLC. MLC members, which include influential state legislators for all over the NCBC region, passed a resolution requesting that NCBC members present on Midwestern bioeconomy research and projects at the next meeting in 2008.
- **Sustainable Biorefining Systems Research:** NCBC is supporting and helping to coordinate and publicize a regional rapid response project dedicated to answering crucial questions related to the sustainability of corn ethanol biorefining in the Midwest. The multi-institutional research initiative is working to address local community impacts of ethanol plants, investigating the impacts of state and federal biofuel policies on commodity prices, investigating energy and water use by new, highly efficient ethanol plants, and researching new strategies for using byproducts of ethanol production. The project leverages a modest NCBC investment to bring in nearly \$200,000 in investments from partner institutions. This regional research approach will be a model for future initiatives focusing on advanced biofuels.
- **USDA Strategic Plan:** The NCBC has been asked to provide input on a draft strategic plan that will direct up to \$70,000,000 in USDA research funding on biofuels and bioenergy.
- **Regional Information Clearinghouse:** Consortium staff are working to develop an information clearinghouse that will highlight advanced biofuels research and demonstration projects throughout the North Central region. The website, which is still in development, is at www.thebioeconomy.org.

NCBC 2008 Plans:

- **Assist Midwestern Governors Association:** The NCBC has been asked by Governors to assist in implementing certain elements of the MGA Platform
- **Midwestern Legislative Conference:** NCBC staff will work with Legislative Chairs of the MLC Energy Committee to develop a program for the MLC's summer meeting that highlights the current status of bioeconomy research and development in the Midwest, including highlights of the NC506 research.
- **Help coordinate research media/outreach:** NCBC staff will work with Chairs of the NC506 research initiative to coordinate a media campaign to publicize the results of the NC506 research – "Sustainable Systems for Corn Biorefining" focused on regional and local impacts of corn ethanol development.
- **Help coordinate additional multi-state research:** NCBC staff will work with Chairs of the NC506 research and other regional researchers to help coordinate a new research initiative building on the successes on the NC506 and expanding the research to next generation fuels and energy.
- **Develop and implement a communications strategy:** NCBC staff will work with a team of NCBC members and communications staff to implement a targeted communications strategy that highlights the region's strengths, bioeconomy activities (research and development), and other issues that NCBC members feel we should address.

