

****DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DOMESTIC BIOFUELS
COMMITTEE CHAIRS****

FEEDSTOCKS

I. Increase supply of feedstocks for biofuels

A. Create a system for long-term contracts and/or easement payments to be offered for production of bioenergy crops.

*regulation of contract issues

C. Expand lands dedicated to producing biomass for energy production by expanding the managed forest land program or use-value property tax system.

* include woody biomass crops.

E. Provide loans, grants, or other incentives to support investment in capital equipment, infrastructure development, and related support services required for bioenergy feedstocks establishment, production, harvest, storage, or transport.

* Include incentives supporting bioenergy feedstocks establishment, production, harvest, storage, and transport in existing state financial assistance programs, e.g. Renewable Energy Grants and Loans Program and Focus on Energy.

F. Promote professional and technical education related to feedstocks production.

* Direct University of Wisconsin-Extension to assess educational needs for jobs related to feedstocks and biofuels production and to report to the Legislature with its findings.

II. Improve quality of feedstocks and sustainability of feedstock production

A. Create standards for biomass production that protect public benefits, including water quality, soil health, responsible chemical inputs, soil carbon storage, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat.

* Establish a bioenergy advisory committee to identify voluntary best management practices for sustainable biomass and biofuels production.

III. Increase market for feedstocks

A. Create a program to educate producers about how to use the carbon footprint of feedstocks to increase their value and create marketable carbon offsets.

* Direct DATCP and UW-Extension to educate producers about opportunities to add value to feedstocks by reducing their carbon intensity.

B. Establish a Renewable Fuels for Schools and Communities Program to provide loans or other financial assistance for the purchase of equipment for biomass energy systems in schools and government-owned buildings.

* Seek opportunities to capture federal funding for deploying biomass energy systems in schools and government-owned building.

IV. Research and study feedstock technologies and policy

A. Promote assessments of feedstocks.

* (FOR A. through G.) Require OEI to provide a periodic “strategic feedstocks assessment” report about feedstocks potential and feedstocks being produced in Wisconsin, the impacts of the use of feedstocks for energy production on other consumers of those feedstocks, and how land use changes may affect future feedstocks availability.

B. Research new feedstock technologies.

C. Study the impacts of the use of various feedstocks for energy production on other consumers of those feedstocks, and the relative “value” of various uses for feedstocks.

D. Study how trends in land use and other factors may affect the supply of future biofuel feedstocks.

E. Study direct and indirect land use changes that may be caused by the expanding biofuels industry, like removal of land from the conservation reserve program (CRP).

F. Study barriers to the use of wood waste and food waste as feedstocks for biofuels.

G. Study soils statewide to identify optimal biomass feedstocks.

BIOFUELS PRODUCTION

V. Increase biofuel production in the state

D. Reduce regulatory burdens.

* Create an advisory committee to identify state and local regulatory burdens to the siting, construction, operation, and expansion of biofuels production facilities and report to the Legislature on its findings.

E. Provide technical or financial support to the pulp and paper industry to add the production of other bioproducts including biofuels.

* Add to list of OEI duties in statute.

H. Create a program to provide reduced rate loans to renewable energy businesses, utilities and start-ups.

* Recommend creation of such a program.

I. Provide incentives for “home producers.”

- * Exempt from motor vehicle fuel taxes fuels produced by an individual and used in the individual's personal vehicle.

VI. Improve biofuel production systems

- B. Provide assistance for ethanol plants to convert to biomass energy for process heat.
 - * Direct such assistance from the Renewable Energy Grants and Loans Program
- C. Research uses for byproducts.
 - * Establish a marketing order to assess producers of dedicated energy crops for promotion of energy crop production and use.
- E. Create a state low carbon fuel standard applicable to all transportation fuels (LCFS), promote a regional LCFS, or require biofuels production in Wisconsin to meet the federal low carbon biofuels standard to qualify for state incentives and programs.
 - * Further committee discussion needed.

BIOFUELS DISTRIBUTION

VII. Expand the biofuel distribution system

- * Fiscal concerns

VIII. Increase number and capacity of biofuel dispensing facilities

- * A & B: Use existing funding sources (identify possible federal funds and new funding) to allow marketers to decide which pumps to install
- C. Provide cost sharing and technical assistance on federal programs such as the federal "refueling infrastructure corridor grant" program (sec. 244 (d), 2007 Energy Act).
 - * Explore opportunities.
- D. Require fuel suppliers to provide unblended fuel.
 - * Possibly model unblended wholesale sales requirement after South Carolina law.

BIOFUELS DEMAND

IX. Increase demand for biofuels

- C. Remove barriers to the use of intermediate ethanol blends in non-flex-fueled vehicles.
 - * Further committee discussion

D. Create a Wisconsin renewable fuel standard (RFS) with specific targets for biofuels created from various feedstocks.

* Further Committee discussion

E. Require state to prescribe and enforce product-grade specifications for biodiesel.

* Further committee discussion needed.

H. Expand state programs related to biofuels consumption by the state fleet.

* Codify executive order 141.

ADMINISTRATION OF STATE BIOFUELS PROGRAM

X. Streamline state administration of biofuel-related programs

A. Clarify/expand the role of the Office of Energy Independence as the state's clearinghouse for research, policies, programs, and issues related to biofuels.

* (For A through C) Clarify primary role of OEI in coordinating efforts of all state entities.

B. Promote improved agency collaboration with and consolidation of biofuels-related programs, including by reviewing successful models of cooperation in other states.

C. Promote a collaborative relationship with other states and provinces.