2004 WORK PLAN
BIOMASS R&D TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

The Biomass Technical Advisory Committee, in its advisory capacity, is chartered to provide the following to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy and their points-of-contact (the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy):

• Advice on the technical focus and direction of requests for proposals issued under the Biomass Research and Development Initiative (Initiative), and
• Advice on the procedures for reviewing and evaluating the proposals.

The Committee shall also:

• Facilitate consultations and partnerships among Federal and State agencies, agricultural producers, industry, consumers, the research community, and other interested groups to carry out program activities relating to the Initiative, and
• Evaluate and perform strategic planning on program activities relating to the Initiative.

Additionally, the Committee shall have the following duties:

• Advise the points-of-contact with respect to the Initiative;
• Make recommendations in writing to the Biomass Research and Development Board to ensure that:
  o Funds authorized for the Initiative are distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the Initiative;
  o The points-of-contact are funding proposals under this title that are selected on the basis of merit, as determined by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers; and
  o Activities under the Initiative 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 Initiative, provide a report to the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture on whether funds appropriated for the Initiative have been distributed and used in a manner that
  o Is consistent with the purposes described in section 307(b) of the Act,
  o Uses the criteria established under subsection (a)(3), and
  o Takes into account any recommendations that have been made by the Advisory Committee.

To date, the Committee’s activities have resulted in five major products:

• A preliminary set of recommendations, submitted to the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture in December of 2001, on the potential of biomass research and development.
• The *Vision for Bioenergy & Biobased Products in the United States*, outlining the far-reaching goals that the Committee would like to see achieved by the biomass industry.
• The *Roadmap for Bioenergy & Biobased Products in the United States*, outlining research and development pathways in plant sciences, feedstock production, processing and conversion, and other areas necessary to achieve the goals set forth in the *Vision*.
• A set of recommendations, submitted to the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture in December of 2002.
• A set of recommendations, to be submitted to the Secretaries of Energy and Agriculture by December of 2003.

**2004 Activities**

In 2004, the Committee plans to complete the following:

• Respond to reports from USDA and DOE regarding aggressive federal purchasing of biobased products.
• Develop detailed recommendations regarding the USDA/DOE joint solicitation. Develop a matrix to track the progress of R&D funded under the solicitation.
• Track progress in achieving the Committee’s *Vision* goals.
• Discuss cellulosic ethanol, gasification, and co-firing, and the history of the federal government’s efforts in those areas.
• Discuss hydrogen power.
• Create a subcommittee to develop a definition of “biorefinery.”

**Committee Meeting Schedule**

In 2004, the full Committee will meet at least quarterly, as required by law. Each meeting will last one day, except for the final meeting, which will last for one and a half days and involve a joint meeting with the Biomass R&D Board. Meetings have been scheduled for the following dates:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 11, 2004</td>
<td>Discuss progress of federal procurement of biobased products; review and refine the R&amp;D matrix and <em>Vision</em> goals tracker; receive reports regarding the history of efforts in major biomass technology areas</td>
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<td>July 13-14, 2004</td>
<td>Continue reports on the history of federal efforts in major biomass technology areas; discuss hydrogen power; begin developing recommendations regarding the USDA/DOE joint solicitation</td>
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<td>September 29, 2004</td>
<td>Finalize recommendations; meet with the Biomass R&amp;D Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>December (date TBD)</td>
<td>Develop 2005 work plan; TBD</td>
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2004 DELIVERABLES

- Matrix tracking the progress of biomass R&D.
- Vision goals tracker.
- Recommendations regarding cellulosic ethanol, gasification, and co-firing.
- Recommendations regarding hydrogen.
- Recommendations to the Biomass R&D Board (required per section 309(b) of the Biomass R&D Act of 2000).
- Definition of “biorefinery.”