

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:
 - Funds authorized for the Initiative are distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the Initiative;
 - 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
 - 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
 - Is consistent with the purposes described in section 307(b) of the Act,
 - Uses the criteria established under subsection (a)(3), and
 - 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:

Date	Purpose
March 11, 2004	Discuss progress of federal procurement of biobased products; review and refine the R&D matrix and <i>Vision</i> goals tracker; receive reports regarding the history of efforts in major biomass technology areas
July 13-14, 2004	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
September 29, 2004	Finalize recommendations; meet with the Biomass R&D Board
December (date TBD)	Develop 2005 work plan; TBD

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.”