

Overview of Biomass Research and Development Board, Operation Committee, and Working Groups

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

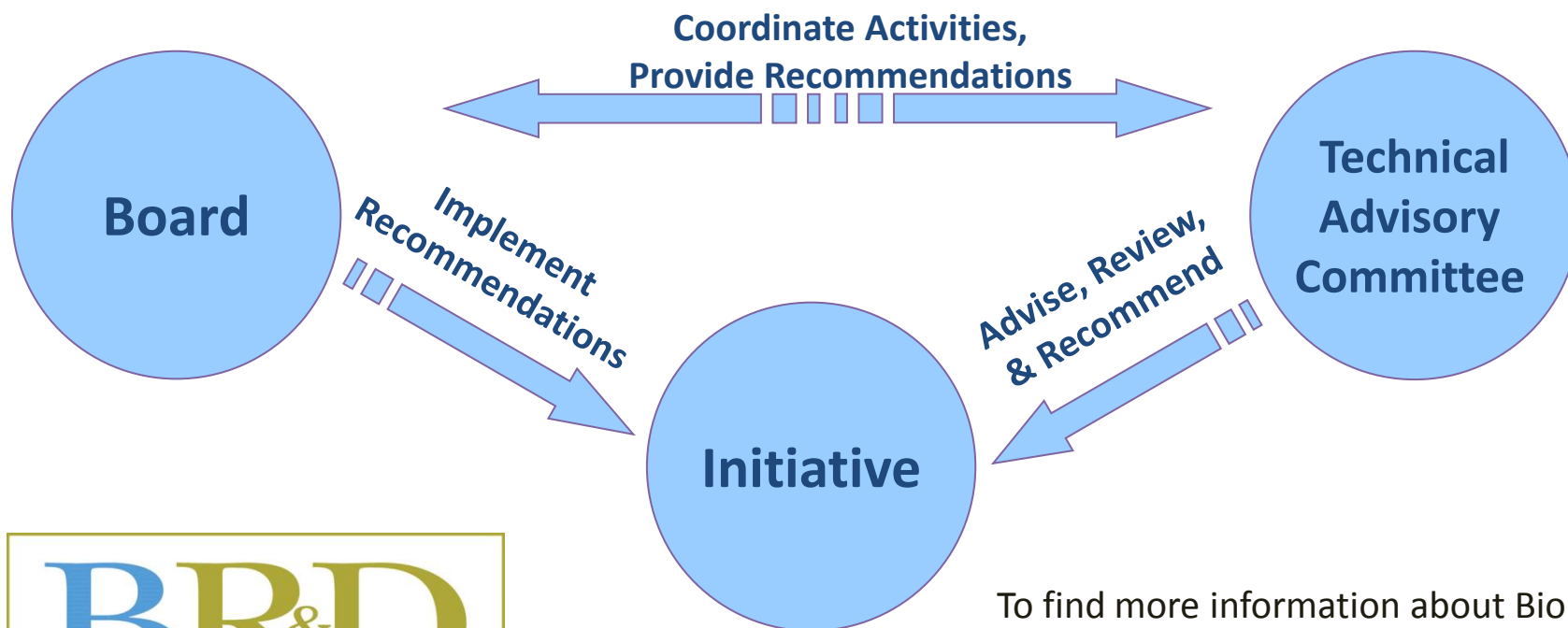
Alison Goss Eng

U.S. Department of Energy



Biomass Research and Development Act

- The Biomass Research and Development Act was established in 2000 and has been amended several times. Most recently, the Agricultural Act of 2014 reauthorized the Act.
- The act established the Interagency Biomass R&D Board, the Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee, and authorized funds for the Biomass R&D Initiative.



To find more information about Biomass Research and Development activities, please visit biomassboard.gov

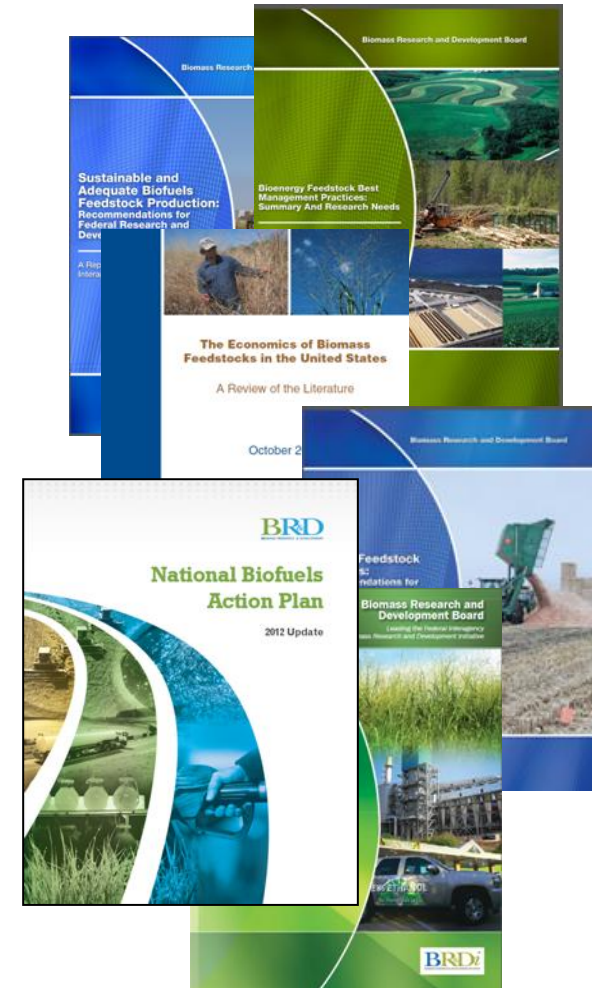
Interagency Biomass R&D Board

- The Board is a panel consisting of Senate-confirmed Co-Chairs from USDA and DOE and senior-level representatives from executive branch agencies:
 - Department of Agriculture: Co-Chair Cathie Woteki; Research, Education, and Economics
 - Department of Energy: Co-Chair Dave Danielson; Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Department of Transportation
 - National Science Foundation
 - Department of Interior
 - Office of Science and Technology Policy
 - Department of Defense



Board Background and Functions

- The Biomass Board was created by statute to coordinate R&D activities relating to biofuels & bio-based products and their commercialization with collaboration between agencies.
- Commercialization includes production at competitive prices via collaborations to enhance efficiencies along the entire bioenergy supply chain.
- Assesses and provides strategic guidance regarding energy and environmental impacts.
- Public deliverables include case studies, supply chain reports, and inventories of government-wide Biomass R&D activities.
- In 2012, the Board completed an update to the 2008 National Biofuels Action Plan.
- The Board convenes Interagency Working Groups to coordinate broad tasks across the entire supply chain.



Board Operations Committee

The Board Operations Committee is composed of ten members who represent the various agencies and work closely with their Board members to carry out related tasks. Arranging quarterly Board meetings, coordinating interagency reports, and planning workshops are all activities under the purview of the Operations Committee.

Board Operations Committee Members	
Jonathan Male	Department of Energy
Joseph Graber	Department of Energy
Todd Campbell	Department of Agriculture
Harry Baumes	Department of Agriculture
Christopher Clark	Environmental Protection Agency
Donna Perla	Environmental Protection Agency
Gregory Rorrer	National Science Foundation
Shawn Johnson	Department of Transportation
Bruce Rodan	Office of Science and Technology Policy
Robert Boyd	Department of Defense
Karen Mouritsen	Department of Interior
Alison Goss Eng*	Department of Energy

*Dr. Goss Eng serves as the Board and Operations Committee Liaison

Interagency Working Groups

Beyond the Operations Committee, the Board has established seven Interagency Working Groups to focus on specific concentrations in bioenergy. The seven working groups are listed below:

- *Feedstocks Production & Management*
- *Feedstocks Production—Genetic Improvement*
- *Feedstocks Logistics*
- *Conversion*
- *Transport & Distribution Infrastructure*
- *Algae*
- *Analysis*

These groups work on numerous activities, from collaborative research assessments to developing white papers and interagency reports.



Interagency Working Groups

Feedstocks Production & Management

Chairs:

- Marilyn Buford (FS)
- Norm Widman (USDA)

Mission & Workplan:

The FPM-IWG coordinates federal research activities relative to the production and management of terrestrial, primarily cellulosic biomass feedstocks. The goal is to enhance the development and deployment of cost-competitive, sustainable biomass feedstocks from agricultural and forestry residues, energy crops, and waste streams. The approach focuses on production and management systems, from establishment up to the harvest interface including the integration of the feedstock material and management with conversion processes.



Interagency Working Groups

Feedstocks Production – Genetic Improvement

Chairs:

- Cathy Ronning (DOE)
- Jose Costa (USDA)

Mission & Workplan:

The Feedstocks Production-Genetic Improvement Working Group coordinates federal research activities relative to the genetic improvement of terrestrial, primarily cellulosic biomass feedstocks. The group focuses on developing and deploying sustainable biomass feedstock production and management systems and practices for energy crops and for integration into conventional agriculture, forest and rangeland management. The goal of the FGI-IWG is to further development of superior, sustainable and dedicated biomass feedstocks using the tools of genetics and genomics for the implementation of innovative feedstock breeding programs.



Interagency Working Groups

Feedstocks Logistics

Chairs:

- Alison Goss Eng (DOE)
- Daniel Cassidy (USDA)

Mission & Workplan:

The Feedstock Logistics Working Group addresses collaboration and coordination of research, development, demonstration, and deployment (RDD&D) activities to help reduce the costs of feedstocks while ensuring sustainable practices. The working group is helping reduce costs by reviewing current logistical systems and making recommendations for research to help create an economical, sustainable biofuels industry.

The FL-IWG has drafted “Biomass Feedstocks Logistics Research, Development, Deployment and Demonstration Programs in the Federal Government – Review and Recommendations for Coordination and Collaboration.”



Interagency Working Groups

Conversion

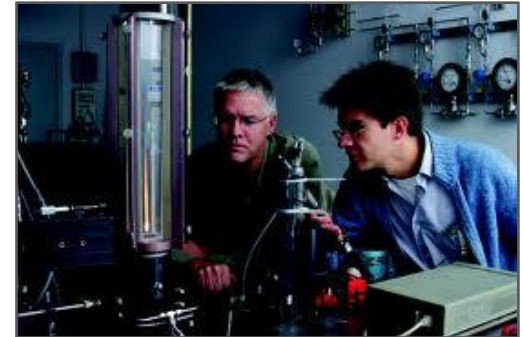
Chairs:

- Mike Cotta (USDA)
- Prasad Gupte (DOE)

Mission & Workplan:

The mission of the Conversion Working Group is to assist the Board in coordinating federal research and development programs focused on the conversion of biomass into biofuels, biopower, co-products and non-food biobased products and provide the Board with information about conversion technologies.

Conversion technologies of focus include, but are not limited to, the development of mechanical, thermal, chemical and biological processing steps.



Interagency Working Groups

Transport & Distribution Infrastructure

Chairs:

- Shawn Johnson (DOT)
- Stephen Costa (DOT)

Mission & Workplan:

The Transport and Distribution Infrastructure Working Group is evaluating options for the safe and efficient transport, distribution, and storage of upstream feedstock and downstream biofuel products, and examining key issues for biofuels end-use.

The TDI-IWG works to map federal roles, including identifying gaps, overlaps and collaborative opportunities in facilitating adequate, safe and efficient transport, distribution and storage of biofuels and biofuel feedstocks. Since 2012 the working group has expanded its scope to also consider and assesses biofuel applications and end use requirements.



Interagency Working Groups

Algae

Chairs:

- Mark Segal (EPA)
- Max Mayeaux (USDA)

Mission:

The Algae Working Group coordinates federal research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities relating to the production and use of algae and their products/co-products in a sustainable manner. This Working Group also serves as means to exchange ideas and discuss issues that transcend federal activities related to the impact of algae and any algal derived products/co-products on commerce, health and the environment.



Interagency Working Groups

Analysis

Chairs:

- Harry Baumes (USDA)
- Zia Haq (DOE)

Mission & Workplan:

The Analysis working group's mission is to coordinate federal analytical activities in the areas of biofuels, bio-power and bioproducts. The goals of the working group are to inform the Board about the analytical activities being undertaken by various federal agencies, identify areas of potential duplication, leverage resources, and ensure that analysis products are focused and provide value across federal agencies and the Administration, and to the general public.

