



Biomass Research & Development
Technical Advisory Committee
2015 Plan

Presentation to the Biomass Board
By Kevin Kephart, Committee Co-chair

Vice President for Research and Economic Development
South Dakota State University

March 5, 2015

2015 Approach

- Enhance input from both TAC members and federal program managers to Identify specific topics for the TAC to focus on during 2015. Topics will emanate from TAC subcommittees and members as well as other sources such as the Board working groups and others
 - Sub-committees narrow in on topic areas and possible gaps to address for the full committee.

2015 Schedule

- Q1 Meeting
 - Have initial discussions and interactions between the Biomass Board, Operation Committees, Interagency Working Groups, DOE and USDA biomass budget and new activities and goals.
- Q2 Meeting
 - TAC along with the attending Operation Committees and Interagency Working Group guests develop a list of focused topics.
 - Determine areas which the TAC should emphasize by down-selecting from the potential TAC 2015 topics suggested.
 - Adjust the TAC sub-committee structures if necessary to best address one or more topics per future meeting.
- Q3 and Q4 Meetings
 - Work in Subcommittees to develop recommendations on agreed upon topic areas.
- Q4
 - Finalize 2015 recommendations by achieving consensus and vote.

Examples of Possible 2015 Topics

Recommendations remaining from 2014: More emphasis on bioproducts, waste-to-energy, and sustainability

Possible 2015 Topics (this is only the beginnings of a running list):

- How would modifications to the RFS policy positively affect innovation in biofuels commercialization?
- How should technology breakthroughs and scientific facts be effectively communicated to the American public to convey the positive impacts of biomass, bioenergy and bioproducts?
- Which Bioproduct platform(s) contain a positive business case worth pursuing?
- Are existing sustainability models adequate or are additional studies and approaches needed?
- How can techno-economic analyses be improved and made more useful?
- How can USA efforts be better coordinated with and benefit from international experiences?
- How to improve production of value-added products from sugars by biological methods?
- How to improve crop production to obtain higher yields and better GHG balance for sugar and starch crops and for lignocellulosic crops?
- How to improve chemistry & engineering technology / scale-up for thermo/catalytic conversion of whole biomass to bio-products?
- How can the Federal agencies better coordinate their activities to optimize and leverage biofuels R&D and infrastructure across Government?
- What are the commercial opportunities related to biogas?
- Should renewable diesel (ex. F-76) for marine applications be considered an early biofuels adoption area and subsequently a new focus area?