

2012 Work Plan

Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee

Background

The Biomass Research and Development (R&D) Technical Advisory Committee (Committee) is chartered to provide advice to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy and their points-of-contact (POCs) as proscribed by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000 and as amended by the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA), within the regulations of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager, Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Dr. David Danielson, Department of Energy (DOE) are the Departmental POCs for 2011-2012.

The Committee was established by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000 [7 U.S.C. 7624 note] (as amended) to provide:

- Advice on the technical focus and direction of requests for proposals issued under the Biomass R&D Initiative, and
- Advice on the procedures for reviewing and evaluating the proposals.

The Committee shall also:

- Evaluate and perform strategic planning on program activities relating to the Biomass R&D Initiative.

Additionally, the Committee shall have the following duties:

- Advise the POCs with respect to Biomass R&D;
- Make recommendations in writing to the Biomass Research and Development Board to ensure that:
 - Funds authorized for Biomass R&D are distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the objectives, purposes, and considerations of the Biomass R&D Initiative;
 - Solicitations are open and competitive with awards made annually and that objectives and evaluation criteria of the solicitations are clearly stated and minimally prescriptive, with no areas of special interest;
 - Activities 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 Biomass R&D, the POCs provide a report to Congress, via the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy that takes into account any recommendations that have been made by the Advisory Committee.

2012 Activities

Required 2012 Activities

Recommendations to Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy:

To be discussed throughout the fiscal year. At the last meeting of FY 2012, recommendations will be approved by majority vote for inclusion in the annual report to the Secretaries and Congress. The Biomass R&D Act of 2000 requires that the recommendations consider the following:

- Feedback on the results of the FY 2012 joint USDA – DOE biomass R&D solicitation.
- Recommendations for the FY 2013 joint solicitation.

Recommended 2012 Activities

- Coordination between Subcommittees and Biomass R&D Board Interagency Working Groups
- Communicate with the Biomass R&D Board (Board), both as a group and with individual agencies' members, regarding Committee activities and priorities for biomass R&D. As required by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000, meet with the Board at least once during the year.

2012 Deliverables

- Recommendations to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy on biomass R&D

Timeline for Generation of Recommendations

In order to provide recommendations for the annual report to Congress for fiscal year 2012 before its due date of November 14, 2012, formal approval of recommendations must be prompt. Members agreed to allow submission of recommendations up to the final due date via email at rtiley@bcs-hq.com. Submission via other means is possible by contacting Roy Tiley at 410-997-7778 x220. Two weeks after each public meeting, a list of all submitted recommendations will be provided to all Committee members. If members cannot access email, a hard copy of the list is provided via fax or regular mail. A timeline will be included in updated versions of this Work Plan, to provide all deadlines for submission of recommendations for the FY 2012 Annual Report.

Recommended Committee Meeting Schedule

In 2012, the full Committee will meet at least quarterly, as stated in its charter.

Date	Purpose
Q1 2012 March 1-2, 2012 Place: Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation ▪ Subcommittee Breakout Meetings ▪ Overview of the USDA Feedstocks Readiness Tool ▪ Overview of DOE Biomass Program FY13 Budget and Anticipated Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) ▪ Overview of the Updated National Biofuels Action Plan ▪ Panel on the Renewable Fuel Standard
Q2 2012 May 21-23, 2012 Place: Richland, WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Annual Recommendations to the Secretaries ▪ Subcommittee Breakout Meetings ▪ Update on Biomass R&D Board Activities ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation ▪ Panel on Research, Development, and Commercialization of Advanced Biofuels in the Northwest ▪ Committee Online Library Demonstration
Q3 2012 August 22-23, 2012 Place: Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation ▪ Subcommittee Breakout Meetings ▪ Update from Forestry Research Advisory Council ▪ Congressional Update and Overview of Biomass Federal R&D
Q4 2012 November 14-15, 2012 Place: Washington, DC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Update on Biomass R&D Board Activities ▪ Update on DOE and USDA Activities and Joint Solicitation Awards ▪ Finalize and Approve 2012 Recommendations ▪ Key Project Updates from USDA and DOE ▪ Update on Joint DPA Initiative

Overall Themes

- Basic vs. applied research
- Agency focus & priorities
- Getting to commercialization
- Future agency presentations focus less on government process/organization and more on R&D funding and results.