



Progress in Building a Strong Biomass Thermal Initiative and **A CALL TO ACTION**

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Heating the Northeast with Renewable Biomass

3rd Annual Conference

April 13-15, 2011

Take you back to 2008.....

- Industry unorganized
- Biomass thermal not well-understood by policy makers and public
- Chaotic market, recession, Presidential election focused attention on need to present stronger message, better communication
- Recognition that Northeast was good place to start

Initial Steps

- 2009 – 1st conference
- Formation of **BTEC**
 - national voice



- Working group formed to develop Vision for potential of biomass thermal in northeast
- 2010 – 2nd conference, presentation of Vision, and commitment to form a regional coalition

Heating the Northeast with Renewable Biomass:

A Bold Vision for 2025



Northeast

BIOMASS THERMAL WORKING GROUP

NEBTWG Formed

- Initially, New England and New York (now includes PA; MD next?)
- Formed steering committee
- Developed charter:
 - **“an informal association of biomass thermal advocates, committed to working together to influence policy, regulatory affairs, government programs and incentives, and public relations “**
- Developed action plan focused initially on promotion of Vision and creating a regional identity and communication tools



Leadership

- **NY:** Dan Conable, NYBEA; David Dungate, ACT Bioenergy; Rick Handley, Handley Associates
- **VT:** Andi Colnes, BEREC (*co-chair*)
- **NH:** Charlie Niebling, NEWP (*co-chair*); Scott Nichols, TarmBiomass
- **ME:** Bill Bell, MPFA; Bill Strauss, FutureMetrics; Laura Sawall, International Woodfuels
- **MA:** Charlie Cary, Biomass Combustion Systems; Marc Caluwe, Hydro-to-Heat Convertor; Bob Perschel, Forest Guild
- **PA:** John Nikoloff and Melissa Gauthé, PA Biomass Working Group
- **Other:** John Ackerly, Alliance for Green Heat; Julie Goetz, Hearth and Home Technologies

Next Steps

- Raised some \$\$: initially from 2010 conference; more recently from John Merck Fund, West Penn Power SEF
- Hired TTC: Kyle Gibeault/Joe Seymour
- Created a website: www.nebioheat.org
- Built a database of contacts: **now over 1,000**
- Administrative/fiscal agreement with BEREC (501c3)
- Developed workplan and policy agenda

Accomplishments to Date

- **Vision sign-on**, promotion to 450+ key contacts
- **State Captains**: point of contact in each state
- **Media database**, press releases
- **Advocacy on USDA biofuels strategy**, sign-on letter (182!)
- **Outreach to ASHRAE/WERC grant project** with BTEC (thanks to WPPSEF)
- **Reference library**: publications, case studies, photos, slide presentations – all open source; coming soon
- **Support of Midwest effort**
- **Enhanced communication strategy** coming in next few months
- **Development of comprehensive policy agenda and call to action**

What NEBTWG is Not

- Not a dues organization: no membership (*please support state groups and support BTEC*)
- Not top down: Bottom up/true grassroots effort
- Not competing: Complementary to and supportive of other state and regional organizations
- Not biased: Technology/biomass fuel neutral
- Not against anything: FOR biomass thermal and CHP
- Not distracted by minutiae: Low/no overhead and focus on collective effort and ACTION, not on administrative/governance issues

What NEBTWG IS

- A coalition of biomass thermal advocates committed to working together to advance the use of biomass for heating and CHP (combined heat and power) in the northeastern United States
- Bound by our common belief that biomass thermal has significant growth potential and important economic, environmental and societal benefits

Making it Happen:

NEBTWG Policy Agenda & Call to Action

NEBTWG Policy

Objectives

The region (and nation) should have an outcome based energy policy that supports:

- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Security
- Affordability
- Sustainability
- Reduction in GHG emissions
- Job creation through energy independence

The country's energy policy should address all major sectors of energy use including thermal energy.

NEBTWG Policy Objectives

- ✓ Sustainable Supply
- ✓ Inclusive Biomass Definition
- ✓ Appropriately Scaled Applications
- ✓ Strengthen Rural Economies & Rural Wealth Capture
- ✓ Investment Capital
- ✓ Public Information & Education

NEBTWG 2011 Action Priorities

Where can NETBWG best add value to advance sustainable thermal biomass energy in the northeast?

- ❖ Organize and align the region's congressional delegation
- ❖ Support leading policy initiatives in each state
- ❖ Advance a unified regional message and related regional initiatives

Policy Drivers

Carrot

Thermal REC's
Loans & Grants
PTC, ITC
Residential Tax Credits & Rebates

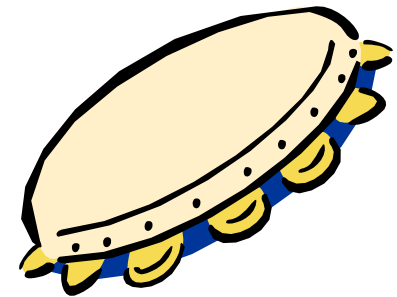


Stick

Renewable thermal mandates
Thermal RPS

Tambourine

Public Education & Information



Organize and align the region's congressional delegation:

- Prepare a package of materials (fact sheets, issue brief, materials related to the HNE Vision document, etc.)
- Convene a series of meetings with as many members of the regional congressional delegation as possible
- Develop a simple policy framework and seek endorsement from the northeastern congressional delegation

Federal Policy Priorities

- RFS2: include solid biomass as a replacement for home heating oil
- Clean Energy Standard: include thermal energy, efficient biomass technologies and CHP
- Biomass Thermal Tax Incentives: PTC, ITC, level playing field
- Investment Capital, Financing: schools, public institutions, campuses, district energy systems

Support leading policy initiatives in each state

Vermont: Comprehensive Energy Plan, Recommendations of the Bio-E Group, Efficiency Vermont biomass thermal efficiency upgrades.

New York: Form an interagency task force to evaluate what the state can do to encourage biomass as a replacement for oil and propane.

Maine: Greater attention by public officials, particularly Efficiency Maine, to publicizing modern wood heating systems as an alternative to oil heat.

New Hampshire: H.B 543 FN – To authorize REC's under the NH RPS for thermal and electric biomass CHP facilities

Massachusetts: Biomass power REC's linked to efficiency: 60% efficiency: 1 REC/MWh; 40% efficiency: 1/2 REC/MWh; 40%-60% efficiency: Prorated REC's.
Possible thermal biomass incentives

Pennsylvania: Dedicated funding from existing state energy bond programs for biomass thermal/CHP institutional-to-industrial scale projects using sustainable feedstocks.

Unified regional message and policy initiatives

- Utilize RGGI funds universally across the region on thermal energy.
- Include heating fuels as well as transportation fuels in the LCFS.

Heating the Northeast: Call to Action

- What:** A big picture call to advance biomass thermal energy as a critical component of the sustainable energy future of the Northeast
- To:** Northeastern Governors and Congressional delegations
- From:** Northeast Biomass Thermal Community
- When:** As a product of this conference
- How:** Visit the sign-on table out front. Follow-up electronic distribution following the conference. Numbers count – use our voice
- Next Steps:** Endorse it; Get it Out; Call & Contacts

Northeast

BIOMASS THERMAL WORKING GROUP

Heating the Northeast: Call to Action

Federal

- RFS2: solid biomass as a replacement for home heating oil
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Regional

- Utilize RGGI funds across the region on thermal energy.
- Encourage LCFS to include heating fuels

States....

What can you and NEBTWG supporters do:

- Endorse and share the Call to Action
- Join in meetings with your state delegations
- Share your ideas
- Join and support state and national organizations helping to advance this work

What is the future role of biomass energy in an oil and climate constrained world?

- ✓ Use Wood
 - ✓ Not Too Much
 - ✓ Mostly Thermal

Michael Pollan (sort of!)