



ANOTHER RBEP SUCCESS: Ethanol workshops that really work, part 2: building momentum in Michigan

The Regional Biomass Energy Program (RBEP) promotes increased production and use of bioenergy resources, and helps advance the use of renewable biomass feedstocks and technologies. Historically, the RBEP leverages two nonfederal dollars for every federal dollar it administers.

Benefits of Ethanol Workshops

- Builds momentum for developing a local ethanol industry
- Prompts efforts to reduce dependence on imported oil
- Spurs progress toward clean-air goals
- Develops markets for local farmers
- Creates jobs

“This third ethanol workshop shows that the educational and promotional activities we are doing in conjunction with our partners is paying off — people are interested in seeing increased ethanol use in Michigan and are willing to do what it takes to help make that dream a reality.”

Jody E. Pollok, Executive Director
Corn Marketing Program
of Michigan



**U.S. Department
of Energy**
**Regional Biomass
Energy Program**

www.ott.doe.gov/rbep

CHALLENGE

Ethanol is a fuel solution that makes sense — it is a domestically produced, renewable biomass-based product that burns cleanly. For ethanol to be more widely used in the U.S., more regional ethanol production plants must be built and ethanol fuel stations must be readily accessible to consumers. These challenges require cooperative action on the part of legislators, state and local officials, corn producers, fuel distributors, and the general public to make widespread ethanol use a reality.

RBEP SOLUTION

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Regional Biomass Energy Program has funded ethanol workshops in 25 states to help “get the ball rolling” for state-based ethanol initiatives.

Ideally, once an initial ethanol workshop is held, momentum begins to build and a state-based ethanol working group forms to focus on legislative action and infrastructure development. The ultimate goal of the ethanol workshops and their associated follow-up activities is to pave the way at the state level for producing ethanol from cellulosic feedstocks.



Several members of Michigan’s Ethanol Working Group.
(Photos courtesy of BBI International.)

Partners

U.S. Department of Energy
Regional Biomass Energy Program

Michigan Biomass Energy Program,
State Energy Office

Corn Marketing Program of
Michigan

Michigan Department of
Agriculture

BBI International



Senator Dan DeGrow addresses attendees.

Web-based Information Resources

Michigan Biomass
Energy Program
<http://michiganbioenergy.org>

Corn Marketing Program
of Michigan
<http://www.micorn.org>

For more information:

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RESULTS

Ethanol workshops are producing the desired results in Michigan, where an unprecedented third annual ethanol workshop was held in September 2001. Following the state's second ethanol workshop in 2000, an Ethanol Working Group was formed by representatives of public and private organizations, universities, and state agencies interested in promoting ethanol in Michigan. More than 100 people attended the latest workshop, representing the automotive industry, corn producers, gas station owners, mechanics, and consumers.

One of the most exciting aspects of the 2001 workshop was Senator Dan DeGrow's announcement of a \$5 million appropriation passed by the Michigan Senate and House and signed by the governor to help fund construction of the state's first large-scale ethanol production plant. The 40-million-gallon-per-year plant that converts corn into ethanol is being built in Caro, Michigan. This was a direct result of efforts begun after the state's first ethanol workshop in 1999.

Other topics covered in this latest Michigan Ethanol Workshop included:

- Why should I use ethanol?
- How and where is ethanol used?
- What is new with E85 vehicles?
- What is ethanol going to do for my engine?
- What will ethanol production mean to Michigan?
- Where do we go from here?

Workshop participants rated the event 4.4 on a 5-point scale, and offered comments such as, "Keep doing these workshops and get the new ethanol plant up and running," "The workshop showed how much Michigan can benefit from ethanol production," and "Keep up the good work. An outstanding group of leaders."

BENEFITS

Michigan's experience with ethanol workshops is demonstrating that good things can happen when a forum is provided for industry leaders to gather and explore the possibilities. The entire state of Michigan will benefit from the results of these ethanol workshops — citizens, farmers, fuel producers, the environment, and local economies.

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