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Louisiana Energy Topic

Department of Natural Resources

Technology Assessment Division

A Supplement to LOUISIANA ENERGY FACTS on Subjects of Special Interest

RENEWABLES COUNCIL OF LOUISIANA

Renewables resources include: wind power; hydropower; solar (photovoltaics and thermal-electric); geothermal energy; biomass generated energy; waste-to-energy, including landfill gas; biofuels refining and bio-feedstock chemical technologies. Louisiana has no significant wind resource on land, variable solar resources, very limited hydro resources, and little geothermal resources. What Louisiana does have is a significant amount of fertile land that produces abundant agricultural crops having copious quantities of byproducts that can be converted to fuels or organic chemicals.

What is Biomass?

Biomass consists of renewable organic materials including forestry and agricultural crops and residues, wood and food processing wastes, and municipal solid waste. Louisiana generates increasing tonnages of biomass waste annually. Much of these materials are disposed of at significant financial and environmental costs to companies and citizens of the state. One man's waste is another man's raw material.

The Renewables Council of Louisiana (RCL), formerly known as the Louisiana Biomass Council, was established by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) under a contract with the Southern University Center for Energy and Environmental Studies. DNR, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture & Forestry (LDAF) encouraged the further development of this group into a public interest group that is now incorporated as a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization.

The council coordinates its activities with various state departments and agencies, local government and businesses, acting as a catalyst for increased biomass utilization in Louisiana. The council desires to provide input for future renewables and waste-to-energy policy.

A primary focus of RCL is to promote renewable energy demand by encouraging statewide planning and coordination of biomass resource and solid waste utilization in Louisiana. Economic development and environmental improvement will be a by-product. To accomplish this, the council networks entrepreneurs, experts and other individuals interested in converting renewable organic resources into energy or commercial products. RCL is currently looking for support to explore the feasibility of a bio-refinery project in the state.

Three meetings, or mini-conferences, are held each year to identify business and economic development opportunities and to provide a networking opportunity for members. Attendance by those who have an interest in biomass/renewable energy from the business community is encouraged.

Louisiana Biomass Resources

Louisiana is rich in biomass resources by virtue of its productive agriculture and forestry industries and has substantial bio-energy and bio-product potential in comparison to other states. Public awareness of

the presence of these resources is very limited. Increasing awareness of the value of biomass is one of RCL's primary objectives.

In Louisiana, our large quantity biomass resources consist mainly of sugarcane bagasse, filter press cake, rice hulls, cotton gin trash and sawmill waste. Pulp and paper mills and sawmills are numerous in the state and many utilize their waste for fuel. Wood processing residue is in demand by nurseries, landscaping businesses, and by industrial plants as fuel. Alternative biomass resources available in smaller quantities include Johnson grass, kenaf, bamboo, giant ragweed, thistles, tree trimmings, sugarcane leaves, rice and wheat straw, pecan pith and shells, construction and forest residues, and "weed trees" such as shade mulberry, tallow, and black willow. Animal wastes, including manure, dairy lagoon solids, poultry litter and race track stable bedding are available in some areas. The federal government and a number of states have ongoing efforts to increase the capture of energy and value-added products from these materials.

Mission Statement

The Renewables Council of Louisiana strives to increase development and utilization of renewable resources for energy industries, chemical industries, sustainable agriculture, and ecological stability by:

1. Promoting research that aids government and business entities use of renewable resources to reduce pollution, improve economic activity, produce energy or produce consumable products;
2. Taking an active role to implement projects related to beneficial use of biomass, solar, wind, municipal solid waste (MSW), and other renewables;
3. Collecting and disseminating data and expertise related to renewables production and management, and implementation of renewables in beneficial use programs;
4. Working with renewables generators, municipalities and communities, and industries to provide economic development opportunities within the state;
5. Creating a business environment that attracts renewables related businesses to Louisiana.

The benefits of the Renewables Council of Louisiana activities will be increased economic activity, enhanced air and water quality, improved environmental stability, increased biomass use in bioremediation and as a soil amendment, increased recycling of organic materials, and improved waste management.

Renewables related topics of interest:

- Hydrogen generation, transport, storage, and use from renewable sources,
- Other technologies and solutions in and related to clean and renewable energy,
- Green pricing and Green power marketing,
- Renewable portfolio standards,
- Federal, state and local incentive programs,
- Interconnection issues,
- Energy storage in support of renewable energy installations.

For more information on **Renewables Council of Louisiana**, please visit the website at URL: <http://www.renewla.com/index.html>.