Think Green, Buy Green: Energy from Biomass

Peter Becker, PhD Research Coordinator Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council (EOFC) www.showme.net/eofc/

> Presentation to Missouri Energy Task Force 26 June, 2006

Today's Roadmap

- About EOFC
- Aiming Higher
- Road Blocks
- Why Biomass?
- Why Thermochemical?
- Why Transportation Fuels?
- A Systems Approach
- What Is Needed
- Who Can Do It

Will Address

Executive Order 05-46

- Lessen Missouri's dependence on fossil fuels
- Develop alternative fuels while strengthening farm economy

About EOFC

- Public corporation, 501c3 pending
- I4 southeastern counties
- Private landowners, resource managers, forest industry leaders

EOFC's Objectives

- Promote sustainable forestry
- Foster rural development

EOFC's Program

- Landowner education
- Mechanized logging
- Bioenergy

U.S. Needs to Aim Higher

- US: 25x'25 25% of all energy from renewables by 2025
- Brazil: now energy self-sufficient; subsidy-free
- Sweden: 26% of energy from renewables in 2003; oil-free economy by 2020

Vehicle mileage – fleet averages:

- US: 26 mpg, peaked in 1987!
- Europe: 42 mpg today
- Japan: 47 mpg today

Road Blocks

- Ineffective national energy policy
- Focus on inefficient or developed technologies
- Inadequate subsidy of emerging technologies
- Bureaucratic inertia

State Governments and Agencies Must Take the Lead

Why Biomass?

 Only renewable to meet demand for carbon-based liquid fuels and chemicals
Recycles atmospheric carbon instead of releasing stored, ancient carbon

• US food economy is corn- and oil-based

- All livestock fed corn
- Prepared foods' key ingredients are corn starch, oil and syrup
- 1/3 gal. oil to produce bushel of corn
- Food and energy from the same grain crop recipe for economic and agricultural disaster

- Biomass fuels are produced more efficiently
 - Free solar subsidies decades for wood vs months for corn starch
 - Reduced energy inputs
 - Corn requires much nitrogen whose manufacture is energy-intensive
 - o drying mash uses 20% of energy in conventional corn-to-ethanol plant



ENERGY TO DELIVER 1 MILLION BTUS TO FUEL TANK

- Large potential for farm-based production of biomass-derived energy in Missouri
 - Current corn-to-ethanol plants are producing 110 million gal/yr, or 8.5 trillion BTU/yr
 - Estimated potential for grain ethanol production is about double this
 - Crop residues and sustainable forest thinnings (~50:50) contain 169 trillion BTU/yr
 - Assuming 30% conversion gives 51 trillion BTU/yr

Biomass has 3X the potential of corn starch for ethanol production

Why Thermochemical?

- Faster
- More energy-efficient
- Better handles cellulose
- More flexible feedstock requirements

Why Transportation Fuels?

- 96% of US petroleum use is for transportation
- **64% of US petroleum use is imported**
- Major US auto-makers told Congress that ethanol is quickest path to increased energy selfsufficiency
- Huge market exists now

Essential Systems Approach

- Which first E85 fuel or vehicle development?
- Jo Ann Emerson's answer both!
- GM makes nine flex-fuel models in Brazil, accounting for 95% of its vehicle sales
- **E85** availability is the bottleneck in US

Co-development of biofuel technologies

- harvest
- transportation
- processing
- distribution

- Supply levelization
- Combined services for forestry operations
- Third-party certification of sustainability
- Public education
- Level playing field

What is Needed

- Leadership
- Full-time "true believers"
- Education re: potential of biomass (MO brochure)

Grain ethanol, soy biodiesel, and wind turbines are well-developed, highly profitable technologies so

Shift public subsidies to emerging technologies

- Increase renewable energy input to existing biofuel production (Minnesota corn ethanol plant converting from propane to wood)
- Develop prototype, biomass-based Bioenergy Park in Ozarks (gasification and torrefaction of forest and crop residues)
- Via co-investment and legislative mandates, not tax credits

LEADERSHIP LEADERSHIP LEADERSHIP

Who Can Do It?

- All of us, but especially
 - Missouri Departments of Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources
 - Legislators under the leadership of the Governor's Office
 - Farmers' groups
 - EOFC in partnership with UMR's Engineering Dept