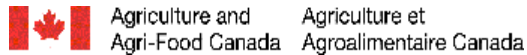




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Financial Assistance Available through the Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative

The deadline is fast approaching for applying to Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI).

The Government of Canada is committed to requiring a minimum of 5% average renewable fuel content in all transport fuel in Canada by 2010. Environment Canada is leading the development of the national strategy to implement this goal, with support from Natural Resources Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). AAFC wants to ensure that the 5% target is implemented in ways that result in the greatest possible benefit to the agriculture sector, including significant ownership of biofuels production facilities by agricultural producers. Greater involvement in biofuel production facilities will allow agricultural producers to become participants in the value chain and increase their share of the benefits from renewable fuels production beyond delivering feedstock.

The original Biofuels Opportunities for Producers Initiative (BOPI), an initiative under the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) Program, was announced in July 2006 and has provided \$10 million in funding for projects. Demand for this funding exceeded the

initial \$10 million allocation, therefore up to \$3 million of additional BOPI funding has been provided in 2006/2007. An additional \$7 million will be provided in fiscal 2007-08 to accommodate a second round of BOPI - for a total of \$20 million over the two fiscal years.

In order to provide as much benefit as possible, the objective of the Initiative is to help agricultural producers in the development of sound, well documented business plans for projects that have significant producer ownership (greater than one-third), as well as aiding to undertake feasibility or other studies to support the creation and expansion of the biofuel production capacity.

The PEI ADAPT Council is now accepting new applications for funding under BOPI to ensure Island farmers and Prince Edward Island's rural communities have greater opportunities to participate in and share the benefits of the increased biofuels production. The proposals are to fall under one of the following four key areas:

1. Hiring technical, financial, and business planning advisors to assist in developing sound, viable business proposals to create and expand biofuels production capacity involving significant (greater than one-third) ownership by agricultural producers;
2. Undertaking feasibility studies and other studies required to support business proposals;
3. Investigating the pre-commercialization of biofuels related research; or
4. Gathering information to help determine opportunities and to provide necessary input to generate industry involvement in biofuels capacity building. Initiatives should be oriented to business opportunities.

Priority will be given to supporting projects in the first two areas (i.e. business plans and feasibility studies).

The deadline for proposal submission is August 31, 2007.

For more information about BOPI, details on eligibility, and to obtain a copy of the application form, please contact Phil Ferraro, Executive Director PEI ADAPT Council (902-368-2005).

Assessing Potential of Biodiesel Production on Prince Edward Island

According to initial studies conducted on Prince Edward Island, our potential to participate directly in the global bio-diesel fuel industry, may depend on the establishment of an on-Island processing facility; fuelled primarily by locally produced canola (or other) feedstock.

With the increasing world-wide demand for feedstock inputs for bio-diesel production, it is probable that the province will not be able to acquire feedstocks (such as canola) from other jurisdictions, and therefore, the question becomes one of can we produce sufficient feedstocks

internally to create a viable, cost-effective, bio-diesel industry, and what are the parameters within which we will need to operate.

This is a question not only posed for our province, but also for many other communities seeking to participate in the bio-diesel industry as processors. With funding from PEI ADAPT's BOPI program Matheson and Associates is conducting a study on behalf of farmers to assess the what, if any, viable opportunities for farmers and rural communities may exist to participate in the budding biofuels industry.

According to Bruce Matheson, "This project is significant in that it has looked at the province's ability to produce sufficient canola stock for a bio-diesel industry while also considering emerging feedstock research in such areas as algae, in consultation with researchers at the University of Prince Edward Island."

This project will deliver an up-to-date assessment on Prince Edward Island's bio-diesel potential, both as of today, and for the future based on achieving a conversion to canola production and emerging results in alternative feedstock research.

"We expect to achieve a realistic approach (model) for the promotion of a bio-diesel industry in the province, and to set out the changes necessary to activate this bio-diesel industry.

In the short-term, we have learned lessons about the magnitude of effort that will be required to align the farm community, the provincial and federal governments, and industry to achieve a bio-diesel industry in the province. In effect, we consider this alignment to be the key to establishing Prince Edward Island's bio-diesel potential. We are now considering how this might be achieved," said Matheson.

The next step for the group, is to discuss with farm organizations and the new provincial government how an alignment can take place to produce a synergy that will achieve a bio-diesel capability, and provide for an environment where the farm community is confident that a conversion to canola production will provide positive and long-term financial results for their businesses.

Range Fuels Awarded Permit to Construct Commercial Cellulosic Ethanol Plant Palo Alto, California & Broomfield, Colorado [RenewableEnergyAccess.com]

Range Fuels announced that the company was awarded a construction permit from the state of Georgia to build the first commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant . Ground breaking will take place this summer in Treutlen County, Georgia, for a 100-million-gallon-per-year cellulosic ethanol plant that will use wood waste from Georgia's forests as its feedstock.

"We are thrilled to receive this permit and anticipate the construction of many plants throughout Georgia and the Southeast using wood waste to make ethanol."

-- Mitch Mandich, Range Fuels, CEO

Phase 1 of the plant is scheduled to complete construction in 2008 with a production capacity of 20 million gallons a year.

"We are thrilled to receive this permit and anticipate the construction of many plants throughout Georgia and the Southeast using wood waste to make ethanol," said Mitch Mandich, CEO of Range Fuels. "With Independence Day on July 4, we are excited to begin the march toward independence from our country's reliance on fossil fuel."

The company selected Georgia for its first plant based upon the abundance of forest refuse and the renewable and sustainable forest industry. According to Range Fuels, the state has demonstrated great stewardship of its forest lands and environmental sensitivity - and the forests of Georgia can support up to 2 billion gallons a year of cellulosic ethanol production.

"The Department is pleased that the country is one step closer to making the widespread use of cellulosic ethanol a reality," U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman said. "This furthers the President's goal of deploying clean, renewable energy into the marketplace, and we are eager for the results of Range Fuels' work, and the work of the other biorefinery grant recipients, to help increase energy security and enhance economic growth."

Range Fuels' technology can transform biomass, including wood chips, agricultural wastes, grasses, and cornstalks as well as hog manure, municipal garbage, sawdust and paper pulp into ethanol through its thermo-chemical conversion process, the K2 system. Using a two step process to convert the biomass to synthesis gas, and then converts the gas to ethanol, the company has already successfully tested close to 30 types of biomass for producing ethanol.

Range Fuels, with Governor Perdue, announced plans to build the plant in February. The company was subsequently selected to negotiate for up to \$76M in a grant from the Department of Energy on February 28. These negotiations are still underway.

For more information see: <http://www.rangefuels.com/home>

Poultry Litter to Fuel Minnesota Power Plant

by Ted Olsen, Contributing Writer, Renewable Energy Weekly - RenewableEnergyAccess.com
Biomass -- in this case in the form of hundreds of thousands of pounds of turkey litter with woodchips and sawdust blended in -- soon will be fueling a 55 megawatt [MW] power plant producing enough electricity to supply 50,000 homes in the Minnesota community of Benson. Full story: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47740>

Biomethane Looks Promising for 2007

Biomethane, the focus of the January issue of Fleets & Fuels newsletter, is reported as promising as a viable renewable energy market. Since biomethane is made from waste -- from animals, crops and municipal sewage -- its production involves no diversion of foodstuffs, unlike liquid biofuels.

For the complete story see: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47002>

ExxonMobil Blasted for Efforts to Discredit Climate Science

Last week the non-profit Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) issued a report detailing how the world's largest oil company, ExxonMobil, has donated \$16 million since 1998 to 43 ideological groups working to discredit the science of human-induced climate change. The group joins a growing chorus of voices asking the oil giant and world's most profitable company to turn the corner on global warming and start embracing a transition from fossil fuels.

Go to this article: <http://www.emagazine.com/view/?3561>

Biofuel Demand Could Send Shockwaves through World Economy

Esteemed environmental policy analyst Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute told reporters last week that Americans and the rest of the world are likely to see sharp increases in the price of corn, let alone the popular biofuel ethanol, due to errors in projections made by federal agriculture planners.

Go to this article: <http://www.emagazine.com/view/?3562>

Boiler Could Make Switchgrass Biofuel a Boon for Farmers

The Wye Research and Education Center (WREC) has developed a boiler that runs on switchgrass, the latest "it" biofuel. The switchgrass is harvested and baled with standard equipment used for hay. Then the bales are tossed into boilers designed to burn cereal grain. Although imperfect, this method is the best way to use the grass for energy now.

"Switchgrass has the potential to be an economic energy source for Maryland farmers and also help them meet increasing local demands for reduced nutrient losses, as well as contribute to solutions of national and global problems related to use of fossil fuels," says research associate Dr. Ken Stave.

The Center is working on effective ways to pelletize the switchgrass to move from batch feeding of bales to automatic feeding driven by thermostat.

<http://www.outlook.umd.edu/article.cfm?id=2282>

Creating a Sustainable Biodiesel Industry

Many people worry about the sustainability of the ethanol and biodiesel industries. As more land and food resources are used to fuel our trucks and cars, what will be the future environmental, economic and social consequences?

...listen to the podcast at: <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/podcast?id=47524>

New Wave-Pump Technology Hits the Water

A new pump system designed to turn salt water into fresh water when combined with desalination systems -- and produce clean renewable energy when combined with hydroelectric systems -- is currently being tested in the Gulf of Mexico, off the Texas coast.

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=47522>

ZELFO - Plastic from Plants

“Zelfo” a solid wood-like and mouldable material made from natural fibres including hemp, sugar cane, recycled paper and other cellulose containing raw materials offers high strength, and high performance whilst caring for the environment.

News Release:http://www.zelfoaustralia.com/images/zelfo_pr1.pdf

WWW site: www.zelfoaustralia.com/en/index.shtml

Concerned with Global Warming?

Figure out your carbon contribution at <http://www.zerofootprintoffsets.com/calculator.aspx> and then consider becoming "carbon neutral"

http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/What_You_Can_Do/carbon_neutral.asp

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