Wednesday, April 24, 2013

8:00 AM  Optional Pre-Conference Tour (separate $50 registration fee applies)

Tour 1 (Wisconsin)
Great Lakes Renewable Energy, Hayward, WI (wood pellet producer)
Midwest Forest Products, Hayward, WI (biomass boiler for building heat)
Xcel Energy, Ashland, WI (biomass processing for electrical)
Ashland Memorial Medical Center, Ashland, WI (biomass heating system)

Tour 2 (Minnesota)
Fond du Lac Waste Transfer Center, Cloquet, MN (biomass boiler)
Silver Bay Eco-Industrial Park, Silver Bay, MN (biomass boiler)
Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, Finland, MN (biomass heating district)
Duluth Steam Cooperative (city district energy facility - currently coal, potential biomass)

Return to Black Bear Casino, Carlton, MN by 5:00 PM

5:00 PM  Registration Opens in Expo Lobby

6:00 PM  Vendor’s Reception
A vendor’s reception will be held for all sponsors, exhibitors, conference registrants and invited guests in the Expo Hall.
Concludes at 8:00 PM

Thursday, April 25, 2013

7:30 AM  Registration opens with continental breakfast in Expo hall

8:45 AM  Opening Plenary Session
Introduction and Welcome:
Brian Brashaw, Chair, Heating the Midwest with Renewable Biomass and Program Director, University of Minnesota Duluth, Natural Resources Research Institute
Karen Diver, Chairwoman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Cloquet, MN
9:15 AM Opening Remarks:
Forrest Boe, Minnesota State Forester, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Teresa Spaeth, Executive Director, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

9:35 AM Keynote Address:
Heating the Midwest with Renewable Biomass: A Midwest Vision
T.J. Morice, Co-Chair Heating the Midwest and VP Marketing and Operations, Marth Wood Supply, Marathon, WI and William Strauss, President, FutureMetrics, Bethel, ME

10:20 AM Refreshment and Networking Break

10:50 AM Biomass Energy: Economic Impact, Environmental Benefits:
The Northeast Biomass Thermal Vision: Accomplishments and Strategy!
Adam Sherman, Consultant, Biomass Energy Resource Center and Northeast Biomass Thermal Working Group
Green Energy, Green Jobs!
Christiane Egger, Deputy Manager, O.O. Energiesparverband (Upper Austrian Renewable Energy Agency)

11:40 AM Plenary Session Panel Discussion (Moric, Strauss, Sherman, and Egger)

12:00 PM Lunch in Open Expo Hall

1:00 PM Break Out Sessions 1 and 2 (Concurrent)

Session 1 - Biomass Resources and Demographics (105 minutes) Moderator - Fred Iutzi
Biomass Procurement and Processing Strategies
Urban Wood Biomass: Jeff Guillemette, Biomass Fuel Procurement Supervisor, Environmental Wood Supply, LLC
Forest Biomass: Eric Maki, President, Midwest Forest Products, Hayward, WI
Agricultural Biomass: Jay Van Roekel, Biomass Business Unit Manager, Vermeer Corporation
Development of Sustainable Biomass Standards
Brendan Jordan, Program Director, Great Plains Institute (invited)
Household Fuel Use Study
David Ripplinger, North Dakota State University, and Fred Iutzi and Xiaolan Liu, Western Illinois University

Session 2 - Community/Institutional Real World Projects - Success Stories (105 minutes) Moderator - Gregg Mast, President, Earthtech Energy, Inc. St. Louis Park, MN
Deep Portage Environmental Learning Center
Norm Moody, Vice President, Hackensack, MN
Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center
*Peter Smerud, Executive Director, Finland, MN*

Itasca Community College
Bart Johnson, Engineering Instructor and Program Coordinator, Grand Rapids, MN

Pinecrest Health Care Facility
Dave Vandermissen, Powers, MI

**2:45 PM**  
**Refreshment and Networking Break**

**3:15 PM**  
**Break Out Sessions 3 and 4 (Concurrent) (105 minutes)**

**Session 3 - Biomass Thermal Market Development**
Biomass Heating Feasibility Guide
*Becky Philipp, Project Manager and Al Doering, Sr. Associate Scientist Coproducts, Agricultural Resources Research Institute*

Biomass Pellet Market Development Strategies
*Mike Curci, Indeck Energy (invited)*

Positive Life Cycle Inventory of Wood Pellet Production and Utilization
*John Katers, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin Green Bay*

Low Income Heating Assistance Program - Biomass Heating Opportunities
*Speaker TBD*

Sustainable Communities/Energy Efficiency Program Opportunities
*Lee Stuart, Program Officer, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) - Duluth Office*

**Session 4 - Combined Heat and Power and Commercial Real World Projects - Success Stories (105 minutes)**
Marvin Windows, Warroad, Minnesota

Chillicothe VA Medical Center - Chillicothe, Ohio

Providence University College and Theological Seminary, Otterburne, Manitoba, Canada
Gundersen Lutheran Hospital, Lacrosse, Wisconsin *(invited)*

Minnesota Power Paper Co-generation Operations, Duluth, Minnesota

**Sessions 3 and 4 conclude at 5:00 PM**

**6:00 PM**  
**Session 5 - Expo Hall Open (Open to General Public and Regional Businesses)**
Silver Bay Eco-Industrial Park, Silver Bay, Minnesota
*Bruce Carman, Eco-Park Project Coordinator, City of Silver Bay*

Michigan YMCA Camp - Efficient Cordwood Thermal Heating
*Lew McCreery, USDA Forest Service*
Biomass Fuel Delivery Technology
William Strauss, Maine Energy Systems

**All Equipment Vendors and Exhibitors 5 minute presentations upon request**

Thermal Heating Fair Closes at 8:30 PM

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**Friday, April 26, 2013**

7:30 AM  Expo Hall opens with continental breakfast in Expo hall

8:30 AM  General Session:  “Swedish Biomass Study Tour and Opportunities for Minnesota and the Midwest”  
*Ellen Anderson*, Senior Advisor to the Governor on Energy & Environment, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

9:00 AM  Session 6: Advancing Biomass Thermal in the Midwest  
Development of Community Biomass Thermal Projects  
*Kathryn Fernholtz, Executive Director, Dovetail Partners Inc.*

Effective Feasibility and Planning Strategies for Combined Heat and Power Projects  
*Mark Spurr, President, FVB Energy, Inc.*

10:00 AM  Refreshment and Networking Break

10:15 AM  Comprehensive Feasibility Assessments for Biomass Thermal Projects  
*Dan Wilson, Vice-President, Wilson Engineering Services*

Policy Strategies for Advancing Biomass Thermal in the Midwest  
*Jim Kleinschmit, Rural Communities Program Director, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy*

The Importance of Education and Advocacy in Advancing Biomass Thermal  
*Joseph Seymour, Executive Director, Biomass Thermal Energy Council*

11:45 AM  Closing Session  
Capitalizing On Heating the Midwest Conference: Conference Charge and Closing  
*T.J. Morice, Vice-Chair, Heating the Midwest and VP Marketing and Operations, Marth Wood Supply* and *Brian Brashaw, Chair, Heating the Midwest with Renewable Biomass and Program Director, University of Minnesota Natural Resources Research Institute*

Conference Closes at 12:00 PM