Heating the Midwest Conference Outline
Adopting Renewable Biomass Heat: Investing in Tomorrow’s Sustainable Communities

**PLEASE NOTE TIMES ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

Day 1: Tuesday, October 11, 2016

- FIELD TOUR: Get Out and Kick the Tires (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
  - Messersmith Manufacturing Plant
  - Verso Corporation CHP Boiler
  - Pinecrest Medical Care Facility
  - North Central Area School
- Vendor Reception (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

Day 2: Wednesday, October 12, 2016

- MORNING PLENARY: Breaking Through Market Barriers (8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
  - Opening Remarks – Bill Cook, Michigan State University
  - Welcome to Michigan – Dave Nyberg, Northern Michigan Office of Governor Snyder
  - Introductions – Tony “T.J.” Morice, President, Heating the Midwest Incorporated
  - Keynote: Regional impacts of advanced wood heat in New England – Maura Adams, Northern Forest Center
  - What does the public hear when we say “wood energy?” – Sarah Mittlefehldt, Northern Michigan University
  - What reactions have Michigan communities had to wood energy? – Stephen Gasteyer, Michigan State University
  - How can we create and expand markets for advanced wood heating? – Matt Birbeck, Michigan State University

- AFTERNOON PANEL SESSION: In the Clouds with Decision Makers and Developers (12:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
  - Panel: Way beyond your grandfather’s wood stove. Bill Cook, Michigan State University (moderator)
    - What exactly is “advanced wood heat?” Listen to stories successful users tell.
      - Advanced wood heat demystified – Mark Knaebe, USDA Forest Products Laboratory
      - Success Story #1 – Health care – Dave Vandermissen, Pinecrest Medical Care Facility
      - Success Story #2 – Rural school – Darrell Oman, North Dickinson County Schools
      - Success Story #3 – Complex – Dr. Andrew Burton, Ford Forestry Center, Michigan Technological University
  - Panel: Going beyond the backyard wood pile. – Scott Sanford – UW-Madison (moderator)
    - Innovations in obtaining secure, reliable, sustainable, and affordable wood supplies.
      - Securing reliable, sustainable, affordable fuel supplies (understanding the upstream portion of the wood supply chain) – Wayne Stanley, Domtar Paper Company
      - Innovations in the wood supply chain (creative opportunities in the downstream portion of the wood supply chain) – Brett Hogarth, Ecosтрат, Inc.
      - Connecting sellers with buyers – Dave Neumann, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
  - Panel: Finding the value beyond the BTU. – Brian Brashaw, USDA Forest Service (moderator)
    - Advanced wood energy has other values to the user, the community, the region, and the world.
      - Healthy forests, industries, and communities (15 min) – Brian Brashaw, USDA Forest Service
      - Combined heat & power (10 min) – Tom Wilson, Wilson Engineering
      - Biomass cooling (10 min) – Michael Sparby, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
      - Clear skies, blue water, and green carbon – Kathy Halvorsen, Michigan Technological University
Panel: Incentivizing and financing the future. – Nan Larson and Marcus Grubbs, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (co-moderators)
Creating the policy and finance climate needed for success.
- Raising capital – Dennis West, Northern Initiatives
- Incentive programs, grants, & loans – Jim Yoder, USDA Rural Development
- Policy successes and failures – Tim Baye, University of Wisconsin-Extension

- Expo (5:00 – 6:00 p.m.)

DUE TO LACK OF REGISTRATIONS, THE TECHNICAL WORKSHOP HAS BEEN CANCELLED. HOWEVER, HTM IS OFFERING A “FREE” ALTERNATIVE SESSION TO CONFERENCE ATTENDEES. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND.

EVENING SESSION: The Ins and Outs of Commercial Biomass Boilers and Handling Systems

5:45 – 6:30 p.m.: Commercial Pellet Systems and Pellet Storage (Grant Gagner, Northwest Manufacturing, Inc./WoodMaster)

6:30 – 7:15 p.m.: Commercial Chip Systems and Fuel Handling (Gerry Guard, Messersmith Manufacturing, Inc.)

Day 3: Thursday, October 13, 2016 – Vendor Expo Open (7:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

- MORNING PLENARY: Defeating the Biomass Blues (8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.)
  - How far have we already come, and where do we go next? Realizing a sustainable advanced biomass thermal industry. – Charlie Niebling, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC
    - Tell us what keeps you up at night? And, what gives you hope for the future?
  - National Updates Panel – What is happening in congress, agencies, and national associations?
    - Julie Tucker, USDA Forest Service
    - Jeff Serfass, Biomass Thermal Energy Council
    - Tim Portz, BBI International/Biomass Magazine and Pellet Mill Magazine
    - John Ackerly, Alliance for Green Heat
  - State Updates Panel – What is happening in the Midwestern states?
    - Michigan – Bill Cook (with Stephen Gasteyer), Michigan State University
    - Wisconsin – Scott Sanford, University of Wisconsin (with Tim Baye, University of Wisconsin-Extension)
    - Minnesota – Mark Lindquist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
  - Closing Remarks – Tony “T.J.” Morice, President, Heating the Midwest Incorporated

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