

Heating the Midwest Conference Outline

Adopting Renewable Biomass Heat: Investing in Tomorrow's Sustainable Communities



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 (pending)
 - Pinecrest Medical Care Facility
 - North Central Area School
 - Commercial Logging Job (pending)
- Vendor Reception (6:00 p.m.)

Day 2: Wednesday, October 12, 2016 – Vendor Expo Open (8 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

- 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*
 - 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*
 - What motivates consumers to buy advanced wood heating systems? – *Jennifer Cathcart, Vermont Energy Investment Corp.*
 - How can we create and expand markets for advanced wood heating? – *Matt Birbeck, Michigan State University*
- AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION: **In the Clouds with Decision Makers and Developers** (1:00 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 the stories successful users tell.
 - Advanced wood heat demystified – *Mark Knaebe, USFS Forest Products Laboratory*
 - Success story #1 – health care (Pinecrest) – *Dave Vandermissen, Pinecrest Medical Care Facility*
 - Success story #2 – rural school (North Dickinson) – *Darrell Oman, North Dickinson County Schools*
 - Success story #3 – complex (MTU-Ford Forestry Center) – *Dr. Andrew Burton, 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, Ecostrat, Inc.*
 - Connecting sellers with buyers – *Dave Neumann, Michigan Department of Natural Resources*
 - Panel: Finding the value beyond the BTU. – *Brian Brashaw, US 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, US 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, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (moderator)*
 - *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*

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 (6-7:30 p.m.)

6:00 – 6:45 p.m.: Commercial Pellet Systems and Pellet Storage (*Grant Gagner, Northwest Manufacturing, Inc./WoodMaster*)

6:45 – 7:30 p.m.: Commercial Chip Systems and Fuel Handling (*Gerry Guard, Messersmith Manufacturing, Inc.*)

Day 3: Thursday, October 13, 2016

- MORNING PLENARY: **Defeating the Biomass Blues** Vendor Expo Open (8:00 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?
 - USFS – *Julie Tucker, US Forest Service*
 - BTEC – *Jeff Serfass, Biomass Thermal Energy Council*
 - Biomass International – *Tim Portz, BBI International*
 - Alliance for Green Heat – *John Ackerly, Alliance for Green Heat*
 - State Updates Panel – what is happening in the Midwestern states?
 - MI – *Bill Cook (with Stephen Gasteyer), Michigan State University*
 - WI – *Scott Sanford, University of Wisconsin (with Tim Baye, University of Wisconsin and Clint Fandrich, Wisconsin State Energy Office)*
 - MN – *Mark Lindquist / Next Generation Energy Board, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*
 - Closing Remarks – *Tony “T.J.” Morice, Marth Companies*