Heating Wisconsin with Renewable Energy

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RENEW WISCONSIN
About RENEW Wisconsin

• We advocate, educate, and collaborate for Wisconsin renewable energy
• Our advocacy is mainly through state and utility policies & programs
• Our work has included:
  o Focus on Energy incentives for renewables projects
  o State renewable electricity standard of 10% by 2015
  o Wind energy siting rules
  o Green electricity and “buyback” programs
  o Intervening in utility rate cases

• Started in 1991, we are a non-profit organization largely supported by Business Members, Individual Members, annual events, and foundation grants
Sorry I missed you all yesterday....
Wisconsin Biomass & Renewables
Fast Facts

Est. Number of Wisconsin Homes using Wood Heat: 106,000 (4.6%)
Percentage of Wisconsin’s total energy which comes from renewables: 5.4%
BUT....how much of WI renewables come from biomass? 53%
Biomass Energy is Wisconsin’s Most-Utilized Renewable Resource

Dan’s 3 Main Points:

- There is tremendous potential
- We need to invent the future we want
- The pace of the transformation of our energy system does matter. If we want to make a difference, we have to start now, and be aggressive.

“When I requested the trip to come to Wisconsin in January, I got no concerns from the Dept. of Energy about it being a boondoggle.”
Achieving the HTM Vision
Will Take Policy & Leadership

2012                                      2025

- BIOMASS: 3% (2012) vs. 10% (2025)
- NATURAL GAS: 71% (2012) vs. 73% (2025)
- ELECTRICITY: 15% (2012) vs. 7% (2025)
- LPG: 8% (2012) vs. 4% (2025)
- FUEL OIL: 3% (2012) vs. 2% (2025)
- GEOTHERMAL: 2.5% (2012)
- SOLAR THERMAL: 2.5% (2012)
Wind Energy Example of Policy Driving Markets

Cost of Energy and Cumulative US Capacity

Historic Impact of PTC Expiration on Annual Wind Installation

Source: AWEA
Sampling of Wisconsin Biomass Initiatives & Policies Already In Place

- Wisconsin Strategic Biomass Assessment
  [Link](http://energy.wisc.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/WI_Strategic_Biomass_Assessment_WEB.pdf)
- Multiple and varied State Energy Office initiatives
- Dept. of Ag (DATCP) Bioenergy Council
- Woody Biomass Harvesting and Processing Tax Credit (10%)
- State Sales Tax Exemption
- Low-income pellet pilot
- Coulee region (SW Wisconsin) Study: $7.3 million savings for 9 county-region if 1 in 5 switched to pellets
Extend the idea of renewable electricity standard to thermal renewable energy

Use the HTM vision to guide a Wisconsin standard

RENEW Wisconsin believes any new renewable standards should have in-state renewable components to drive local economic activity
“Clean Energy Choice”

- Allow third parties to own, operate, maintain renewable energy systems and sell the output (heat, electricity) to the customer on the premises
- “Gray area” of public utility law which is restricting private property rights and investment into clean energy
- Public campaign and support – Join the likes of 103 organizations in support, including:
  - 8 County Resolutions
  - 3 City Resolutions
Expand Customer Incentives for Efficient Wood Heating Appliances

- Allow propane and oil customers to participate in rebate program

- Maryland, New York, and Maine offer rebates for efficient wood and pellet appliances.
  - Maryland: $500 for wood (no more than 3 g/hr); $700 for pellet (2 g/hr)
  - Maine: $250 rebate for approved wood and pellet stoves
Take-Aways

1. We have tremendous biomass resources and opportunity

2. We need to invent the future we want – HTM Vision

3. Policy & leadership is needed to get from here to there
Thank You!

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