

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 – Vendor Expo Open (7:30 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*
 - 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*
 - 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 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, Ecostrat, 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*