



INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY

Strategies to Advance Biomass Heat Policy in the Midwest

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INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY

*IATP works at the intersection
of policy and practice
to ensure fair and sustainable
food, farm and trade systems*

IATP's Perspective on a Sustainable Bioeconomy

- Provides food, fuel, fiber and materials we need
- Safer and cleaner energy, products and processes
- Protects and enhances the environment and climate
- Benefits rural communities and society
- Is fair and responsive



IATP and Biomass Heat Policy

Interest in biomass heat world from a feedstock perspective originally

- FSC biomass harvesting guidelines
- Strong support for sustainable agricultural biomass programs

Identified biomass heat as a key beneficial use for sustainable biomass in Minnesota, but also saw major policy gap around thermal policy

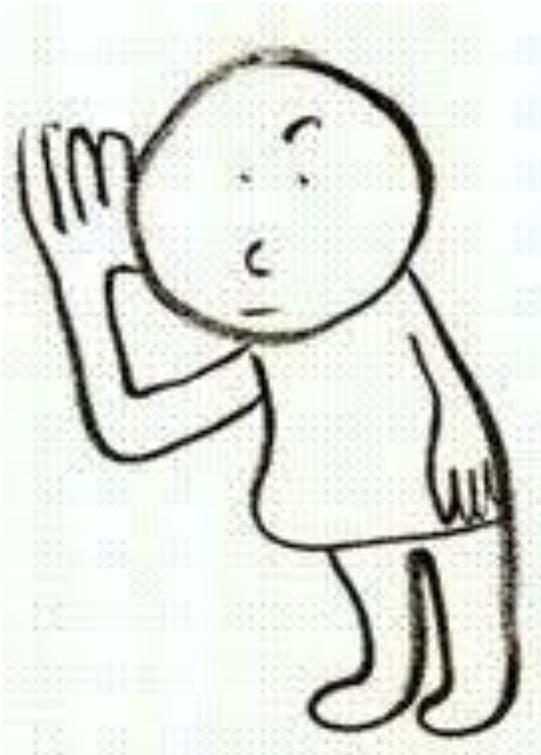


Creating Model Biomass Heat Policy in Minnesota

- Initially partnered with Izaak Walton League and Biomass Energy Resource Council; now working with Great Plains Institute and the Bioeconomy Coalition
- Interested in support for biomass heat at multiple scales (household – community)
- Recognized need for sustainability criteria (from feedstock – emissions) for policy viability
- Open to incentive or regulatory approach



Learning from others...



- Started with Heating the Midwest and other key sectoral policy documents and analyses
- Discussions with biomass thermal stakeholders and policymakers about policy priorities and opportunities
- Review of existing policies (state, federal and some international)

Key Lessons for Biomass Heat Policy: Feedstock Matters!

Sustainability and availability concerns need to be directly addressed for policy approaches to be viable

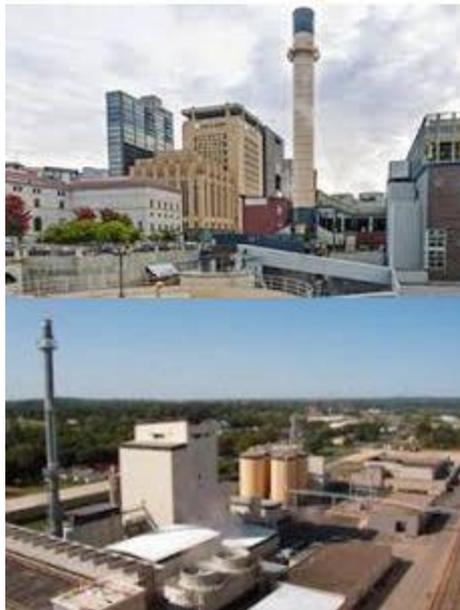


Key Lessons for Biomass Heat Policy: Feedstock Matters!

- FSC biomass harvesting guidelines
- Need comparable ag harvesting criteria
 - New CSP provisions
 - MN RIM-CE guidelines
 - New MN ag water quality certification program?



Key Lessons for Biomass Heat Policy: Scale Matters!



Real opportunities exist at all scales (household, industrial, community) for biomass heat expansion, but optimizing these may need policies

Key Lessons for Biomass Heat Policy: Scale Matters!

Varied policy approaches for different scales:

- Low Income Heating Assistance eligibility
- Equipment and facility financing assistance or revolving loan funds
- Bonding for community systems
- Incentive/production payments
- Renewable Thermal Standard/Renewable Energy Standard

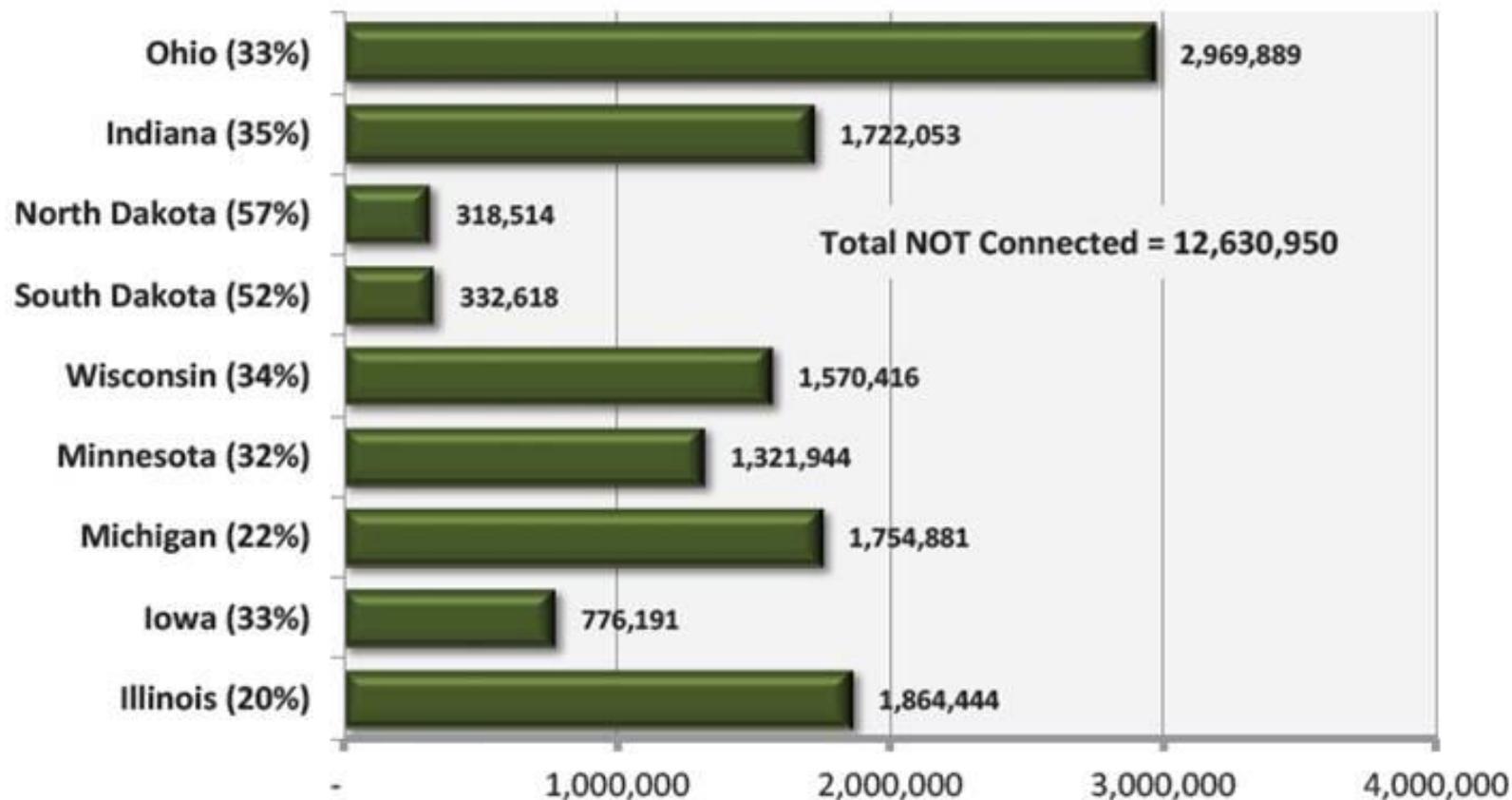
Key Lessons for Biomass Heat Policy: Opportunities Matter!

- Dirty fuel replacement
- Biomass resourced communities and sites
- Lower competition for biomass resources
- Related and complementary sectors



Over 12 million opportunities?

Number of Homes and Businesses NOT connected to Natural Gas
(proportion of total locations NOT connected in parenthesis)



source: US Energy Information Administration, US Census, 2012, analysis by FutureMetrics

Partnering with others

- Other renewable heat sectors
 - Solar/wind/geothermal
- Distributed generation
- Biorefining
 - Biofuels
 - Bioplastics
 - biomaterials

