



COOK COUNTY LOCAL ENERGY PROJECT

Agenda - Public meeting

Cook County Biomass Energy Feasibility Study

7 PM, December 9, 2010

Cook County Commissioners Room, Grand Marais

- 7:00 – 7:10 Welcome, introductions -- Gary Atwood, Local Coordinator
- 7:10 – 7:20 Background on CCLEP, biomass energy potential for Cook County, previous studies, current study funding, and fit with other energy-related studies – George Wilkes, Cook County Local Energy Project
- 7:20 – 7:25 Introduction of study team – Katie Fernholz, Executive Director, Dovetail Partners
- 7:25 – 7:35 Overview of study, workplan, and results – Cheryl Miller, Project Manager
- 7:35 – 7:45 Intent and approach of biomass aspects of study, including assessments of current and future wood availability, economics, potential benefits and impacts – Dr. Dennis Becker, UMN Dept of Forest Resources
- 7:45 – 8:00 Intent and approach of engineering aspects of study, including identification of options for small, medium, and large systems – Dr. Steve Bratkovich, Dovetail Partners
- 8:00 – 8:45 Q / A
- 8:45 – 9:00 Closing and solicitation of community input -- Gary Atwood

The Cook County Biomass Energy Feasibility Study - A Brief Summary

What's the purpose?

The study is being undertaken to explore the feasibility of community-based biomass energy production. The emphasis will be on understanding the short and long-term environmental, social, and economic impacts of utilizing woody biomass in northeastern Minnesota.

Who's doing it?

The study is a collaborative effort between Cook County Commissioners and the Cook County Local Energy Project (CCLEP), Dovetail Partners, Inc., an environmental firm based in Minneapolis, which has been contracted to oversee the study, and the University of Minnesota.

What will they do?

The study team has been contracted to perform the following:

- 1) Collect data on and evaluate the existing and potential energy markets in Cook County.
- 2) Analyze and report on options for bioenergy production in Cook County.
- 3) Assess feasibility and impact of forest biomass energy systems regionally.
- 4) Conduct community outreach and develop recommendations.

Their final report will summarize study findings and make recommendations on:

1. Energy demand and market in Cook County, including consumer input on conversion to forest bioenergy systems;
2. Biomass energy production technologies best suited for Grand Marais and at small, medium, and large facilities or clusters in Cook County.
3. Long-term forecasts of biomass supplies and costs under different economic and management conditions in Cook County, including identification of risks for supply conflicts (and cost impacts) due to competing biomass, wood and land uses;
4. Environmental and ecological review and sustainable bioenergy guidelines;
5. Barriers or needs related to technologies and operations for harvesting and processing biomass; and
6. Any additional considerations that arise through the research and analysis done as part of this Project.

Who can I contact if I want more information or to offer my input?

Gary Atwood - Local Coordinator, Biomass Study, (218) 387-2852,
e-mail: garwood@boreal.org

Paul Nelson - CCLEP Bioenergy Chair, hollylake@hughes.net

George Wilkes - Chairman, CCLEP, gwilkes@boreal.org

Cheryl Miller - Project Manager, Biomass Study, (651) 653-8133,
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Kathryn Fernholz - Executive Director, Dovetail Partners, Inc., (612) 333-0430,
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You can also visit www.cookcountylep.org or www.dovetailinc.org/cookcounty.