

October 17, 2013

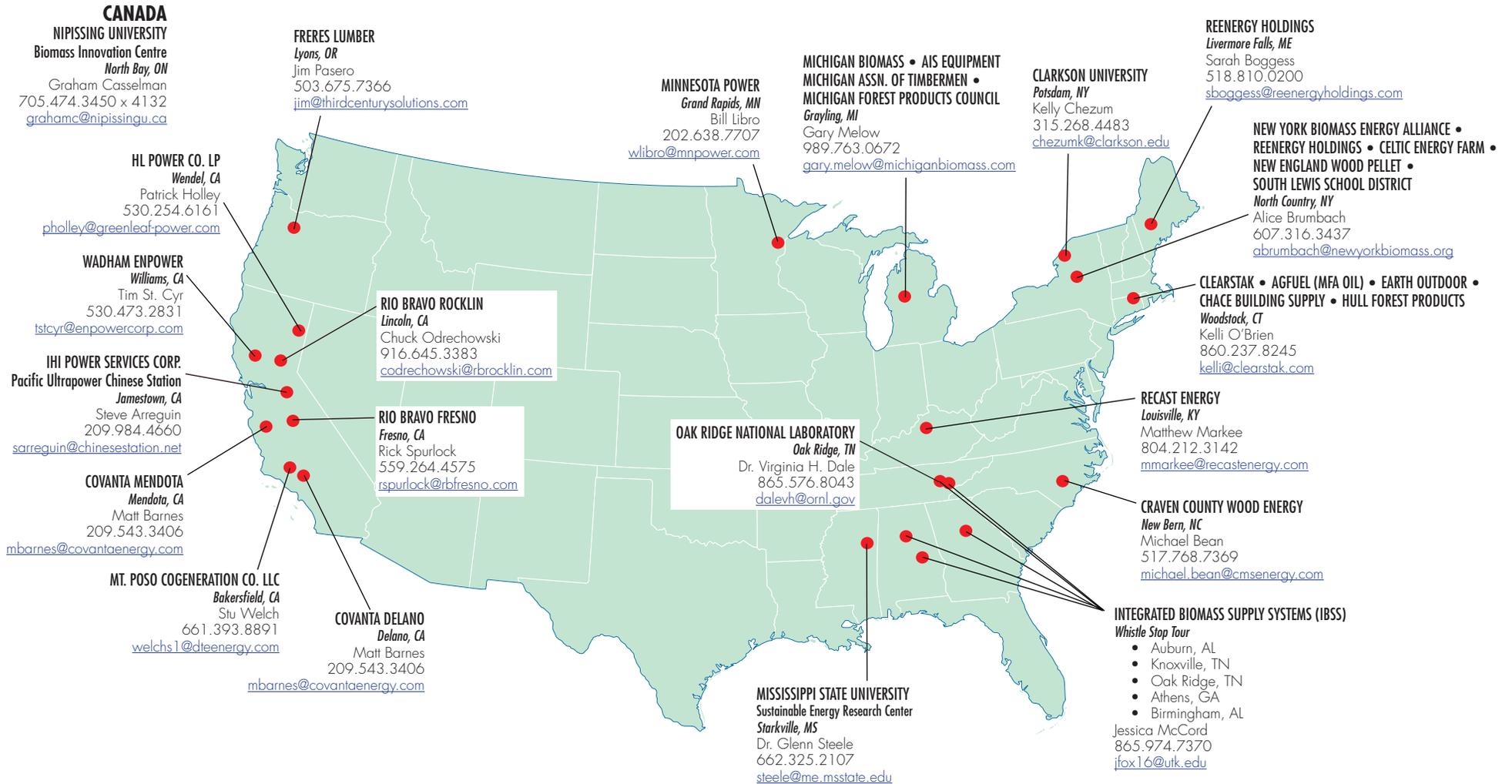


National Bioenergy Day

Celebrating Nature's Energy Source

October 17, 2013 marks the first-ever **National Bioenergy Day**. Events will be held across the country to celebrate bioenergy and its many environmental and economic benefits on the local, state and national levels. For more information or to get involved, please contact Carrie Annand at 703.722.7043 or carriannand@hillenby.com.

A national conference call will be held at **1 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday, October 16**, for a preview of National Bioenergy Day activities. Please dial in at **855.350.5702** (conference code **56624202**).



October 17, 2013, is the first-ever National Bioenergy Day. Biomass, forestry, and pellet companies are joining trade associations, schools and universities in 13 states and Canada to hold 25 events celebrating nature's energy source and raising awareness about the benefits of bioenergy.

What is bioenergy?

"Bioenergy" refers to an industry whose companies produce electricity and heat generated from wood and other organic materials. In addition to serving as a domestic energy source and supplying tens of thousands of jobs, these companies work closely together to keep American forests healthy and put organic byproducts like forest trimmings, industry byproducts and agricultural residuals to good use.

Why is bioenergy important?

Bioenergy produces a significant amount of the nation's renewable energy, and supplies full-time jobs for tens of thousands of Americans. It is clean, renewable energy made from materials that would otherwise be discarded.

Why is bioenergy considered "renewable"?

Bioenergy is a sustainable, renewable, and carbon-friendly energy source for many reasons.

1. The organic materials used to produce heat and electricity at a biomass facility often have no other use. If not used to produce heat or electricity, these materials might be open burned. Or, they might be left on a forest floor to decompose – a process that releases CO₂ and methane, potent greenhouse gases without any energy production – and can contribute to catastrophic forest fires.
2. The use of organic materials to produce energy does not introduce new carbon into the atmosphere, unlike the use of fossil fuels for energy.
3. Bioenergy is a key part of sustainably managed forests and farms. It is necessary to remove organic residues and non-merchantable wood in order to keep a forest healthy and growing. Rather than discarding or open burning the removed wood products, bioenergy provides a good, productive use for them.

How else does bioenergy help the environment?

Since bioenergy uses trimmings from forests, it can be an effective way to reduce the risk of forest fires. Public-private partnerships across the country maintain federal

forestlands while fueling clean energy projects. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack last month announced a plan to support the growth of bioenergy for this purpose, saying, "Wood to Energy efforts are a part of our 'all of the above' energy strategy. Appropriately scaled wood energy facilities also support our efforts to remove hazardous fuels and reduce the risks of catastrophic wildfires." For more information, please visit <http://na.fs.fed.us/werc/wood-energy>.

Why am I just hearing about bioenergy?

Most Americans are familiar with other forms of renewable energy, like wind and solar. Bioenergy produces a significant amount of the nation's renewable energy. In 2011, roughly 22% of all renewable energy was generated from wood (EIA, 2011) – that's more than wind and solar combined and second only to hydroelectric energy. And it is most often produced on a local or small-scale level, which means it often doesn't get the national recognition that other renewables receive. With National Bioenergy Day, we are hoping that more Americans become aware of the benefits of bioenergy.

How can I support bioenergy in my state or on the national level?

You can help ensure that bioenergy has a rich and rewarding future in your area by letting your elected officials know you support biomass energy. Public office holders can support policies that ensure resource availability, reasonable regulation and opportunities to compete in the energy market. We also appreciate public support voiced in the media! Please speak to your local facility operators about what you can do to help them to continue operating effectively.

For more information on National Bioenergy Day, please contact Carrie Annand at carriannand@hillenby.com or (703) 722-7043.

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