



Forest Biomass for Energy

The United States has put an important focus on biofuels from sustainable forest resources, a goal which is supported by organizations ranging from industry to universities to forest growers.

Research Funding is desperately needed to unlock the bioenergy potential from our nation's forests while benefitting communities that rely on current forest resources. Section 9012 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) has authorized \$15 Million for 4 years, and would support much needed research in the areas of:

- Development of technology and techniques to use low-value forest biomass for the production of energy;
- Development of processes that integrate production of energy into biorefineries or other existing manufacturing streams;
- Development of new transportation fuels from forest biomass;
- Improvement of the growth and yield of trees intended for renewable energy production.

Section 9012 of the Farm Bill is authorized, but not yet appropriated with money.

Authorizing this section was an important step, but to make the big strides our nation needs in forest biomass for energy, innovative research needs funding. If appropriated, the US Department of Agriculture would be able to distribute the funds for competitive research grants focused on the areas noted above.

Help this effort by supporting section 9012 of the Farm Bill for appropriation. The grants made possible by this section would prepare our nation for a future when forest biomass can be used for energy sustainability and improve the economic health of our communities that rely on current uses of forests and forest products.

Forest Biomass Points:

- Timber is important for the U.S. economy – it has the highest annual farm gate value of any crop other than corn.
- Rural communities and forest product companies alike rely on sustainable biomass.
- Trees are the lifeblood of many local communities and tree growers.
- Biomass currently has heat and power applications, but research is needed to cost effectively develop liquid transportation fuels from trees.
- Research and investment in our forests will result in more biomass for energy and other wood products.
- More carbon sequestration, more renewable energy, and sustainable wood-based products are all possible with additional support for forest tree research.

The Pine Genome Initiative (PGI) supports appropriation of section 9012 of the Farm Bill, for the future of our forests.