



for a cleaner tomorrow

September 2012

OBPC



Ontario Biomass Producers Co-operative Inc.

Ontariobiomass.com gets a facelift with new name

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At the August 2012 board meeting it became official!

Ontario Biomass Producers have now Co-op status. The group's new official name is **Ontario Biomass Producers Co-operative Inc.** or OBPC for short.

Half a year ago we came up with a new website, providing a lot more information for biomass producers as well as the biomass industry in general. We try to provide a useful portal for everyone interested in biomass, including producers, government organizations, universities and any sort of players in the industry, engaged in the handling, densification, and processing of biomass as well as manufacturing of biomass based products.

Our goal is to open doors to all players for all sorts of biomass opportunities. Even though we maintain a strong producers' Co-op function, we thrive to play an important educational and informational role as well.

Our Events Section is actively used to make everyone aware of upcoming biomass related conventions, meetings, tours, etc.

In our News section we inform the public about major biomass breakthroughs and achievements. To continuously improve our site we encourage our partners to provide us with all the necessary information that comes across their desks.

Another important part of our website is the Resource section, where we try to include major biomass players of all categories and facilitate our website visitors to access any sort of biomass information. It is our policy to promote the businesses of our members free of charge, whether this is on our website or any presence at shows, conventions or public events.

Our Biomass Picture section aims to live up to the saying "a picture is worth 1,000 words".

Our website is not only an information portal. It is also our primary database tool to maintain our memberships. People interested in becoming OBPC members can apply via our online facility or the required forms can be downloaded if they feel more comfortable with a paper-based application.

Ontariobiomass.com gets a facelift with new name continued

Even though we try to keep things as much accessible to the public as possible, we maintain privileged sections on our website, exclusively accessible to members and the OBPC Board. Our Members Only section contains value-added News information as well as a Biomass Forum. Everyone with Producers or Associate Membership status can access the Members Only section. Our website is designed to encourage “participation”. Members can add valuable biomass information that should be shared within the OBPC group.

Our Board Member section is the group’s executive portal, containing relevant information of past and future meetings and events. We aim to keep our board activities and documents neatly organized in a central fashion and make them available to authorized people.

The most recent facelift of our website was triggered by our name change to Ontario Biomass Producers Co-operative Inc. With our name change we also introduced our new OBPC logo, which is reflected on our business cards and any sort of documents of our group. The upcoming Canadian Outdoor Farm Show will be the first event where our new “flag” will be waved.

Since our website tries to be based on strong participation of our members and biomass partners, we encourage everyone to help us improve our site. Please take advantage of our site’s capability to add content and submit your suggestions and comments to the Webmaster.

Thank you for your participation to keep our site lively and relevant.

Urs Eggimann

Interested in Growing Biomass

The Biomass market is just beginning. How will it grow? Will farmers be price takers or price setters? There are many biomass conversion technologies. Which are winners? How can we ensure a biomass supply for the best of these technologies?

The OBPC is working hard to not only answer these questions but find answers that deliver profits to our farmer members. Market Development is never simple but by working collectively we can increase our influence and reduce new market risk.

The huge potential in the agricultural biomass market does not guarantee farmers will benefit. We need to be involved now, as the market develops, if we want to ensure farmers benefit. The more of us working together the better our chances of success.

Let’s work together to make biomass work for farmers.

For more information visit us at the outdoor farm show, check out our web site or contact us directly.

Jamie Fisher

Press Release—June 2012

Ontario Biomass Producers Group has been approved for funding from the Agricultural Management Institute (AMI).

This \$ 40,000.00 influx of funding will dramatically impact the business opportunities and business planning for biomass producers. The Ontario biomass industry is positioned for rapid potential growth not only through renewable energy production but also through the bio-products economy.

Milton, Ontario (June 4, 2012) - Today the Ontario Biomass Producers Group (OBPG) is pleased to announce the approval of funding for an eleven month study to build a business development plan for Ontario's biomass producers.

The ultimate goal is to become the central facilitator and service provider that offers a full range of information support in the area of biomass energy. The OBPG will disseminate information, facilitate sharing between members, as well as research and communicate new business opportunities for biomass producers. The OBPG would start by developing a business plan model that would encourage them to approach a biomass project with a solid business plan.

This project also responds to the recent IPSOS Baseline study regarding farmer's business objectives of increasing profitability. Using Biomass would certainly help producers increase their profitability by seeding fields that are not used effectively, as well as respecting the environment, and providing environmental services such as wildlife habitat.

OBPG's President Jamie Fisher stated that "The fundamental goal and challenge of OBPG is to develop biomass value chains such that farmers retain a fair portion of that value and hence have reasonable profits."

The Ontario Biomass Producers Group was established in 2010 by a core group of farmers interested in providing a green alternative to energy.

This project is funded in part through the Agricultural Management Institute (AMI). The AMI is part of the Best Practices Suite of programs for Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

We're on the web!

<http://ontariobiomass.com/>

Our Consultants for the AMI project

Michael John Rich, P.Eng., Mr. Rich is a professional engineer registered in Ontario with over 40 years of experience in government and industry in B.C., Quebec, the Atlantic Provinces and Ontario. Mr. Rich is currently working with the Ontario Biomass Producers Cooperative Inc. to develop a Strategic Plan for the group. The Strategic Plan will include assessment of pelletizing, briquetting, cubing and conversion technologies for agricultural biomass to develop new, profitable and environmentally-friendly uses for agricultural resources, including purpose-grown crops and crop residues.

Nick Betts

Nick Betts heads up numerous agricultural research and communication initiatives as the Applied Research Coordinator at Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Nick's current mandate includes coordinating the collection of agronomic information on purpose-grown biomass crops in Ontario. Through a formed partnership between OSCIA/OBPC, Nick is assisting with organizational branding, development of a communication strategy and maximizing outreach and advocacy opportunities for the OBPC."

OBPC at Farm Show in Woodstock, September 8, 2012

In case you missed it, our group has become a Co-operative! The formal decision was made at the last board meeting in August. Our official name is now **Ontario Biomass Producers Co-operative Inc.** Our first public appearance under the new banner will be at the [Canadian Outdoor Farm Show](#) in Woodstock, September 11-13.

Biomass has come a long way with slow but steady progress. The last 12 months have been the most encouraging ones for our group since its existence. We have made major progress, collaborating with other "biomass forces", like OSCIA, OMAFRA, University of Guelph, OAFT, REAP-Canada and other industry partners. The upcoming farm show will give us an excellent opportunity to further educate the farming community about the benefits of producing purpose grown biomass.

OBPC will have a tent in the Canadian Energy Expo sector of the exhibition area. Under our roof we will have OAFT, Dr. Mohanty's biomass research team of University of Guelph, REAP-Canada as well as OBPC member representation of Switch Energy Corp., New Energy Farms and Friendly Fuel Solutions. We will also have a minor presence at the Biomass Research Plots of OSCIA, where we jointly exhibit some biomass equipment and products.

Our major goal is to increase membership. It is absolutely crucial that we will achieve critical mass and have the necessary resources to be **the** organization of producers in our province.

We would like to encourage all of our members and friends to visit our two locations at the farm show. Further details are available on our [OBPC website](#) as well as on the official [Farm Show](#) publications and website.

2nd Annual

Ontario Biomass Regional Tour

What:

The Ontario Biomass Regional Tour is organized to give interested people the opportunity to visit with those innovative companies, organizations, and researchers exploring the emerging bio-economy. Tours are organized with a range of stops on each day that highlight the breadth of the bio-economy value chain in Ontario.

Where:

Various locations across Ontario - [click here](#) to see on a map

When:

Various days between September 17-27 (see [schedule here](#))

Agenda:

Each day highlights biomass-related activities by individuals, organizations, and companies in the value chain across Ontario

Set-up:

The tour allows attendees to build their own itinerary from the range of dates and stops available. While there is no cost for the tour, please [register for the stops](#) you plan to attend so the hosts are aware of how many people may be joining them. Some stops have limits on the number of people they can accommodate. Registration is mandatory for these stops and registration will be halted when limits are reached.

Please [register](#) for the stops you plan to attend

For all information regarding the tours, visit:

www.ontariobiomass.org



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

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Agroalimentaire Canada



Recent blog posts on www.ontariobiomass.com

Ontario Biomass Tour

31 Aug 2012 1:26 PM • Urs Eggimann

Forget Not the Feedstock (Article in Biomass Magazine)

31 Aug 2012 1:23 PM • John Malecki

Ontario Biomass Producers Group has now Co-operative status

29 Aug 2012 10:04 AM • Urs Eggimann

Major Miscanthus Project in Nova Scotia

22 Jul 2012 6:00 PM • Urs Eggimann

New Energy Farms has developed new revolutionary method of propagating energy grasses

14 Jun 2012 8:49 PM • Urs Eggimann

Biomass Crops Gain Eligibility to Advance Payments Program

28 May 2012 1:34 PM • Urs Eggimann

Biomass boosters begin Ontario tour

18 May 2012 10:11 PM • Urs Eggimann

DuPont and Fagen to commercialize cellulosic biofuels in Iowa

18 May 2012 9:53 PM • Urs Eggimann

The STRAW Specialist? by Peter Johnson

18 May 2012 9:12 PM • Urs Eggimann

Business Case For Energy Crops Expected To Improve by Owen Roberts

18 May 2012 9:03 PM • Urs Eggimann

We're on the web!

<http://ontariobiomass.com/>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, 11-13 Sept. 2012 - Woodstock, ON

Biomass Industry Learning's from the European Union (EU)

14 Sep 2012, 9:30 AM , Ontario Government Building Conference Centre 3

1 Stone Rd West Guelph, Ontario

CCS-agriKomp Inc. On Farm Biogas Plant Open House

15 Sep 2012 1:00 PM , 180 Fallis Line, Millbrook, ON, LOA 1G0

2012 Regional Biomass Tours

17-25 Sept, 2012, Various locations in Ontario

Ontario Agri-Food Technologies Board of Directors/Members Semi-Annual Meeting

28 Sep 2012 , Sugarloaf Marina – Port Colborne, Ontario

Agricultural Biomass Business Forum

22 Nov 2012 , Guelph, ON



for a cleaner tomorrow

Ontario Biomass Producers Co-operative Inc.

Who we are:

Ontario Biomass Producers is a group of Ontario farmers exploring the sustainable production and marketing of biomass. This group is open to all Ontario farm operations, from small to large scale.

Non-farmers who are engaged in the biomass industry can participate at OBPC with an associate membership.

We are currently exploring:

Marketing opportunities

Production of purpose grown biomass crops

Harvesting of crop byproducts

Transportation and storage issues

Generating or co-generating electricity from biomass

Structure and financing options for a biomass production co-op

Densifying of biomass (e.g. pelleting, briquetting)

Biomass based heat energy

Biomass as a feedstock for the production of fuels

Biomass for the production of plastic products

Biomass for production of composite fibre boards

Animal bedding (dairy, pet market, etc.)

Biomass as substrate for mushroom farming

Quality mulch for landscaping and vegetable farming