

January 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

OBPG Bulletin



Ontario Biomass Producers Group

1st Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Biomass Producers Group

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Ontario Biomass Producers Group

Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 27th, 2011

Time: 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Location: Mohawk Inn, 9230 Guelph Line, Campbellville
(corner of 401 and Guelph Line)

Guest Speaker: Roger Samson, Executive Director, REAP Canada

Members and Non-Members are welcome to attend!

Memberships will be available!

For further information, please contact:

Nancy Comber

OBPG Secretary

Telephone: 905-878-4955

E-mail: speccomm@explornet.com

To assist with logistics, please RSVP your intent to attend. Thank you!

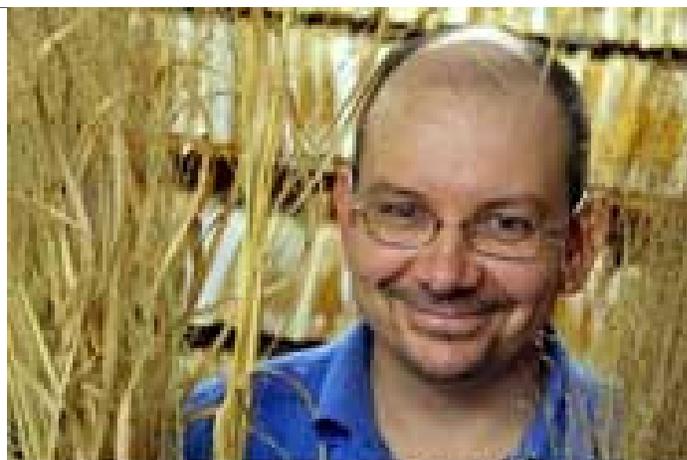


About our Guest Speaker

Roger Samson, Executive Director , REAP-Canada

Mr. Samson has been working with REAP-Canada since its inception in 1986, leading the biomass energy, agri-fibre, and on-farm participatory research and development programs. Mr. Samson is a leading world expert in biomass energy development and native warm season perennial grasses. He has authored over 60 publications on bioenergy, ecological farming, and climate change mitigation and has been working on bioenergy projects in North

America, Europe, China, the Philippines, and West Africa since 1991. His work has pioneered ecological approaches for bioenergy production and thermodynamically efficient bioenergy conversion systems. Since 1997, he has managed international development projects in the Philippines, China, and the Gambia involving ecological farming systems development and sustainable household energy from biomass. Mr. Samson holds a B.Sc. (Crop Science) from Guelph University and a M.Sc. (Plant Science) from McGill University.



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About REAP-Canada

REAP-Canada

Resource Efficient Agricultural Production Canada (REAP-Canada) is an independent, non-profit organization that has been working since 1986 with farmers, scientists, and the private sector to improve the sustainability of farming systems and develop ecological ways of producing food, fibre and fuel from farms both in Canada and abroad. As one of the first organizations in Canada to develop participatory on-farm research and plant breeding programs, REAP-Canada has become one of the world's leading organizations to work with communities to develop agro-ecological farming systems and bioenergy for rural development.

For more information on REAP-Canada, check out their website at: <http://www.reap-canada.com/index.htm>

Proposed Bylaw Change

At the Thursday, January 27, 2011 Annual General Meeting, a By-law Change will be discussed. This change will be in Article 2—Board of Directors, under section 2.15. A copy of the complete by-law may be obtained by contacting our Secretary, Nancy Comber at 905-878-4955 or speccomm@xplornet.com. Copies will be available at the Annual General Meeting. The proposed addition to the By-laws will read:

2.15 CONDUCTING BUSINESS VIA E-MAIL

With prior consent of all the Board Directors, business of the board may be conducted by e-mail. All communication is to be copied to the Secretary who shall keep a record of it and have it available for the next board meeting.

Motions must be sent by the secretary to all board members with a “Read Receipt”. The motion must be accompanied by the names of the mover and seconded and a date that the motion must be approved by. To Pass the motion must have a read receipt (reply) from all directors) and a clear response in favour of the motion by a majority of directors. Any director may withdraw his/her consent for e-mail voting with regards to any particular motion before voting and the motion must then be heard at a regular board meeting.

Items of Interest—link to <http://www.bicsarnia.ca/reports.html>

Assessment of Agricultural Residuals as a Biomass Fuel for Ontario Power Generation.

November 2010

This study examines the sustainable removal of agricultural residuals from Ontario farms for use as a fuel alternative to coal by Ontario Power Generation (OPG). The quantity of agricultural residuals which can be sustainably harvested from Ontario farms was estimated based on the preservation of soil organic matter (SOM) and the minimization of soil erosion. Chemical characteristics of agricultural residuals, fuel improvement options and harvesting technologies were investigated and assessed. The development of the supply chain was analysed and included the identification of stakeholders and recommended features. The cost of biomass fuel from agricultural residuals in various forms was estimated at the OPG gate. Potential issues in the agricultural and political arenas were identified, which may arise due to a development of the bioenergy sector based on residuals. Conclusions regarding the feasibility of the utilization of agricultural residuals as biomass fuel at OPG generating stations were drawn and recommendations are provided for the implementation of the biomass fuel industry in Ontario.

Report on Energy Crops Options For Ontario Power Generation. May 2009

This report examines the feasibility of developing a sustainable energy crop industry in Ontario. The strengths and weaknesses of various energy crops are evaluated along with their potential for industrial-scale cultivation in Ontario. The economics surrounding the use of each crop for combustion, the environmental impacts anticipated and socio-political issues are also key considerations addressed in this research. The report provides conclusions and recommendations for OPG to consider in developing any future plans for a biomass fuel program.

Mark your Calendars!

Agronomy Forum on Agricultural Biomass for Combustion Energy: What have we learned so far and what are the knowledge gaps?

The **Steering Committee** (<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/biomass/index.htm>), which for the **Project to Commercialize Agricultural Biomass for Combustion Energy**, co-led by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) and Ontario Power Generation (OPG), are pleased to offer this forum, which will take place in Guelph and on-line by Webinar from regional centres and personal computers.

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, February 11, 2011, 10 am – 3 pm.**

The Forum will be chaired by Rene Van Acker, Associate Dean, External Relations, Ontario Agricultural College and Professor, Department of Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph.

Watch for **agenda and registration information in early January.**

Field-scale Agricultural Biomass Research and Development

The Field-scale Agricultural Biomass Research and Development project is a 4-year component of a comprehensive research project to determine, on a pilot scale, whether purpose-grown agricultural biomass is an economically sustainable and environmentally preferable alternative to coal and non-renewable fuels. The purpose of establishing field-scale biomass plots is to give producers and researchers the opportunity to develop a scale-up infrastructure. Not all questions regarding economy and agronomy of agricultural biomass can be answered with current research. This research will provide the initial steps of the comprehensive project that includes life cycle analysis, industrial manufacturing, power generation, and the field trials associated with agricultural biomass production. The anticipated outcome includes commercialization of agricultural biomass, enabling a diversification of producers' crop options and associated income leading to a new crop with potential farm-gate values over \$100 million, in five years.

Applications will continue to be accepted on a 'first come, first serve' basis, provided the applicant meets all project criteria and objectives. Successful Applications of Interest for this ongoing intake will have side-by-side crop comparisons of (a) two varieties of miscanthus or (b) a miscanthus variety and a switchgrass variety. These plots will contain 10-20 acres of EACH variety. This criteria is being imposed to maximize the research quality of the project by creating a comprehensive, inclusive experimental design.

For further inquiries, contact:

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Project to Commercialize Agricultural Biomass for Combustion Energy

OPG and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), with the support of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MEI), have initiated a project to coordinate the analysis of the feasibility of a commercial agricultural biomass industry for the production of combustion energy in Ontario. The project is being led by a Steering Committee representing a cross section of agriculture, industry, academic, and government experts. Under their direction, the project will examine the role agricultural biomass might have in producing power and heat to help reduce net greenhouse gas emissions, to help meet Ontario's climate change commitments and to help meet renewable energy targets. Information about the work of the Steering Committee can be found on the OMAFRA website, <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/engineer/biomass/index.htm>.

This information was provided by the Ontario Power Generation website.

OFA congratulates Ontario Government's push toward biomass generation

August 27, 2010 – GUELPH, ON – The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) applauds the Ontario Government today for recognizing the value in biomass energy production at the Atikokan Generating Station in Northern Ontario.

In an announcement late yesterday, the Ministry of Energy outlined its ongoing support of renewable energy production by giving direction to end coal-fired generation at the Atikokan plant in favour of biomass generation. This brings the province closer toward its goal of eliminating coal-fired generation by the end of 2014.

"We compliment the decision of the Ministry for moving forward with biomass generation as a valuable energy source for the province," says Bette Jean Crews, President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "The OFA is a strong supporter of renewable energy and this is a great example of that."

Recently, the OFA launched a three-year research plan to develop purpose-grown crops for biomass fuel, including switch grass and miscanthus. The OFA is leading a collaborative effort to review the production of agricultural biomass on a larger scale at the Nanticoke and Lambton Generating Stations in Southern Ontario. OFA's research will assist farmers to test various agronomic practices and plants for agricultural biomass in generating electricity.

"OFA's work will assist Ontario farmers in establishing the supply needed to end coal-fired generation by 2014," says Don McCabe, Vice President, Ontario Federation of Agriculture. "With biomass generation, the Ontario agriculture sector can actively take part in meeting Ontario's need for clean air, clean water, food on the table and green energy."

According to the Ontario Government, the Atikokan project is expected to take up to three years to complete the process to biomass power and will generate up to 150 million kWh of renewable power for the province.

Learn more about the OFA's renewable energy programs at www.ofa.on.ca.

Ontario Biomass Producers Group

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.

We are currently exploring:

- Marketing opportunities
- Production of purpose grown biomass crops
- Harvesting of crop by-products
- Further processing of biomass (ie. pelleting) to suit markets
- Transportation and storage issues
- Generating or co-generating electricity from biomass
- Structure and financing options for a biomass production co-op or corporation

We're on the web!

<http://ontariobiomass.com/>

OBPG Executive

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