



Maximizing Bioenergy Resources in the Midwest

**Kirkwood Regional Center at the University of Iowa
2301 Oakdale Boulevard | Coralville, Iowa 52241**

**October 11-12, 2017
DRAFT AGENDA**

Wednesday, October 11 – Day 1

- 8:30 am** **Tour of Sievers Family Farms (Optional)**
Depart by bus meeting at [location TBD]
- 1:00 pm** **Welcome and Introductions**
Jeff Ewart, Deputy Director, Midwestern Governors Association
- 1:30 pm** **Keynote Address: Biofuels: Answering America's Looming Agriculture Crisis**
Jeff Broin, Chief Executive Officer, POET
- 2:15 pm** **Panel Discussion: Agricultural benefits of a strong bioeconomy**
Expanding the bioeconomy and creating new markets for biomass is stimulating changes to the agricultural industry. This panel will explore the impacts of crop diversification, increasing market options, and other issues facing agricultural producers.
Martin Adkins, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships at USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Dr. Emily Heaton, Associate Professor of Agronomy, Iowa State University
M. Cristina Negri, Director, Environmental Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory
- 3:30 pm** **Break**
- 3:45 pm** **Panel Discussion: Biogas applications for Biomass**
Bioenergy has the potential for application in a variety of forms. This panel will discuss use of renewable natural gas, or biogas, directly as an energy resource and provide an overview of the infrastructure needed to support a strong biogas industry.
Dave Broihahn, Vice President/Owner, Unison Solutions, Inc.
Tracy Peterson, Vice President, Iowa Operations, Black Hills Energy
Stephanie Weisenbach, Program Manager, Clean Cities, Iowa Economic Development Authority
- 5:00 pm** **Recap of Day One/Preview of Day 2**
- 5:30 pm** **Evening Reception**
Location: TBD

Thursday, October 12, 2017 – Day 2

- 7:45 am** **Continental Breakfast Available**
- 8:00 am** **Day Two Preview**
- 8:15 am** **Guest Speaker: Economic Development Case Study of Smithfield Foods**
Rudi Roeslein, Founder Roeslein Alternative Energy

- 8:45 am** **Guest Speaker: Economic Development Case Study on Pyrolysis Demonstration Project**
Robert Brown, Distinguished Professor, Iowa State University & Director, Bioeconomy Institute
- 9:15 am** **Panel Discussion: The Biomass Supply Chain**
Critical to the success of the developing biomass industry is a strong supply chain to ensure an adequate supply of feedstock and optimize the harvest, transport and processing of biomass supplies. Hear from a panel of experts in the supply chain and supply chain management in this session.
Erin Hazen, Renewable Energy Business Development Manager, University of Iowa
- 10:30 am** **Break**
- 10:45 am** **Panel Discussion: Electrical generation from biomass**
Biomass conversion can generate electricity for use by industry, the transportation sector, and other consumers. This panel will discuss the technology, benefits, and applications for converting biomass feedstocks into electricity.
Cliffe Haefke, Director, Energy Resources Center (ERC), University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
Royce Hammitt, former Director, Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority
Jeff Hove, President, Iowa Electric Auto Association
- 12:00 pm** **Discussion on Next Steps**
- 12:15 pm** **Adjourn Meeting**