



FIFTH ANNUAL
Bioenergy Day
October 18, 2017

PARTICIPATION GUIDE

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National Bioenergy Day



October 18, 2017, will be the **fifth annual Bioenergy Day**. On this day, organizations all over the United States and Canada – businesses, non-profits, universities, and state and local governments – will showcase the many ways they benefit from bioenergy, an energy resource that needs increased understanding and public awareness.



Led by Biomass Power Association in partnership with U.S. Forest Service, Bioenergy Day facilitates interaction between bioenergy projects and their local communities, raising awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of bioenergy. Participation may come in many forms – conducting facility tours to hosting local school groups for career days, to simply promoting the event through social media and signs.



In its first four years, National Bioenergy Day participants earned dozens of media headlines and widespread recognition from across all levels of government. From the first year to the fourth year, National Bioenergy Day more than doubled in size, with 60 participants in 2016.



Last year, social media mentions of #bioenergyday numbered well into the thousands, especially with the Department of Energy and U.S. Forest Service tweeting several times throughout the day to their cumulative hundreds of thousands of followers. Combined, Bioenergy Day videos have received nearly 7,000 views.



2016 Bioenergy Day activities included the following highlights:

- Drax Biomass announced a new partnership to protect Louisiana wetlands from logging
- Connecticut's Curran Renewable Energy hosted community tours
- DTE Mt. Poso in Bakersfield, CA, hosted visitors
- Michigan Biomass teamed up with the Michigan Conservative Energy Forum to place an op-ed in the Detroit News
- Massachusetts' State Wood Energy team blogged about the bioenergy advances in the state
- Minnesota Power and the U.S. Forest Service appeared on local television to talk about the benefits of bioenergy
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the University of Tennessee hosted a family fair
- The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry hosted a lecture on bioenergy in Canada
- ReEnergy Ashland hosted an appreciation day for Maine legislators.



We hope you will consider participating in the Fifth Annual Bioenergy Day!





Above: Minnesota Power hosts National Bioenergy Day attendees in 2014 at its Hibbard Renewable Energy facility in Duluth, MN.

PLANNING GUIDE



PLANNING FOR NATIONAL BIOENERGY DAY

We encourage participants to mark National Bioenergy Day in whatever way makes sense for their organization. This could include:

- Facility Tours (consider coordination with local U.S. Forest Service or stakeholder groups involved in the bioenergy supply chain)
- Private/Targeted Tour or Elected Officials
- Career Panels or Recruitment Events
- School Group Visit
- Displaying Signs
- Staff Appreciation Day
- Social Media Promotion and/or Signage

The first step is to determine your audience(s).

Possibilities include:

- Employees and their families
- Local students – university, high school, middle school, even elementary
- Local, state and federal officials
- Media
- Supporters in the community
- Vendors and service providers (fuel and equipment suppliers or even accountants or other non-biomass related vendors that your company works with)
- Investors
- Utility leaders and staff



Best Practice: Team up with your local utility, supply chain, university, vendors or others involved in bioenergy to co-host an event. For consideration:

- How is the best way to tell your facility's story?
- Assume your audiences know very little about bioenergy and how your facility works.
- How much time is your facility willing to devote to the event (half day, lunchtime, full day, etc.)
- What materials or other marketing items will you hand out to visitors? (Note: please see the list of materials provided by the National Bioenergy Day planning committee on pg. 8 of this guide.)
- What additional hospitality items are needed (examples: coffee, soda, lunch buffet, boxed lunch, catering)?
- Map out the flow of the event from the perspective of attendees.
- What kind of safety equipment will you need?
- Name badges or t-shirts for staff?
- Other than facility tours, are there other hands-on activities your visitors could engage in (handling wood chips/pellets)?
- What are the messages you'd like visitors to take away?
- Who will speak/welcome visitors/serve as a guide?
- Who will be responsible for taking photos/engaging on social media? Will you hire a photographer?

Preparation Checklist

- Determine the format of your event (presentation, facility tour, roundtable, etc.)
- Determine the desired length of your event
- Decide who to invite
- Send the invitations
- Track and confirm RSVPs and follow up as necessary
- Distribute memo of visit to employees
- Establish a timeline for planning purposes, i.e. when will invitations go out, when will follow up be done, etc.
- Let us know you are hosting an event so we can list it on the site and keep you informed!

Event Checklist

- Put together internal planning group, if necessary
- Craft welcome and introduction
- Create name badges for guests and staff
- Determine required safety equipment
- Brief tour guide(s)
- Identify local media and elected officials
- Craft tour script
- Hire/designate photographer
- Prepare an information package
- Research talking points, your company story, current events, legislative tasks, etc.
- Prepare a map of the tour route
- Write out any questions for students, educators or other attendees

NBD Organizers will provide the following tools:

- Bioenergy Day logo
- Template invitation (included in this Guide on page 9)
- Template media advisory (included in this Guide on page 13)
- Template press release (included in this Guide on page 14)
- Guidance on elected official outreach
- Connection to other local bioenergy groups holding NBD events
- Planning support throughout
- Recognition on the website
- Signage
- Ad template



INVITATIONS

Below is sample wording for invitations to Bioenergy Day events.

Dear [guest],

I am writing to invite you to attend [facility/organization]'s recognition of the Fifth Annual Bioenergy Day. We will be marking the occasion, along with dozens of other groups across the country, with [description of event: facility tour/barbecue/lunch/presentation] at [time] on Wednesday, October 18. We would be honored if you would attend to celebrate [optional for special guests: and consider saying a few words about] bioenergy and the role it plays in powering, heating and cooling our area, as well as keeping our forests maintained and healthy.

"Bioenergy" refers to the generation of electricity and heat from wood and other organic materials. In addition to serving as a domestic energy source, these industries work closely together to keep American forests healthy, support forest products markets and put organic byproducts like forest trimmings, industry byproducts and agricultural residuals to good use.

Bioenergy is a sustainable, renewable, and carbon-friendly energy source:

- The organic materials used to produce heat and electricity at a biomass facility often have no other use. If not used to produce bioenergy, these materials might be open burned, which releases methane into the air. Or, they might be left on a forest floor to decompose – a process that also releases methane and can contribute to catastrophic forest fires.
- The use of organic materials to produce energy does not introduce new carbon into the atmosphere, unlike the use of fossil fuels for energy.
- 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.

We hope you will be able to join us on October 18, to learn more about bioenergy and see our facility, which employs [number] local residents and produces enough heat and power for [number] local homes and businesses. Our facility is located at [address and additional location details as needed]. Please contact [name] at [email/phone] for more information and please RSVP as soon as you can.

Best,



BEST PRACTICES FOR INVOLVING ELECTED OFFICIALS

If your organization would like to involve local elected officials to your event, there are many ways to do this. Bioenergy Day participants have also hosted campaign events for candidates in the past.

Mayors, officials on the state level, officials on the federal level like members of Congress or Senators, and political candidates have participated in Bioenergy Day. It's a great way for them to become familiar with the benefits of bioenergy, and also with the leaders of your organization.

Most of the time, you can find the contact information for these officials and their staffers on their website. To ensure that the right staffer receives the invitation, it is a good idea to call the office and describe the event and ask who the appropriate contact is. It's also a best practice to call again after you've sent the invitation to ensure that it was received, and to follow up around the RSVP date to determine whether the invitee will be able to attend.

1. Invite an elected official to provide a keynote address.
2. Request the Mayor to issue a proclamation officially declaring October 18 "Bioenergy Day."
3. Invite officials to tour the facility or otherwise attend your group's event.
4. After the event, reach out to officials to let them know how the event went, and thank them for any contributions.



Above: *Maine Governor Paul LePage, Irving's Ashland Sawmill co-CEO Jim Irving, and Sen. Angus King attend ReEnergy's NBD 2014 event in Ashland, Maine.*
Photo credit: Kathy McCarthy, Presque Isle Star-Herald

MEDIA OUTREACH

This section includes sample language for press outreach but, like everything included in the Bioenergy Day Participation Guide, feel free to tailor it for your organization's purposes. Bioenergy Day has received considerable press attention from local news sources in the past. Visit www.bioenergyday.org/news to see some of the articles, videos, blogs and radio stories that have appeared on events across the country.

When communicating with the press on Bioenergy Day events, we recommend that you keep all of the following outlets in mind: newspaper, radio and television stations, and even blogs. Spending an hour or two online will help you identify the appropriate local media to approach for your event. A reporter covering a newspaper's business, energy or environment beats would likely be interested in National Bioenergy Day. Other good options would include a local television station's community reporter or news producer, a local NPR host or reporter, and bloggers interested in local events, politics or the environment.

HOW TO USE THESE MATERIALS

Simply fill in the blanks with information relevant to your event and make any edits or additions as you see fit.

The **media advisory** below is intended to alert and/or invite media a week or two ahead of the event. It helps them plan their schedules.

The **press release** is intended to once again remind press of the event, as well as give more detail on what happened at the event. Some members of the media prefer to take quotes and other information from a press release for a story, so it's a good idea to include as many details as possible. A press release is usually sent out the morning of a big event, or right as the event starts.

Note: The following materials will be updated closer to the event.

Best Practice: When working with members of the press, no matter the outlet, a good approach is to contact them by email first, and then follow up by phone later that day or the next day.



SAMPLE MEDIA ADVISORY

What:

Wednesday, October 18, marks the Fifth Annual Bioenergy Day, with events held across the United States and Canada. [Hosting organization(s) is/are] participating in this historic event to demonstrate the many benefits that bioenergy provides on the local level, including in [name of town where event is being held].

We hope you will be able to attend our event [insert brief description of your event].

Please see the FAQs below, or visit www.bioenergyday.org to learn more about Bioenergy Day, and bioenergy in general.

When:

[time] on Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Where:

[Organization name
Address]

Who:

[List of speakers and titles]

CONTACT:

[Contact person], with contact information for the person to whom reporters can reach out to with questions.

For more information on Bioenergy Day activities across the country, please contact Carrie Annand with Biomass Power Association at carrie@usabiomass.org or (202) 494-2493.



SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: [Name]
[Phone]
[Email]

[Organization] Marks Fifth Annual Bioenergy Day with [Description of Event, i.e., Facility Tours/Lecture]
Bioenergy Provides [Area] Economic and Environmental Benefits

October 18, 2017 – [City, State] – In honor of the Fifth Annual Bioenergy Day, [facility/organization] opened its doors today to local residents, inviting them to come and learn more about an industry that provides significant local benefits. The event in [city] was one of dozens of events across the United States and Canada held to raise awareness about bioenergy.

“Bioenergy contributes a great deal to our local economy and helps keep forests and the forest industry around here more resilient,” said [representative of organization]. “We employ local residents and generate clean energy from materials that would otherwise be discarded. We wanted to give people an opportunity to see what we do firsthand and learn more about bioenergy. We are so grateful for the turnout.”

“The continuation of Bioenergy Day into a fifth year is truly exciting. We are grateful to our sponsors, particularly the U.S. Forest Service, for their dedication to raising awareness about the role of bioenergy in communities across the nation,” said Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of Biomass Power Association. “Today, all across the country, people are learning about bioenergy and how it helps local economies and forests.”

To learn more, please visit www.bioenergyday.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We highly recommend using social media to get the word out about Bioenergy Day, before the event as well as during and afterwards. Share photos, news articles and factoids about bioenergy, and be sure to use the hashtag **#BioenergyDay** so that we can collect the mentions and/or echo them on www.BioenergyDay.org.

For consideration:

- Encourage guests to be active on social media by posting photos to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter tagging your organization and using the #bioenergyday hashtag.
- Display signs in a visible location with the #bioenergyday hashtag
- Designate a staffer responsible for taking photos/engaging on social media.



We're celebrating National **#Bioenergy** Day by making 25M gallons of **#cellulosic #ethanol**: abengoabiotech.com



4:23 PM - 22 Oct 2014

ADVERTISING

Local newspapers, news sites and blogs are good options for publicizing your event. This year, we plan to create a few templates for Bioenergy Day participants to use for advertising purposes.



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www.bioenergyday.org

