



About Bio Power

While Wisconsin may not have coal, oil, or natural gas reserves, we do have an abundance biomass, which can be turned into clean, renewable energy.

Here are some quick facts about biomass:

What is biomass?

Biomass is organic matter (plant material, vegetation, agriculture waste, forestry waste) used as a fuel or source of energy. Use of biomass as an energy source results in little net production of carbon dioxide because the CO₂ generated during combustion of plant material equals the CO₂ consumed during the lifecycle of the plant.

Common examples in Wisconsin are:

- woody biomass such as logging residue;
- energy crops such as switchgrass; and
- agricultural biomass such as corn cobs and stover—the stalks and material left after harvest.

What are biofuels?

Biofuels are liquid, solid, or gaseous fuels produced by the conversion of biomass. Examples include bio-ethanol from corn or sugarcane, bio-gas from anaerobic (in the absence of air) decomposition of wastes, and biodiesel from materials such as soybean oil.

What is a biorefinery?

A biorefinery would work like a petrochemical refinery producing transportation fuels and high-value chemicals, but would use plant matter as the raw material instead of petroleum. The plant matter could be any number of things, including corn, wheat, barley, switchgrass, crop residues or waste wood. Biorefineries offer Wisconsin an avenue for expanding its existing production facilities to produce more high-value products from a wider variety of crops.

Information Comes from the Wisconsin Office of Energy Independence