

Bio-energy Renewable Resources Program

Issue (Who cares and why?)

Utilizing our renewable natural resources as a feedstock for transportation and heating and cooling needs is not a new concept. In recent years the need to develop bio-energy options has become more urgent. With the constant development of new technologies that use renewable natural resources as a feedstock, the necessity for educational outreach and feedstock development research also becomes more urgent.

What has been done?

Since 2001, Cooperative Extension at the University of Delaware is responsible for the coordination of the Delaware Bio-energy Consortium, a group of 15 individuals representing education, industry, agriculture, government, solid waste, natural resources conservation and energy interests in the state. The consortium is sponsoring an ethanol education campaign that explains the benefits of ethanol as a bio-energy source.

Impact

Thirty-three people representing Delaware legislators, farmers and other interested agencies attended a consortium "Ethanol Briefing Breakfast" held in November 2001.

This ethanol education campaign also led to implementing an E85 refueling station in Wilmington, Delaware and pre-siting studies for replication in Kent and Sussex counties. In addition, there is discussion on development and support of an ethanol manufacturing plant within the tri-state area. The University of Delaware is also part of two "sub-work" groups of the Governor's Energy Task Force, charged with developing a comprehensive statewide energy plan for Delaware. Cooperative Extension, meanwhile, conducted a presentation on the benefits of ethanol at Delaware Agronomy Day to 67 individuals.

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