



October 22 Marks Second Annual National Bioenergy Day

Over 50 Organizations Across the Country Raising Awareness About the Benefits of Bioenergy

October 22, 2014 – Washington, DC – Biomass Power Association thanked sponsors and participants who contributed to today's [Second Annual National Bioenergy Day](#). Nearly 50 events are being held today in more than 20 states plus Canada to raise awareness about bioenergy and its environmental and economic benefits. Several events feature collaborations by the U.S. Forest Service, local or state governments, universities and bioenergy businesses in the surrounding areas.

Bioenergy refers to an industry whose companies produce electricity and heat generated from wood and other organic materials. In 2013, approximately 23% of all renewable energy consumed was from wood (EIA, 2013) – more than wind and solar combined and second only to hydroelectric energy.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has continued to support bioenergy's role in protecting the health of forests on federal lands, saying, "Renewable wood energy is part of the Obama Administration's 'all of the above' energy strategy. The Forest Service works with its partners to support the development of wood energy projects that promote sound forest management, expand regional economies and create new rural jobs."

"The continuation of National Bioenergy Day into a second 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."

National Bioenergy Day sponsors include Biomass Power Association, U.S. Forest Service, Plum Creek, Pellet Fuels Institute, U.S. Industrial Pellet Association, Biomass Thermal Energy Council and Biomass Magazine.

To learn more about bioenergy, or to see a full list of National Bioenergy Day activities, please visit www.bioenergyday.org.

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Biomass power is a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states and provides over 15,500 jobs nationwide. Power plants are predominantly located in rural communities, creating thousands of jobs and producing millions in revenue for small towns. Biomass power is a clean and abundant source of electricity that will allow states to pursue even more aggressive goals for increasing their use of renewable energy in the future.