



Call for Abstracts

Deadline: March 31, 2012

2012 National Conference: Science for Biomass Feedstock Production and Utilization

New Orleans, LA

Hilton New Orleans Riverside

October 2-5, 2012

<http://sungrant.tennessee.edu/NatConference/>



Growing the Nation's Bioeconomy Through Science

Welcome

The Sun Grant Initiative invites you to participate in its National Conference on the Science for Biomass Feedstock Production and Utilization. The Sun Grant Initiative along with the United States Department of Energy, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Agriculture, have assembled an exciting agenda and outstanding speakers for the "Conference of the Year." The Conference will focus on the scientific progress in the field of biomass production, harvest, logistics and processing, conversion, and renewable energy, and will promote collaboration between academic, industry, non-profit and government partners.

Important Dates	
Abstract and Presentation Title Deadline	3/31/2012
Registration Begins	4/30/2012
Registration Deadline for Full Paper Submission	7/31/2012
Proceedings Published	8/31/2012
Advanced Registration and Housing Ends	9/2/2012

Please note: all individuals interested in advancing the vision of the bioeconomy are invited to participate and submit an abstract. The National Conference is open to everyone, not just Sun Grant award recipients. Please visit the conference website for additional information: <http://sungrant.tennessee.edu/NatConference/>.

Call For Papers

The Conference will highlight recent advances in the science and technology contributing to the deployment of conventional and advanced biofuels, bioproducts and biopower from agricultural and forest systems. The Sun Grant Initiative is currently seeking proposals for presentations that further the vision of the bioeconomy. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Progress in the development of novel energy crops, including advances in molecular genetics and genomics of herbaceous, woody, and other species
- Development of best management practices for agricultural and forestry biomass feedstock production
- Management systems and practices to effectively integrate biomass production into existing forestry and agriculture activities
- Management systems and practices for agricultural energy crops and short rotation woody crops
- Improved logistics for delivering affordable, high quality feedstock to the biorefinery
- Development of new pretreatment technologies improving access to sugars and reducing conversion cost
- Feedstock-process interactions impacting biochemical and thermochemical conversion processes
- New analytical methods for characterizing chemical and physical properties of biomass
- Advances in production and utilization systems integration, innovative model development, and new metrics advancing sustainable development of the industry
- Recent progress on resource assessments, business cases, facility siting, economic analyses, and social implications of an evolving bioeconomy
- Sustainability and environmental outcomes of feedstock production

Using the template provided on the Conference website, please submit your proposed presentation title and 250-word abstract for review to sungrant@tennessee.edu by **March 31, 2012**. A proceedings paper is expected by August 31, 2012 for all accepted presentation proposals. Selected proceedings papers will be published in a special journal issue.



Location, Location, Location

Conference Venue

Hilton New Orleans Riverside • Two Poydras Street • New Orleans, LA 70130

A block of rooms has been reserved at the conference hotel, Hilton New Orleans Riverside, for the conference dates October 2 - 5, 2012. The Conference rate is \$229/night. This rate will also be offered based on availability three (3) days before and three (3) days after the conference dates.

Rooms are available at the conference rate through the conference link or by calling the Hilton's toll free number (1-800-Hilton) and requesting the group rate.

The Hilton New Orleans Riverside is in the center of it all. Located just minutes from the historic French Quarter, Aquarium of the Americas, Arts District, City Center and Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. While you're in town, try your luck at Harrah's Casino, play a round of golf at TPC Louisiana, or visit the Audubon Zoo.

The Hilton also offers recreation and dining on site. Try any of the four dining experiences for a real taste of New Orleans. Also enjoy complimentary WiFi available in the River Blends Cafe and a full business center at your convenience.

Registration Type and Fees

Early Bird - \$350

Full - \$425

Single Day - \$200

One Site Registration - \$500

Student - \$200



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Session Topics

Energy Crop Development

Projections have been made that approximately 1.3 billion tons of cellulosic biomass could be available annually in the United States for the production of alternative liquid fuels, chemicals and power. Speakers in this session will discuss the potential production of diverse biomass feedstocks, obstacles and knowledge gaps, and research needs and priorities.

Biomass Production

A primary mission of the Sun Grant Initiative is to promote environmentally sustainable and diversified production opportunities for agriculture and forestry resources. If we continue to produce biomass sustainably, the potential of the biomass industry is endless. This session will look at the world's complex agricultural production systems to evaluate how bioenergy production can be developed in ways that benefit our nation's energy needs. This will include, but is not limited to, agronomics, silviculture, production management, and impacts to the global environment.

Biomass Logistics

How do we successfully harvest and transport biomass feedstocks from the field to conversion facilities? From pre-processing the biomass at the harvest site to reduce moisture and weight to mechanical, chemical and enzymatic preparations, the challenge is to develop the most cost-effective approaches for preparing feedstocks for conversion to fuel. Speakers in this session will weigh in on the challenges we are facing, and discuss solutions to logistical issues.



Feedstock Conversion

A singular solution to feedstock conversion is not the answer to sustainable biofuel production. Researchers across all the Sun Grant regions are developing methods for converting the biorefinery building blocks into final products, both biochemical and thermochemical. Speakers in this session will highlight new conversion processes for the production of chemicals and fuels.

Biomass Characterization

Identifying and understanding the characterization of the biomass to biofuels conversion process is extremely valuable to academics, the national laboratories, federal and state agencies, the private sector, and public interest groups. Detailed characterization methods are necessary for each stage of the bioconversion process. This session will focus on demonstrating new, successful, cost-effective methods of characterization, and dissecting how biomass properties affect the supply change.

System Sustainability

While there are great opportunities to develop bioenergy in ways that better sustain the environment, some pathways are better than others. Bioenergy has to be developed thoughtfully and carefully in order to capture real benefits to the environment. This session will look at emerging bioenergy feedstocks, including those with greater potential for supporting system sustainability and greater potential for economic development in rural communities.

Models and Metrics

Research within the Sun Grant Initiative addresses the complete biomass production chain, building from its unique ability to address biomass feedstock development at the regional level, to developing new technologies to support the logistics of preparing and moving feedstocks, to supporting the development of new conversion technologies. Modeling and metrics bring the entire system together, from production to co-products. Sustainability metrics and econometric modeling are crucial to the development of the bioenergy industry and are being specifically discussed in this session.



The Sun Grant Initiative is a national network of land-grant universities and national laboratories partnering to help build a bio-based economy.

Land-grant universities have over 150 years of experience in agricultural and natural resource research. The land-grants have a unique tradition of sharing the results of their research by working with farmers, ranchers and foresters through extension outreach in the community and classroom education efforts. The Sun Grant Initiative builds on this successful history and harnesses the land-grant network to tackle the new challenges of developing bio-based transportation fuels, biopower, and new bio-based products. The Sun Grant Initiative facilitates communication and partnership development between universities, national laboratories, federal and state governments, the private sector and public interest groups.

Mission

Through development, distribution, and implementation of bio-based energy technologies, the Sun Grant Initiative will:

- Enhance national energy security.
- Provide opportunities for rural economic development in America's traditional agricultural communities.
- Promote environmentally sustainable and diversified production opportunities for agricultural and forestry resources.
- Encourage further bioenergy research collaboration between government agencies and land-grant colleges and universities.



Development of Co-products

The development of co-products from biomass conversion is crucial to the economic viability of the bioeconomy. Speakers in this session will discuss developing value-added products produced from the conversion of biomass feedstocks to biofuel.

Bioenergy System Case Studies

Field research is essential to assure potential processors that large volumes of feedstock can be produced consistently. Studies are also essential to assess life-cycle inventories and potential environmental impacts of feedstock production. This session will examine case studies around the US that are moving the bioenergy industry forward.

Moving Toward Certification

There are great opportunities provided by the development of bioenergy, but we need to move quickly if we are going to meet the need. Bioenergy research has to be organized to take a comprehensive and "systems" approach to the complete bioenergy production chain. This session will discuss the new levels of collaboration that are moving biomass certification forward.

Extension and Education

The body of knowledge around biomass conversion for energy, fuels, and chemicals is extensive. However, its value is limited because information appears in diverse outlets and formats. This session, which includes several pioneering Sun Grant projects, will discuss the consolidation of knowledge into a common format, effectively providing a framework for bioenergy and bioproducts information.

Sponsoring Opportunities

All sponsorship levels include the following benefits and marketing opportunities:

- Company logo and link on Conference website and online program
- Company description (up to 100 words) in “Sponsor Recognition” section of Conference website and printed program
- Signage and recognition in all online and printed communications before and during the Conference
- Complimentary sponsor table in the exhibit space
- Visual recognition on sponsorship signage

\$500+ General Sponsorship

- Includes all of the above
- \$1000+ level donors receive one (1) complimentary full conference registration

\$1,500+ Track Sponsor

Track Sponsor Recognition

- Visual and verbal recognition at the start of each panel discussion within designated track
- Sponsor logo printed next to track panel session titles, on printed conference agenda, online and on hallway signage

Additional Marketing Opportunities

- Company literature at designated sponsor table at track panel rooms

Complimentary Registration

- One (1) complimentary full conference registration

\$3,000+ AV Sponsorship

Recognition in “Hot Spot” Areas

- Sponsor logo printed on signage in “hot spot” areas
- Opportunity to moderate at least one panel

Additional Marketing Opportunities

- Company literature at designated sponsor table in “hot spot” areas

Complimentary Registrations

- Two (2) complimentary full conference registrations

\$5,000+ Refreshment Break (5 opportunities available)

Recognition at Refreshment Break

- Tabletop cards displaying company logo on buffet tables
- Company logo on signage displayed at event
- Opportunity to moderate at least one panel

Additional Marketing Opportunities

- Company literature at designated sponsor table at Refreshment Break event
- Company literature at designated sponsor table
- Opportunity to promote separate side event to conference attendees through the Conference website

Complimentary Registrations

- Two (2) complimentary full conference registrations



\$7,500+ Welcoming Reception (1 opportunity available))

Recognition at Evening Reception

- Recognition at Expo Area Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Welcoming Remarks
- Company logo on signage displayed at Welcoming Reception
- Tabletop event cards displaying company logo on buffet tables
- Opportunity to moderate at least one panel

Additional Marketing Opportunities

- Prime location exhibit space in the expo area
- Company literature at designated sponsor table
- Opportunity to promote separate side event to Conference attendees through the Conference website

Complimentary Registrations

- Two (2) complimentary full conference registrations

\$12,500+ Breakfast Sponsor (3 opportunities available)

Recognition at Breakfast

- Company logo on signage displayed at Breakfast event
- Tabletop event cards displaying company logo on buffet tables
- Opportunity to moderate at least one panel

Additional Marketing Opportunities

- Prime location for complimentary exhibit space in the expo area
- Company literature at designated sponsor table
- Opportunity to promote separate side event to Conference attendees through the Conference website

Complimentary Registrations

- Four (4) complimentary full conference registrations

\$20,000+ Lunch Sponsor (2 opportunities available)

Recognition at Lunch

- Company logo on signage displayed at Lunch event
- Tabletop event cards displaying company logo on buffet tables
- Verbal recognition during lunch
- Opportunity for sponsor representative to address lunch attendees
- Opportunity to moderate at least one panel

Additional Marketing Opportunities

- Prime location for complimentary exhibit space in the expo area
- Company literature at designated sponsor table
- Opportunity to promote separate side event to Conference attendees through the Conference website

Complimentary Registrations

- Four (4) complimentary full conference registrations

**For more information on sponsorship opportunities,
contact Kim Cassel (Kim.Cassel@sdstate.edu).**



For More Information:

Email sungrant@utk.edu or
visit <http://sungrant.tennessee.edu/NatConference/>

Dr. Terry Nipp

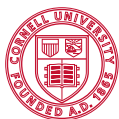
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