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Wisconsin Refuels with Wood Energy

The Wisconsin State Energy Office (SEO) was awarded \$250,000 from the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Wisconsin Refuels with Wood Energy to establish a Statewide Wood Energy Team (SWET). This team, made up of public and private stakeholders, aims to expand markets that convert woody biomass into energy, advance installation of commercially viable wood energy systems in public and private facilities, and support wildfire mitigation, forest restoration, urban wood utilization and other forest management goals that utilize Wisconsin woody biomass. Over the next three years, the SWET will work closely with USFS to enhance woody biomass education, outreach and project development in the state. The project will focus on utilizing materials from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, as well as urban waste wood, including wood impacted by Emerald Ash Borer. The WI SWET goal is to implement 20-30 small scale wood energy projects and four large scale and/or cluster projects during the three-year project period.

The Core SWET members include the USFS, Wisconsin SEO, UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UW-Extension, Sustainability Resources Institute, Renewable Resources Solutions, Marth Companies, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and Heating the Midwest.

The SWET will work to conduct significant outreach, education and project feasibility assessments including:

- Train-the-Trainer Statewide Workshops;
- Residential and Small Commercial Heating with Wood Workshops;
- Large Commercial and Industrial Users Regional Workshops;
- Marketing and Technical Assistance for the Wood Pellet Industry;
- Wisconsin Wood Energy Website development;
- DNR Woody Biomass Supplier and End User Database development;
- Urban Wood, National Forest and Other Project and Wood Resource Lead Development;
- Consultations with Large Users;
- Cluster Project development;
- Greenhouse Wood Energy development;
- SWET Feasibility Study Grant Program; and
- Small project implementation.

The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable model for increasing wood energy usage in Wisconsin.

Please email Amanda Mott at Amanda.mott@wisconsin.gov and Jason Fischbach at Jason.Fischbach@ces.uwex.edu to be added to our mailing list.

