

Heating the Midwest with Renewable Biomass

A Midwest Vision *for 2025*



Photo Credit: Dennis O'Hara

Key Findings and Outcomes

- Achieve **15%** of all thermal energy from renewables by 2025
- Reduce **1.01 billion gallons** of propane and **278 million gallons** of heating oil
- Reinvest **\$2.2 billion** into the Midwest economy
- Create **13,170 jobs** from the expansion of the thermal biomass industry and up to **210,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs** from annual energy savings and the effects of no longer exporting heating fuel money from the region
- Supply **17.2 million green tons** of sustainable woody and agricultural biomass for thermal energy and combined heat and power by 2025
- **12,630,950 homes and businesses** are not connected to low-cost natural gas
- Improve air quality, **reduce greenhouse gases**, and enhance forest management
- **Vitalize communities** through rural economic opportunities, new industry and innovation

Achieve 10% of all thermal energy from biomass by 2025

The Vision

We propose that 15% of all thermal energy in the Midwest come from renewable energy sources with 10% derived from sustainably produced biomass by 2025. The remainder of this energy would come from solar thermal and geothermal sources. This shift in our sources for thermal energy will produce extraordinary economic, social and environmental benefits for the Midwest, which currently relies on fossil fuel for 97% of its thermal energy.

Strategies and Policies to Achieve the Vision

- Increase awareness and recognition of the benefits derived from biomass thermal energy
- Develop clean energy policy that includes clean and efficient biomass thermal energy
- Grow demand for biomass-based thermal fuels and heating systems/CHP in the Midwest
- Support research, technology innovation and demonstration throughout the biomass thermal supply chain
- Expand funding opportunities and programs to support the development and installation of biomass thermal/CHP projects

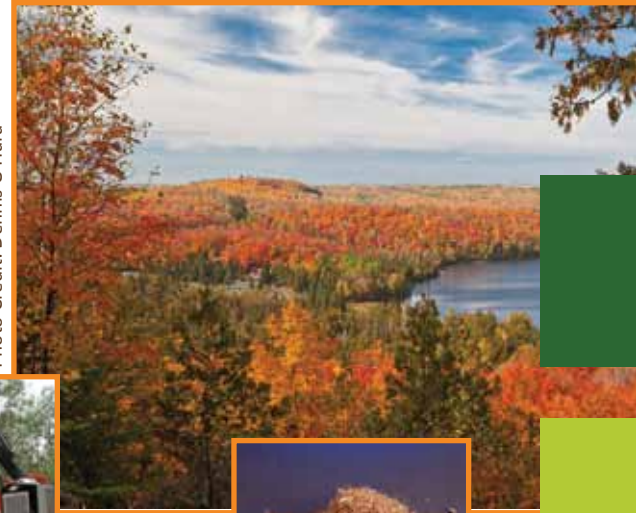
Core Objectives of Clean Energy Policy

- Efficiency and Affordability
- Sustainability
- Clean Emissions and Climate Change Mitigation
- Job Creation

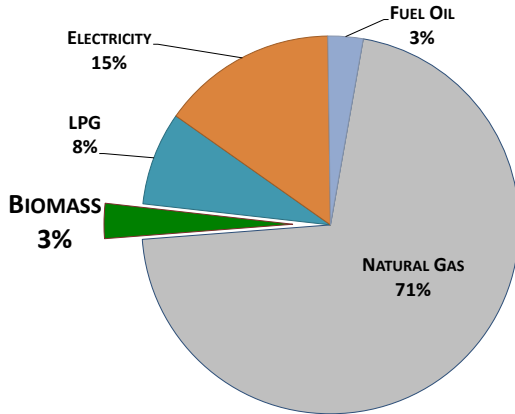
Effective Policy Frameworks

- Financing, Taxes, Grants, Loans
- Carbon Policy
- Sustainability Measures
- Emission and Regulation Enhancements

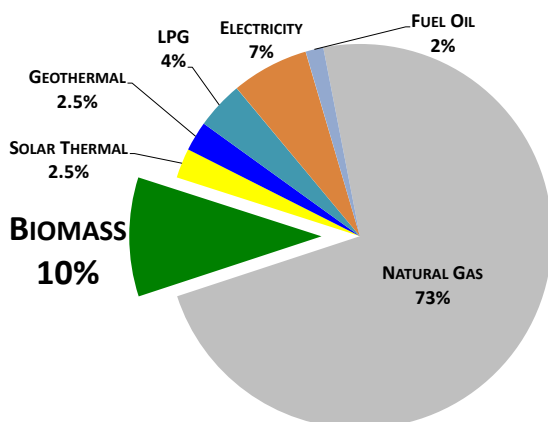
Photo Credit: Dennis O'Hara



2012 Midwest Thermal Energy Sources



2025 Midwest Thermal Energy Vision



How Can You Help Achieve the Vision?

- Get Involved!
- Contact Heating the Midwest (HeatingtheMidwest.org) or BTEC (BiomassThermal.org) to offer feedback, criticism and ideas to improve this Vision
- Share the Vision document with anyone who may be interested. Invite their feedback
- Raise these issues with your governor, state and federal officials, and state legislators
- Join and support one or more of the organizations that have collaborated on this Vision

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Collaborative participation was provided by:

