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Media Contacts: Robyn Grossman/Tim Wirtz
Hoffman York
(414) 225-9520/(414) 225-9522
rgrossman@hyc.com
twirtz@hyc.com

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Focus on Energy Presents Conference on Utilizing Wood for Energy
- Conference aims to familiarize attendees with Wisconsin's largest energy reserve -

MADISON, Wis. (April 11, 2007) – On April 23 and 24, Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, will host a conference demonstrating how Wisconsin businesses and organizations can take advantage of Wisconsin's most abundant natural resource — wood. The two-day conference titled "Renewable Wood Energy: Utilizing Wisconsin's Largest Energy Reserve," will be held at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) Rice Lake Conference Center in Rice Lake, Wis. and will offer attendees tours and workshops highlighting how wood can be used to generate bioenergy.

"The bioenergy industry is booming, and one of the best ways to get in on the ground floor is by attending this upcoming conference. It will showcase all facets of the bioenergy combustion process — from supply to processing, to the many ways companies can use bioenergy materials in a cost effective and environmentally acceptable manner," said Don Wichert, program director for Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program. "There will also be tours of local bioenergy plants, including nationally recognized leaders in the field who will act as examples of how to put together a successful project. With fossil fuel prices on the rise and future supplies in question, this is one of the best ways for companies to assess local energy options for today and the future."

What to Expect

April 23 marks the first day of the conference, and will include a bus tour of area facilities that have implemented wood energy systems such as Birchwood Manufacturing Company, Economart, Louisiana-Pacific and Old Hayward Eatery & Brew Pub. Dinner will be served at the Old Hayward Eatery & Brew Pub once the tour of their wood system is complete. The second day of the conference, April 24, will consist of workshops and speakers, including keynote speaker Tim Maker from the Biomass Energy Resource Center.

Who Should Attend

The Renewable Wood Energy conference is designed specifically for business owners, commercial building owners, manufacturers and rural institutions interested in owning a wood energy system. Organizations and businesses interested in supporting or participating in the wood energy market are also encouraged to attend. Attendees will learn how wood energy systems are increasingly practical for businesses and institutions. Focus on Energy will also highlight the technical and financial assistance that may be available for implementation of a wood energy system.

How to Attend

Those interested in learning more about or attending “Renewable Wood Energy: Utilizing Wisconsin’s Largest Energy Reserve” can visit renewablewoodenergy.com or call (800) 762-7077. Before April 18, registration will be \$30 per person for the first day of the conference, April 23, and includes the tour and dinner. The second day, April 24, will be \$90 and includes the workshops. The cost for those who register at the door is \$35 on April 23 and \$110 on April 24. A student rate of \$25 per day is also available.

Focus on Energy encourages Wisconsin businesses to take advantage of this conference and share in their commitment to building a better future by increasing the number of renewable energy systems across the state.

To learn more about Focus on Energy and its Renewable Energy Program, or to find out if you qualify for financial incentives call, (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About the Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program seeks to raise awareness, provide training and financing, enhance marketing, promote technical assistance and support the installation of renewable energy technologies across Wisconsin. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not get completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.