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**Focus on Energy Awards Grants for Renewable Energy Projects**

*- More than \$973,000 in grants awarded to bioenergy projects -*

**MADISON, Wis. (May 2, 2008)** - Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, has awarded grants totaling more than \$973,000, to help finance the installation of five Wisconsin bioenergy projects. Bioenergy is energy derived from any biological material that can be used as fuel; this fuel is burned or converted in systems that produce heat, electricity, or both heat and power. The bioenergy projects being completed include anaerobic digesters and a biomass wood energy system.

“When completed, these projects will generate approximately 837 kilowatts and 6,232,300 kilowatt hours of electricity per year — as well as replacing 1,299,800 therms of natural gas,” said Don Wichert, Focus on Energy Director of Renewable Energy Program. “That is enough electricity to power 626 average Wisconsin homes and provide the equivalent heating for 1,336 homes.”

Not only will the bioenergy projects help offset energy costs, they'll have a positive effect on the environment. The annual environmental benefits of these five projects are equivalent to offsetting 3,116 tons of coal from being burned, and the emissions from 2,109 cars and 14,465 tons of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from being released into the atmosphere.

**Grant Recipients**

The following were awarded grants to help them carry out their anaerobic digestion projects:

- Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy, LLC            Kewaunee, WI
- Quantum Dairy, LLC                      Weyauwega, WI
- Volm Farms                                  Kewaskum, WI
- United Liquid Waste Recyclers        Watertown, WI

In addition, a grant to install a new biomass wood energy system was awarded to:

- Action Floor Systems, LLC            Mercer, WI

- more -

### **Bioenergy Grants Still Available**

The current cycle of grants for dairy farm anaerobic digesters expires June 30, 2008. In addition, funding is available for industrial and municipal anaerobic digesters, as well as non-residential biomass combustion systems that replace natural gas use.

“We strongly encourage dairy farms that are considering anaerobic digesters to contact the Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program to learn more about our grants and other assistance being offered,” Larry Krom, biogas project manager for Focus noted. “With Wisconsin being a national leader in farm digesters, we have a high level of hands-on experience and knowledge that farmers can draw from.”

### **About Anaerobic Digestion**

Anaerobic digestion is the bacterial decomposition of organic matter that occurs in the absence of oxygen. An anaerobic digester system is an enclosed tank that excludes oxygen and through which organic matter is passed and broken down by naturally occurring bacteria, producing biogas. This biogas is composed of approximately 55 percent to 70 percent methane. The methane produced in the process can be used in an engine-generator to produce electricity. Anaerobic digesters can also be used to provide heat.

A digester for a 1,000-cow dairy farm can produce enough electricity to power 150 average Wisconsin homes. In addition to producing electricity, a farm anaerobic digester can help manage animal waste. Also, anaerobic digesters help to control odors, preserve the environment and produce valuable byproducts in the form of organic fertilizers.

### **About Biomass Energy Systems**

Biomass energy systems use renewable resources, such as wood waste or agricultural based residues, to produce heat. This is an alternative to using natural gas for heating buildings or producing steam for process requirements. Focus on Energy only supports clean burning biomass systems that meet the high standards of the Environmental Protection Agency ratings for air emissions.

Wisconsin is fortunate to have a thriving wood-based products industry. Both sawmills and wood products companies find that the abundance of timber makes Wisconsin a good place to do business. The wood waste that companies pay to dispose of can be used in their own operations to save energy and improve the environment. Currently, more than 200 companies and institutions in Wisconsin use wood in biomass energy systems for heating.

**Learn More**

“Focus on Energy has a network of experts across the state and offers a variety of programs to help anyone plan, finance and install renewable energy systems,” explained Don Wichert, Focus on Energy Director of Renewable Energy Program. “Because of incentives like our dairy farm anaerobic digestion and biomass combustion grants, a growing number of Wisconsin residents are using renewable energy.”

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](http://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 be 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](http://focusonenergy.com).

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