UC Davis plays central role in California Bioenergy Plan

Experts help state benefit from the best available science

UC Davis researchers were key advisors to the state officials who developed the new California Bioenergy Action Plan that was released in Sacramento today.

“This is a great example of the value of engaging university experts in the development of state strategy.” said Anthony Eggert, executive director of the UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy. “By accessing the latest bioenergy research and analysis, the state is better equipped to develop policies and strategies that maximize economic and environmental benefits.”

The Bioenergy Action Plan is intended to catalyze bioenergy development in California. It outlines numerous state agency actions to stimulate conversion of low cost biomass resources to fuels, biogas and power, help commercialize new biomass technologies in California, and quantify the economic and environmental benefits of bioenergy. It includes more than 50 recommended actions to:

- Increase the sustainable use of biomass;
- Support research, development and demonstration of bioenergy uses and technology;
- Address permitting, regulatory, statutory and transmission barriers; and
- Suggest ways to incentivize and otherwise monetize the benefits of bioenergy in California.

“This new plan is an important roadmap to help California lead the way in bioenergy technology and production, transforming its economy in the process.” said Stephen Kaffka, director of the California Biomass Collaborative (CBC) and contributor to the plan.

Many plan actions and suggestions were originally developed through the state’s Biomass Roadmap, a project managed by the CBC. The CBC is a statewide assembly of government, industry, environmental groups and educational institutions. It is administered for the state through UC Davis’s Energy Institute and is funded by the California Energy Commission’s Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Renewables program along with other agency and industry partners. The purpose of the CBC is to enhance the sustainable management and development of biomass in California for the production of renewable energy, biofuels, and products. Collaborative director Stephen Kaffka is an author of the California Bioenergy Action Plan and an ex officio member of the state Bioenergy Interagency Working Group.

Other California Biomass Collaborative staff contributed to the plan, including:

- Rob Williams, development engineer
The UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy is a bold new initiative that leverages world-class university expertise to address pressing societal challenges. The Policy Institute delivers credible, relevant and timely information and analysis to decision-makers to inform better energy and environmental policy.

http://policyinstitute.ucdavis.edu
More information
California Bioenergy Action Plan: http://www.resources.ca.gov/energy_and_climate_change.html
California news release: http://resources.ca.gov/docs/Final_Bioenergy_Action_Plan_Release_8-22-12.pdf

UC Davis research centers:
California Biomass Collaborative: http://biomass.ucdavis.edu/
Energy Institute: http://energy.ucdavis.edu/

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