



2009 WISCONSIN

## Renewable Energy Summit

Renewables, Sustainability, Energy Efficiency,  
Social Responsibility, and Green Energy Practices

## Focus on Energy

## Session 9-4 (two)

**DATE:**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009**

**Breakout Session 9-4 (two):**

**Biomass Combustion**

**Time:**

**2:00pm – 3:45pm**

**Presenters:**

**Wisconsin Fuels for Schools and Communities:  
Community Based Wood Heating**

Don Wichert, Focus on Energy, Overview of Program

Terry Stebor: Focus on Energy, Selected case examples

Jeff Rabl: Wood Residuals Solutions, Using biomass for energy,  
one companies experience

Pam Porter, Focus on Energy, Using biomass for school and community heating

We will be presenting an overview of the Focus on Energy biomass Combustion grants program along with case studies of past projects and an overview of the new Wisconsin Fuels for Schools and Communities (Community-Scale Biomass Heating) program. The goal of this program is to build 10 model biomass systems by Fall 2009. Similar programs have been developed in seven states. This new program is meant to help build the biomass market and assist Wisconsin schools and communities save hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy costs by switching from natural gas to heating with wood or other biomass. A recent study funded by Focus on Energy and conducted by the Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC), "Heating with Biomass: A Feasibility Study of Wisconsin Schools Heated with Wood," found that as many as 25 percent of Wisconsin schools would be economic candidates. The session will discuss progress to date on this new statewide initiative that encourages, educates and assists a number of schools and communities to move through feasibility, planning and construction phases in a manner that takes advantage of economies of scale and a shared learning process.



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### Presenter Biographies:

#### **Pam Porter**

Ms. Porter is BEREC's Midwest office director in Madison and project manager for this project. She leads the organization's Midwest efforts to install biomass systems to produce heat and/or electricity at schools, communities, colleges, and businesses. She has over 20 years of experience in public policy, government relations and business development and has managed over 25 grant-funded projects and programs. She has recently co-authored "Heating with Biomass: A Feasibility Study of Wisconsin Schools Heated with Wood," and "Growing Wisconsin Energy: A Native Grass Pellet Bio-Heat Roadmap for Wisconsin." She is the former Executive Director of Wisconsin's Environmental Decade (now Clean Wisconsin) and has an M.S. in Agronomy from the University of Wisconsin Madison, on the use of Switchgrass.