

## Policy Mission

**BTEC advocates for adoption of public policies that recognize the energy savings, efficiencies and environmental and economic benefits realized through the use of biomass in direct heating, cooling, and combined heat and power (CHP) applications.**

## Mission-Related Goals

- A. Increase the percentage of total U.S. thermal energy consumption that comes from clean and efficient biomass thermal energy
- B. Maximize the demand for biomass thermal fuels and biomass heating/CHP systems in United States
- C. Obtain widespread recognition of the economic, environmental, and job-creation benefits of biomass thermal energy

## 2011-2012 Goals

### Regulatory Advancement

- **Workable biomass boiler emission standards from the Environmental Protection Agency.** Boiler regulations on CO, PM, and other emissions based on achievable, real-world limits.
- **Formal recognition of biomass as having a fundamentally different emissions footprint than fossil fuels.** Formal recognition by the Environmental Protection Agency of biomass as a renewable fuel with a fundamentally different emissions footprint than fossil fuel-based fuels.
- **An inclusive, universal federal definition of biomass.** Congressional action to establish a universal and inclusive definition of what qualifies as a biomass fuel.
- **Formal recognition of densified biomass as an “advanced biofuel.”** Advanced biofuel status for densified biomass for programs administered by the Dept. of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and other federal agencies.

### Incentive Development

- **Tax credits for biomass heating (or cooling) systems.** A 30% tax credit for the installation of biomass heating systems in residential, commercial, and industrial settings.
- **Incentives for the production or usage of renewable thermal energy.** Rewarding production of thermal energy from renewable sources through a production tax credit, renewable energy certificates, and/or a renewable thermal standard. Program design similar to renewable electricity-based incentives.
- **Assistance for district energy and CHP biomass projects.** Tax credits, grants, or other incentives for biomass-led district energy and combined heat and power (CHP) installations.
- **Continuation and funding of biomass infrastructure support programs.** Grant programs and feedstock matching payment programs that develop biomass supply and utilization, such as the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) and the Community Wood Energy Program.

**Market Research and Analysis**

- **Funding or government support for the development of biomass thermal market data.** The development of annual statistics from EIA on renewable thermal energy; and DOE/NREL-led development of economic impact study and survey of market participants and end-users in the biomass thermal industry.

**Regional Advocacy**

- **Cultivation of regional biomass thermal coalitions to address issues outside of BTEC's national portfolio.** Foster the development and growth of industry-led groups like the Northeast Biomass Thermal Working Group in other important regions of the country.