

BTEC Recognizes USDA, USFS for Advancing Modern Wood Heating

The Biomass Thermal Energy Council thanked the agencies for their partnership with the biomass thermal industry

Burlington, VT – April 21, 2016– At the recent Northeast Biomass Heating Expo in Burlington, Vermont, the Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) recognized two offices within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): USDA Rural Development and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), State and Private Forestry. Accepting these awards were Todd Campbell, Policy Advisor for Energy and the Bioeconomy for USDA Rural Development and Lew McCreery, for USFS Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry.



(L to R) Ted Brady, Ken Yearman, Todd Campbell, Lew McCreery, Rob Clark, Charlie Niebling, Adam Sherman

The plaques were presented by the morning's keynote speaker and Chair of the BTEC Policy Committee, Charlie Niebling of Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC. Mr. Niebling summarized a number of examples of the strong support these offices have provided for the biomass heating sector including:

- Provision of \$5 million for 20 Statewide Wood Energy Teams and over \$1 million for 5 Statewide Wood Utilization teams
- Support for pellet manufacturing through Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels and official recognition of wood pellets as an advanced biofuel
- Forest Service support of the industry's technical engagement with ASHRAE, USGBC and other standards-developing organizations
- USDA Rural Development investment of over \$1 billion in wood energy projects
- Support of bioenergy initiatives such as National Bioenergy Day and the Woodstove Design Challenge
- \$11 million in ARRA funding for 22 projects in Maine, and other ARRA projects around country including the Forest Service "Fuels for Schools" program
- Wood Education and Resource Center/Wood Innovations Grants
- USDA and USFS Memorandum of Understanding with BTEC, the Alliance for Green Heat, the Pellet Fuels Institute, and the Biomass Power Association

Mr. Campbell and Mr. McCreery both provided brief remarks for their respective offices. The Northeast Biomass Heating Expo began in 2009 as "Heating the Northeast with Renewable Biomass" and is the country's largest trade show and conference dealing specifically with biomass heating.

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About the Biomass Thermal Energy Council

The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) is an association of biomass fuel producers, appliance manufacturers and distributors, supply chain companies and non-profit organizations that view biomass thermal energy as a renewable, responsible, clean and energy-efficient pathway to meeting America's energy needs. BTEC engages in research, education, and public advocacy for the fast growing biomass thermal energy industry. For more information, visit www.biomassthermal.org.

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