

Bio-Based Products in the Turf Industry



Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth Biomass Energy Program, is working to advance the use of bio-based oils, lubricants and bio-fuels as a viable alternative to petroleum products in Michigan's golf course industry.

Bio-Based Product Potential

- Golf courses, along with lawn care, are the largest professional segments of the turf industry. Combined, they spend almost \$152 million on supplies, which include lubricants, hydraulic oils and fuel.
- Bio-based, renewable resource products can reduce the reliance on foreign oil, enhance Michigan's economy, and reduce environmental pollution.
- Two barriers currently exist for adoption of bio-based products in the turf industry - cost and performance concerns.
- Incentives that reduce the cost differential of these products will help eliminate the financial barrier, and an education and promotion program will generate awareness and eliminate performance concerns for these products.

Planned Project Activities

- Develop fact sheets on specific bio-based product types (e.g., lubricants, fuel, oils)
- Offer financial incentives for 15-20 golf courses to convert to bio-based products and set up biodiesel facilities.

- **Conduct a Bioproducts/Biodiesel Fair at the Great Lakes Trade Expo in Jan. 2008.**

- **Disseminate results of the project through articles in industry newsletters, presentations at seminars, and industry training courses offered through the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program.**