

Turf Clippings & Biomass Energy



MTF is evaluating the use of turf clippings as a source of biomass energy with funding from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth Biomass Energy Program.

Michigan's Turfgrass-Energy Potential

- There are 1.89 million acres of turfgrass in Michigan.
- Clippings are often removed and dispersed to other turf areas or organic waste piles, or sent to composting facilities for a fee.
- Conservative estimates are that roughly 745,200,000 cu ft of clippings are generated annually at Michigan's 865 golf courses.
- Turf clippings represent a potentially viable biomass source for energy production.
- MTF is evaluating the feasibility of "pelletizing" turf clippings to be used as a biomass energy source.

Planned Project Activities

- **A pelletizer and pellet stove will be installed at Fuller Building at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center at MSU.**
- Clippings will be collected from high maintenance turf at the Hancock Center. The clippings will be dried, stored and condensed into pellets, which will be burned to heat the Fuller building. MTF will evaluate and track the total biomass produced, the heating efficiency of the pellets, pellet storage stability, and ease of handling.
- Results of this study will be disseminated through articles in industry newsletters, presentations at seminars, and industry training courses.