



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

John Hoeven
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Roger Johnson
Agriculture Commissioner

For Immediate Release

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INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION APPROVES THREE RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANTS

BISMARCK -- The North Dakota Industrial Commission has approved three Renewable Energy Program grants for research projects at the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) in Grand Forks.

The grants include:

- \$50,000 for a small wind turbine training center consisting of up to two small wind turbines. The facility will help educate grade school- through college-level students and the general public about wind energy. The facility will be used for workshops on small wind turbine installation, operation and maintenance.
- \$50,000 to use an existing gasification system in Grand Forks to demonstrate long-term operation of the system for heat and power and short-term testing of additional biomass fuels. Prospective North Dakota gasification users will learn about the environmental and economic benefits of installing and operating a gasification system to replace a portion or all of their current energy consumption.
- \$200,000 for renewable electrolytic nitrogen fertilizer production. The project will optimize processes for producing nitrogen fertilizers using biomass gasification-derived synthesis gas (biosyngas), nitrogen extracted from air and electricity. The project is supported by the North Dakota Corn Utilization Council, the Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Commercialization of the processes would enable regionally produced fertilizer to compete economically with imports and simultaneously develop a new fertilizer production industry.

North Dakota's Renewable Energy Program (REP) was established by the Legislature in 2007 and placed under the control of the North Dakota Industrial Commission which consists of Governor John Hoeven, as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. The law provides that the commission consults with the Renewable Energy Council (REC) on the distribution of grants.

The program provides funding for research, development, marketing and other activities to foster development of renewable energy including wind, biofuels, biomass, solar, hydroelectric, geothermal, and hydrogen. The program also provides incentives for multi-feed facilities to process ethanol and biodiesel; incentives for scalable technologies; and incentives to improve co-product utilization technologies.

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