

54-17-38. Biomass incentive and research program. The industrial commission in coordination with the renewable energy council may:

1. Establish an incentive program to assist the agricultural community to demonstrate the production, harvest, storage, and delivery of a biomass feedstock on a commercial scale to a private sector end user.
2. Establish a project on a scale sufficient to enable at least one group of cooperating agricultural producers, and preferably two groups in different regions of the state, to produce, harvest, store, and deliver biomass feedstock to an end user at commercial scale.
3. Give priority on a perennial grass feedstock due to the state's resource potential, although residual feedstocks are eligible for consideration.
4. Establish procedures for competitive applications by cooperating agricultural producers organized through a limited liability corporation, cooperative, or other appropriate ownership structure, that can demonstrate in their application the commitment of a commercial end user to purchase the biomass produced and adequate technical support to accomplish the biomass production, harvest, storage, and delivery to that end user.
5. Provide funds for incentives, including producer payments to provide income support during the critical biomass stand establishment period of two years without harvest, in the case of native grasses, or other perennial biomass crops.
6. Ensure that activities enumerated in this section qualify for the agriculture partnership in assisting community expansion program.
7. Arrange for the provision of technical assistance services determined by participating producers in their application to the industrial commission.
8. Provide incentive support targeted to producer entities that successfully apply to the industrial commission rather than the commercial biomass end user.
9. Provide funds for a front-end engineering and design study for a cellulosic ethanol and nanowhiskers project.
10. Work in cooperation with the game and fish department to establish a private land open to sportsmen program biomass demonstration project.

54-17-39. Biomass incentive and research fund. The biomass incentive and research fund is a special fund in the state treasury. The industrial commission shall establish the guidelines and procedures for use of the fund. All earnings of the fund must be credited to the fund.