



State of California

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

Governor



California Energy Commission

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Department of Food & Agriculture

1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

California Energy Commission and California Department of Food and Agriculture Joint California Agriculture Biofuel Forum

The staff of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Energy Commission will conduct a public forum to facilitate information exchange on agriculture business and the biofuel industry. The forum will be held:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Beginning at 9 a.m.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
1220 N Street - Auditorium
Sacramento, California
(Wheelchair Accessible)

Forum outcomes include: 1) understanding the key economic and policy drivers for agriculture and biofuel development; 2) panel discussions on important sector issues; 3) identifying the challenges and opportunities that intersect agriculture and biofuel development in California; and 4) understanding the realistic expectations of biofuels and biofuel feedstocks that will lead to commercialization.

Energy Commission Commissioners may attend and participate in this event.

Remote Attendance

Teleconference - To participate in the meeting by teleconference, please dial the toll free meeting access number: 1-888-790-1735 Passcode: CDFA 2332.

Documents and Presentations for this meeting will be available at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2010-ALT-1/>

Purpose

The California Agriculture Biofuel Forum will explore mutually beneficial opportunities for California's agriculture businesses and biofuel producers as the state experiences the expected growth of biofuel production plants. Converting dairy farm biogas, food processing waste, orchard prunings and other agriculture waste residue to transportation fuels offer agriculture businesses an opportunity to reduce residue processing expenses. Purpose grown crops may provide other biofuel options. California biofuel production plants will contribute to diversifying transportation fuel options, improving our energy security, and helping the state fulfill a surging demand for low carbon fuels over the next ten years. Both agencies feel another objective of the forum is to increase the number of jobs and improve the California economy and believe biofuel options should not adversely impact the economic sustainability of California's existing agriculture businesses.

The forum is designed to solicit information and encourage discussion from agriculture businesses and the biofuel industry to better understand public policy and investments. These investments include the California Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture programs. This forum will also consider business and economic models, and challenges and opportunities experienced by agriculture businesses and the biofuel industry. California stakeholders, including policy makers, industry stakeholders, businesses, and academia, will participate in this forum.

Background

The Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program was created by Assembly Bill 118 (Núñez, Chapter 750, Statutes of 2007). The statute, amended by AB 109 (Núñez, Chapter 313, Statutes of 2008), authorizes the Energy Commission to develop and deploy alternative and renewable fuels and advanced transportation technologies to help meet the state's climate change goals. This program has an annual program budget of approximately \$100 million and provides financial support for projects that:

- Develop and improve alternative and renewable low-carbon fuels;
- Optimize alternative and renewable fuels for existing and developing engine technologies;
- Produce alternative and renewable low-carbon fuels in California;
- Decrease, on a full-fuel-cycle basis, the overall impact and carbon footprint of alternative and renewable fuels and increase sustainability;
- Expand fuel infrastructure, fueling stations, and equipment;
- Improve light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicle technologies;
- Retrofit medium- and heavy-duty on-road and non-road vehicle fleets;
- Expand infrastructure connected with existing fleets, public transit, and transportation corridors; and

- Establish workforce training programs, conduct public education and promotion, and create technology centers.

The statute requires the Energy Commission to prepare and adopt an investment plan each year. This investment plan determines the funding priorities and opportunities and describes how program funding will be used to complement other public and private investments, including existing state programs. All projects funded by the Energy Commission must be consistent with the priorities established in the investment plan. The Energy Commission's current investment plan can be found at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2011publications/CEC-600-2011-006/CEC-600-2011-006-CMF.pdf> (CEC-600-2011-006-CTF).

Written Comments

In addition to comments made during the forum, staff is also encouraging public members to submit written comments before and after the forum. This includes market, technical, and policy-level information that could help provide information on agriculture business and biofuel development issues.

Written comments must be submitted by **4 p.m. on October 3, 2011**. Please include California Agriculture Biofuel Forum in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Please hand deliver or mail an original copy to:

California Energy Commission
Fuels and Transportation Division
Re: California Agriculture Biofuel Forum
1516 Ninth Street, MS-27
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

The Energy Commission and Department of Food and Agriculture encourage comments by electronic mail (e-mail). Please include your name or organization's name in the name of the file. Those submitting comments by e-mail should provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document (PDF) to [\[AlternativeFuels@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:AlternativeFuels@energy.state.ca.us).

Public Participation

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities and public forums. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at [\[PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us). If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Please direct all news media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us].

If you have non-media questions about the forum, please contact Larry Rillera of the Emerging Fuels and Technologies Office at the Energy Commission at (916) 651-6178 or by e-mail at [LRillera@energy.state.ca.us].

Date:

Mail Lists: Transportation List Server and Altfuels List Server