

**APPENDIX D:
STAKEHOLDER INPUT WORKSHOPS**

**RENEWABLE FUELS ROADMAP AND
SUSTAINABLE BIOMASS FEEDSTOCK SUPPLY FOR NEW YORK
Final Report**

Submitted to
PACE ENERGY AND CLIMATE CENTER
White Plains, NY
Zywia Wojnar
Project Manager

on behalf of
**THE NEW YORK STATE
ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
Albany, NY
Judy Jarnefeld, Senior Project Manager

and Co-Sponsors
NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS
and
NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Submitted by Stakeholder Input Task Team Leader
Corinne Rutzke, Ph.D.
Cornell University

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS REPORT

Corinne Rutzke, Ph.D.
Executive Director
NE Sun Grant Institute of Excellence,
Dept Biological & Environmental Engineering
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Zywia Wojnar
Research Director
Pace Energy and Climate Center
Pace University Law School
White Plains, New York

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1 BACKGROUND - FACTORS LEADING TO NEW YORK RENEWABLE FUELS ROADMAP WORKSHOPS

In early 2009, stakeholder workshops for the Renewable Fuels and Sustainable Biomass Feedstock Study for New York (Roadmap) were conducted around the State. The following major factors contributed to the need for and goals of the workshops.

1.1 REQUIREMENT FOR ETHANOL IN NEW YORK GASOLINE

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 require the use of oxygenates in gasoline. Oxygenation is required to decrease carbon monoxide emissions and improve air quality. The added oxygen boosts the gasoline's octane quality, enhances combustion for cleaner burning fuels and reduces carbon monoxide exhaust emissions. Before 2004, there were two chemical options for oxygenating gasoline in New York State: 1) methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and 2) ethanol (or the ethanol derivative, ethyl tert butyl ether (ETBE)). MTBE, a probable human carcinogen, was detected in 5% of groundwater sampled nationwide by a U.S. Geological Service survey leading to the phase-out of MTBE in many States, including New York, due to public health concerns. The phase-out of MTBE has resulted in a single option for meeting gasoline oxygenation requirements: ethanol. Presently, ethanol is the only available option for gasoline oxygenation.

1.2 PROJECTED ONGOING ROLE FOR BIOFUELS IN NEW YORK TRANSPORTATION

According to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles, 8.9 million standard series vehicle registrations, and more than 10 million total vehicles were registered in 2008 in New York State. Based on current and projected driving habits, New York residents will continue to purchase and consume liquid motor fuels to run automobiles, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, buses, taxis, and farm vehicles. Even if a move toward all-electric vehicles gains in popularity and affordability, it will take years to convert the entire New York light duty vehicle fleet to electric vehicles and to verify the electrical grid-infrastructure capacity necessary to power such a fleet. Hybrid vehicles that use both electricity and some liquid fuel are a more likely near-term future option. Thus, for the foreseeable future, it is reasonable to assume that New York residents will be consumers of liquid biofuels, and in particular, ethanol-gasoline blends and biodiesel-diesel blends.

1.3 NEW YORK RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE

The Renewable Energy Task Force February 2008 Report identified the need for a Renewable Fuels Roadmap and Sustainable Biomass Feedstock Supply Study for New York (Roadmap). In response, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in collaboration with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) jointly funded the development of the Roadmap. Pace University's School of Law Energy and Climate Center (Pace Energy and Climate Center) has led a team of more than 40 experts in renewable fuels from academia, industry, and

the not-for-profit sector in this project. Previously in New York and in many other parts of the world, biofuels industry developers have learned that an essential part of an industry assessment is public stakeholder meetings. New York stakeholder meetings were held around the State in 2009 to begin to explore the topic of a possible biofuels industry in the State and to listen to the concerns and opinions of New York stakeholders.

2 PURPOSE OF STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS

The Stakeholder meetings fulfilled two purposes. The meetings were used to present information about Roadmap topics, considerations, and the planned research approach to New York stakeholders and the general public. Each meeting also provided the opportunity to obtain feedback and data through a listening session, written general comments and a written Sustainability Criteria survey (Appendix K). This Appendix report addresses the written and oral feedback obtained in the workshop listening sessions.

3 WORKSHOP APPROACH AND FORMAT

In order to inform stakeholders about Roadmap topics and to obtain feedback on issues important to New Yorkers, 11 workshops were held across the State from February to June, 2009.

3.1 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

Several workshops were held before the start of the growing season in order to allow strong representation of the agricultural industry sector –. Meetings were held in several locations around the State (Figure D-1). The workshops were advertised by and hosted through Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) offices in the upstate, Southern Tier and Western New York region county offices (Oneida, Chautauqua, Washington, St. Lawrence, Tompkins, Steuben/Chemung/Schuyler, Orange and Greene counties) two Pace University locations (White Plains and Manhattan), and SUNY Stony Brook on Long Island. In addition, input was solicited and information provided through a video tape format at The Empire Farm Days in Seneca, New York, and through presentations given at the Big Flats Plant Materials Center and at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

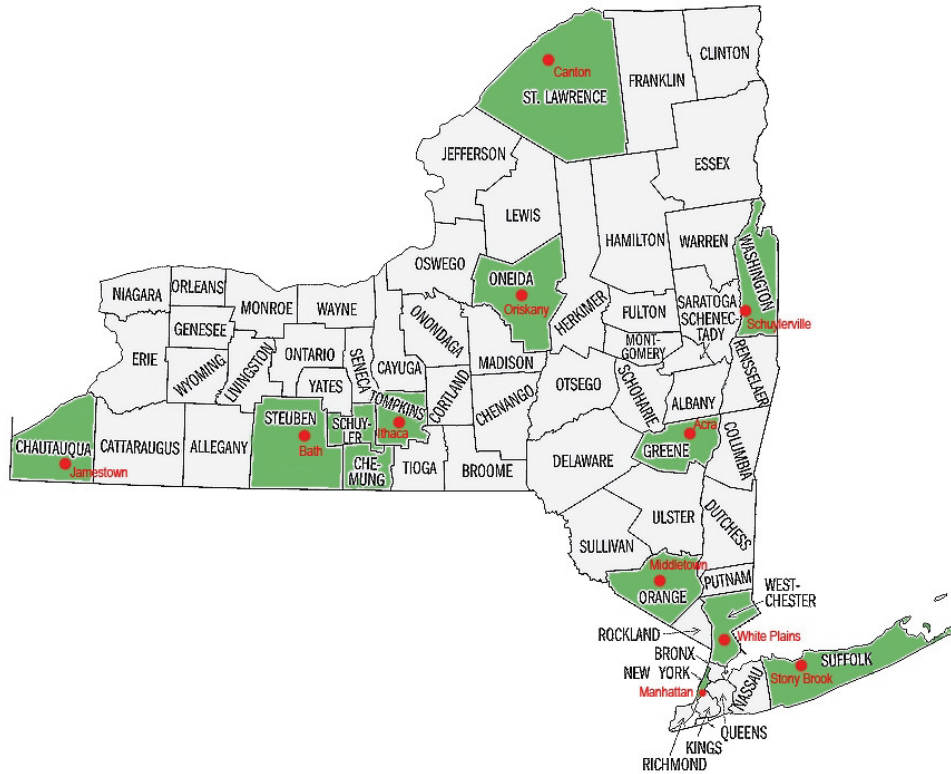


Figure D-1. Locations of 2009 Roadmap Stakeholder Workshops.

3.2 AGENDA AND PRESENTATIONS

The meetings began with a PowerPoint presentation provided by a Roadmap team member, followed by a custom Roadmap video featuring the Task Team Leads. The video presentation was created to allow each audience to receive the same information from all Task Team Leads, regardless of meeting date or location. In addition to providing a uniform message, the video avoided travel and scheduling conflicts for team members. The 38-minute video¹ provides an introduction on New York liquid fuels consumption and dependence, followed by a description of the major aspects of each analysis planned in the Roadmap project.

3.3 FEEDBACK AND LISTENING SESSION

After hearing about each Roadmap topic through the video, the participants were invited to provide feedback through a listening session about what issues were important in their region, relating to the possibility of future development of a liquid biofuels industry in New York. Notes were taken by the hosting organizer and additional general comments/concerns in writing were invited and collected at each meeting. Following the general listening session, participants were asked to complete a survey ranking sustainability criteria and to list the top five most

¹ The video can be found on the NYSERDA Website, as well as the Pace Energy and Climate Center and Cornell University Websites.

important issues regarding biofuels, in their opinion. Results on the Sustainability survey are discussed in Appendix K.

3.4 ADVERTISEMENT AND REGISTRATION

Registration was free and open to the public and included refreshments/lunch. Workshops were advertised by the hosting facility through flyer distribution to CCE stakeholder mailing lists, through Cornell University Sun Grant Website, and through Pace Energy and Climate Center Website and flyers, and through other appropriate distribution lists.

4 STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

4.1 PARTICIPANTS

There were approximately 30 participants per meeting (attendance ranged from 9 to 42 participants (Table D-1)). Participants represented concerned citizens, the agricultural industry, forest industry, renewable fuels industry, local governments, state and federal research organizations, not-for-profit organizations, and academia. Additional details on participant background, (such as age, region of residence, and industry affiliation) were collected through the Sustainability Criteria survey and can be found in Appendix K.

Table D-1. Stakeholder Meetings.

Date & Location	Number of attendees	Hosted by
February 6 - Oneida County	20	CCE Oneida County
February 9 - Chautauqua County	42	CCE Chautauqua County
February 13, 2009 – Washington County	20	CCE Washington County
February 18, 2009 – Orange County	34	CCE Orange County
Mar 17 - Tompkins County	27	CCE Tompkins County
March 18 – St. Lawrence County	19	CCE St. Lawrence County
March 19 - Steuben/ Chemung/ Schuyler County (Bath)	34	CCE Steuben County
March 26 – Westchester County	42	Pace University School of Law
March 30– Greene County	33	CCE Greene County
May 7 - Suffolk County	15	SUNY Stony Brook
May 20 - New York City	9	Pace University

4.2 ISSUES OF CONCERN (VERBAL AND WRITTEN COMMENTS)

Based on participant feedback and written comments submitted at the end of the workshops, some common themes of concern emerged. The following topics were raised most frequently by participants.

- Property owner rights. The most frequently written comment expressed by participants was concern about maintaining the right to use their private lands in a manner that they determine best. There was concern that the Roadmap might suggest a plan that would pose a threat to these rights. At each meeting, there was the need to emphasize the fact that the Roadmap sponsors and investigators were not advocating for a liquid biofuels industry, but rather were seeking information and input through the Roadmap project.
- Food security. The concern of replacing food crops with fuel crops was expressed at each meeting, with one group summing up their priorities for New York biomass as follows, "First food, second heat, then if there is anything remaining; we can consider liquid transportation fuels."
- Environment. Also among the top concerns described was that New York natural resources, especially biomass, soil and water, be used in an efficient manner with respect to choices of energy types (heat, power, liquid fuels). Among the energy use options, there was a frequently stated preference for using solid biomass feedstocks for local home heating needs as a priority over liquid transportation fuels that might be exported from the region.
- Distributed industry structure. In every workshop, participants expressed preference for a more decentralized biofuels manufacturing structure with local product distribution over a large, centralized structure that might have less local control and fewer benefits for the local economy. In the Adirondacks region, there was concern that biomass might be grown in their region, then shipped for use elsewhere because much of the land is owned by non-residents in this region.
- Cost of production and need for technology improvements. Participants expressed that biofuels in general "will not work" unless the technology could be advanced to the point that everyone along the production chain (feedstock to fuel pump) makes money without government subsidies.

Stakeholders brought up other concerns such as competing uses for the biomass feedstock (thermal and power generation), biodiversity, environmental justice, and property taxes.

4.3 STAKEHOLDER INPUT ESPOUSING THE POTENTIAL FOR A NEW YORK BIOFUELS INDUSTRY

In addition to the concerns listed above, participants at the workshops also expressed interest in the potential for positive impacts resulting from a New York biofuels industry. The following topics were raised most frequently by participants favoring the potential for a biofuels industry in their region.

- New ways to integrate energy into farming. The farming community was well represented at most of the workshops and many individuals identified themselves as being present because of an interest in finding new markets and new ways to integrate energy systems into existing farming systems.

- New business and technology concepts. The workshops also attracted participation from several small businesses. At one workshop, farmers lined up to speak with an industry representative describing a new feedstock collection business model. At another workshop the host organization arranged for a demonstration of a new biomass combustion technology. While interest in new concepts was high, so was the level of caution in adopting new directions discussed.
- Greener fuels. Many participants expressed strong interest in the concept of New York producing greener fuels as a new industry. Many participants also mentioned renewable energy projects, meetings and initiatives underway in their area.

Other comments from stakeholders included the following issues: cost savings to taxpayers, energy independence, population growth, waste to energy, energy conservation, and education and outreach.

5 PLANNED FOLLOW-UP WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Workshop participants were advised to check back with the host-center (in most cases a Cornell Cooperative Extension office that is already focused on renewable energy and hosted the workshop) for updates such as public release of the Roadmap report and future opportunities to provide feedback and input.²

² Comments can be provided at www.nyserda.org/