

NOTES: SOFAR Biomass Work Group held Dec. 2, 2021

Small Group forms to submit Grant Applications due in January

The Biomass Work Group, including county consultant Greg Stanton, formed a subcommittee to consider pursuing a grant proposal for biomass in the region. Grant applications are due Jan. 19, 2022. Grants require a pre-feasibility analysis to be competitive.

Greg Suba, Craig Thomas, Norma Santiago, Greg Stanton will meet with Wisewood's Meagan Hartman and Georgia Reid to consider options for pursuing the grant funding for biomass facility. Contact greg.stanton@edc.gov.us if you wish to learn more.

Next Steps

Small group to get together to discuss grants with Wisewood (David, Mark, Greg, Craig, Meagan, and Georgia and Norma)

- Look into advancing grant applications
- Identify possible project to apply for the Grant in El Dorado County due Jan 19.

Greg Stanton will reach out to county grant writer and discuss approach under consideration.

CalFire request for proposals is likely also coming out soon.

Craig Thomas will continue to research into Georgetown area and coordinate with Greg Stanton

Wisewood Energy

County consultant Greg Stanton has continued research into the best options for bringing biomass to the region. While exploring different sized facilities, Greg met with Wisewood Energy. He invited Wisewood's Director of Business Development Meagan Hartman and Georgia Reid to present to the Committee so everyone could evaluate the company's products and services.

Wisewood Energy presented its work and qualifications. Wisewood has been in business for 10 years, involved in 20 projects and consulted on 70 projects. Wisewood develops biomass facilities: design / build, engineering, procurement, and construction. Wisewood can play various roles in business development: supporting grant writing at no cost if Wisewood is written into the grant; writing grants; or serving as a consultant to conduct the assessment.

Opportunities in El Dorado County

Wisewood observes the following potential opportunities in the county:

[Link](#) to All Meeting Materials

- Ski Resorts
 - Sierra-at-Tahoe
 - Kirkwood (already did a preliminary assessment)
- Water Transfer Sites
 - South Tahoe Refuse
 - El Dorado Disposal
- Microgrid Substations
 - Power export opportunities
 - Pioneer Energy (Distribution line in Georgetown)
- Co-Located CHP
 - Camino (power export facility)
- Other net metering and district heating for public buildings
 - Anywhere with a cluster of public buildings is a potential opportunity
 - Smaller community systems can be deployed more easily

Key Steps to Move Forward

- Collect energy use/cost data
- Model energy system options
- Assess site options and constraints
- Develop conceptual design
- Cost estimating

Discussion

Consider clustering propane use operations in an area like Pollack Pines. Rather than propane being delivered, perhaps a net-metering system could be developed in the vicinity.

New England has a site that is doing this with wood pellets. A first step would be to assess existing energy use at those buildings.

Georgetown is looking to establish a cluster. The cluster would include the high school and some other facilities, replacing with biomass as the heating systems age out. Craig Thomas can follow up on this.

Efficiency of plants. Heating and CHP with biomass use is the most efficient. Emissions can be managed carefully and are often less than alternatives, such as pile burning.

Confirming supply and matching technology is key. Mismatching either the volume or the technology can lead to frustration and failure. Different vendors have deployed experimental technology that then later fails. Tested, effective technology is obviously necessary.

The cost of Wisewood running analyses varies. It depends on the complexity of the system and the number of systems. If it's relatively simple, the cost is free of charge. A feasibility assessment with conceptual design usually ranges from \$20,000 to \$80,000 per system.

Feedstocks per system estimates:

- 1 mw is 10,000 tons a year
- Net-metering systems are in 500 to 5,000 tons a year range

Wisewood's goal is to get systems deployed and can play various roles.

Wisewood would provide grant writing with no charge as long as written into the grant to provide services. Wisewood can be a consultant and write the scope to do the analysis that the grant would cover. Wisewood can also do pre-development analyses. Wisewood can do the design and analysis, build, and operations.

Barriers to overcome. Given that the region has been looking at this so long, understanding the barriers is vital.

- Identifying project and conducting analysis to determine financials.
- Lenders and philanthropic organizations recognize that the timely importance of these facilities.
- Most projects require grant funding or low-cost financing.

El Dorado County contracting specifically to Wisewood, if grant secured, could trigger some contracting rules. Greg Stanton offered to investigate.

Next meeting to be announced

Facilitator Gina Bartlett and County Consultant Greg Stanton will connect to plan the meeting.