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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **State Energy Office Receives \$325,000 Total in Grants to Promote Industrial Energy Efficiency and Biomass Projects**

*Funds support Wisconsin's efforts to stimulate economy, create jobs and protect environment*

The Department of Administration's State Energy Office has received two grants totaling \$325,000 to promote industrial energy efficiency and encourage wood energy projects in Wisconsin.

The first grant for \$75,000 comes from the United States Department of Energy for the State Energy Office's [Turning Waste to Cash in Wisconsin](#) initiative. The goals of the *Turning Waste to Cash* initiative are to (1) increase awareness of cost-effective industrial energy efficiency (IEE) and combined heat and power (CHP) opportunities in Wisconsin, and (2) implement sustainable IEE and CHP projects throughout the state.

"We continue to implement cost-effective renewable energy, energy efficiency and economic development projects across the State," said DOA Deputy Secretary Chris Schoenherr. "Wisconsin is recognized as a national leader in anaerobic digester systems that reduce the waste that would otherwise go into our landfills, and this initiative brings together cost-effective energy production with economic development."

During the next two years, the State Energy Office will implement at least three CHP projects in Wisconsin at food processing, agriculture and wastewater treatment facilities, as well as 30 IEE projects. According to the American Biogas Council, Wisconsin has one of the highest concentrations of [dairy, food processing and wastewater facilities](#) in the country. The implementation of an energy-efficient anaerobic digester system can be a cost-effective way for these industrial facilities and businesses to collect waste and use it to produce energy, electricity and heat on-site.

Representatives from industrial and commercial industries, state agencies, regional energy consultants, and Wisconsin utilities are part stakeholder meetings and events dedicated to identifying market and other barriers to implementing IEE and CHP projects. *Turning Waste to Cash in Wisconsin* would like to create an innovative, sustainable model that can be duplicated across the country to produce energy savings.

### **Wisconsin Refuels with Wood Energy Program**

The State Energy Office also received a second grant for \$250,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture–Forest Service for the *Wisconsin Refuels with Wood Energy* program. This award focuses on the development of wood energy projects and aims to:

- Drive demand for Wisconsin's abundant woody biomass resources
- Improve wood fuel efficiency and reduce emissions
- Increase woody biomass education, outreach, and project development among commercial greenhouse operators, residential propane users, business propane users, and municipalities

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- Provide marketing and technical assistance to the wood pellet industry
- Support wildfire mitigation, forest restoration, urban wood utilization, and other forest management goals to get more wood-burning projects launched in Wisconsin

The program will focus much of its work in northern Wisconsin near the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, as well as in the Fire Hazard Fuel Reduction Area, which includes 42 northern counties. Many home and business owners in this part of Wisconsin heat with propane and utilizing woody biomass can lower operational costs, and can also utilize urban wood waste, logging slash and other waste material for energy—keeping those dollars generated circulating in our local economies.

The *Wisconsin Refuels with Wood Energy* program will bring together state and federal agencies, nonprofit groups, and private companies under the guidance of a State Wood Energy Team. The Energy Team collaboration includes DOA’s State Energy Office, UW-Madison, UW-Extension, Sustainability Resources Institute, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Marth Companies - Heating the Midwest, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Renewable Resources Solutions, and the University of Minnesota. These partners are contributing a total of \$390,466 in matching funds for the project.

### Fire Hazard Fuel Reduction Area



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