

NEWS FROM NY BIOMASS ENERGY ALLIANCE

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Technical Assistance Support to Biomass Energy Entrepreneurs

SUNY Cobleskill, the New York Biomass Energy Alliance (NYBEA) and the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI) are continuing to help rural entrepreneurs advance innovative biomass technology projects through the Technical Assistance for Customer-Sited Rural Biomass Energy Projects in New York State Program. The goal of this collaborative effort is to support projects that are already in development by providing experienced engineering and financial analysis and advice. The jointly administered program assists private sector biomass projects in the state that have already moved past the “concept” phase, but have not been developed to the point that they can attract investment capital and finance. Selected projects receive engineering and economic feasibility technical assistance focusing on engineering and economic issues in project design.

Two projects to date have been awarded technical assistance. Applications will be accepted until funding is exhausted. Information on how to apply is available on line at <http://www.nyfvi.org/default.aspx?PageID=2363>.

The three organizations are well-suited to collaborate at this junction of rural business development and biomass energy.

The New York Biomass Energy Alliance (www.newyorkbiomass.org) works to build public understanding of the full range of biomass-to-energy technologies, and to network emerging biomass energy businesses with each other, as well as researchers and potential producers of energy crops.

The New York Farm Viability Institute (www.nyfvi.org) is a non-profit organization that fosters a vibrant agriculture sector in New York by supporting applied research, outreach education, information transfer, adoption of technology, business planning, market analysis and more.

The Center for Rural Small Business at SUNY Cobleskill (www.cobleskill.edu) actively supports the development of businesses such as those that will be supported through this program, and places student interns in farm and rural business settings to learn practical business and career skills as part of their regular curriculum. The College now offers a bachelor degree program in Environmental and Energy Technologies, which will train students for technical careers in numerous environmental applications, including renewable energy. Students will be given internship opportunities connected to technical assistance provided through this project.

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