

Concerns and considerations of environmental community regarding biomass and biofuels

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Renewable energy sources have been both a boon and a bane to the environmental community. Clean energy solutions such as ethanol and wind turbines were expected to win universal approval from the environmental community and were indeed lauded as clean efficient replacements for fossil fuels. As these energy solutions were implemented clouds appeared on the horizon. The use of ethanol from corn fell from grace as corn crops intended for ethanol distillation displaced other crops and created environmental concerns over single crop farming usurping community food crops. Wind power once thought to be a panacea for energy needs began to lose favor as visual blight, habitat displacement and the ornithological loss of life quickly reached unacceptable levels.

In order to proceed efficiently with the use of Biomass as a feedstock for renewable fuels it will be to our benefit to understand and acknowledge the concerns of the environmental community and the citizenry as a whole before moving too far ahead. With that in mind I have engaged leaders in the fields of environmental science, social justice and public affairs to gain a better understanding of their concerns and questions. We will be discussing those questions and concerns with the intent of understanding rather debating these concerns.