

Emerging technologies to improve preparation of woody biomass for pretreatment and conversion

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The NARA project is necessarily focused on optimal use of commercially available methods and equipment for woody biomass collection, transport, and pre-processing. Other presenters in this session describe best practices and state of the art for collecting, handling, and using forest residuals. A number of innovative technologies are nearing commercialization that hold promise to reduce costs, improve feedstock quality, and improve biofuel conversion yields. Emerging technologies include baling for densification, beneficiation and washing for ash reduction, leaching to improve feedstock composition, and new methods of comminution. This presentation will introduce the audience to innovations from around the world that have moved from laboratory to pilot-scale development with potential for commercial availability within the next five years.