

Lignocellulosic Biofuels Workshop

June 13-15, 2012



The Lignocellulosic Biofuels workshop brought together experts from various sectors such as industry, academia and national laboratories, and identified opportunities and barriers related to biomass gasification and pyrolysis used to produce “fungible, drop-in” transportation fuels. About seventy experts in biomass gasification, pyrolysis, and logistics discussed recent advancements in science and technologies pertaining to biofuels and barriers in making the lignocellulosic biofuels dream come true. The workshop was funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation - Energy for Sustainability.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas D. Foust, Director of the National Advanced Biofuels Consortium, funded by the Department of Energy, at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Twenty other speakers from universities, federal agencies, and companies, including Rentech participated. They presented their research on gasification, pyrolysis and biomass logistics including challenges and potential solutions pertaining to biomass-to-biofuels production.

Graduate students interested in this field of research had an opportunity to submit their research in a poster competition. There were 28 posters presented with cash prizes awarded to the top three winners. Winning first place with a \$500 cash prize was Hema Ramsurn, second place with a \$300 cash prize was Shaima Nahreen, and sharing the third place prize of \$200 were Nan Wei and Shyamsundar Ayalur Chattanathan. The workshop also provided networking opportunities for those who are venturing into the biofuels area.

Tours were offered of the Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts Laboratory’s Gasification and Fractionation facility. The state-of-the-art facility houses a bubbling-fluidized bed gasifier, F-T reactors, a biomass fractionation unit and analytical laboratories to support ongoing research activities on biomass thermochemical and biochemical platforms.