

March 2014 Biomass Working Group

Barrier Issues Identification and Recommendations

The Statewide Wood Energy Team (SWET) is seeking input from the BWG regarding barriers to successful implementation of wood energy projects. Wood energy projects include wood use for thermal as well as electricity production.

SWET will spend time and has some limited funds to support work to address barriers common to wood energy projects. We would like your help identifying high priority barriers.

At the upcoming Tuesday, March 18 meeting we will take 30-45 minutes to first brainstorm a limited list of barriers, establish some priority list if too many issues are identified, and then briefly discuss some of the ways these barriers might be effectively addressed. Specifically, we want to know what work would likely be most productive in addressing a barrier?

The goal of the discussion is not to solve these issues nor just generate a list, but to identify 3 to 5 issues that warrant attention, identify their urgency, and the likelihood that SWET resources can make a difference.

Please think through issues that you think are most important to the development of projects and ideas you have for overcoming them. For example, at the December BWG of last year, the group identified 3 issues that they would like to address in some way during meetings in 2014. These include 1) Interconnection process and cost; 2) long-term supply agreements; and 3) CEQA and community support. Should these issues be considered barriers and do they warrant SWET attention? Do you have ideas about what specifically would be useful information to have about these issues, or how we might develop a potential solution? And what other issues are missing?

The SWET team will use these recommendations to help set team priorities, including allocation of funds to help overcome barriers to wood energy projects.

Please consider the questions for each issue. Please be prepared to offer guidance for issues that you or others raise. That is, what are some of the things that might be done to effectively address a barrier? If you are not able to participate in the meeting, you can also send your thoughts to Angie before the meeting to be included in the brainstorm, or after the meeting to be shared with SWET during a SWET meeting.