



Western Governors' Association

Woody Biomass Utilization Group Webinar Partners Priorities Presentation June 9, 2009

Mission

WGA addresses important policy and governance issues in the West, advances the role of the Western states in the federal system, and strengthens the social & economic fabric of the region.

WGA develops policy and carries out programs in the areas of natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, international relations and state governance.

WGA acts as a center of innovation and promotes shared development of solutions to regional problems.

Ann Walker, Program Director - Forest & Rangeland Health
Alex Schroeder, Program Director -Transportation Fuels



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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Revitalizing western economies;
- Finding renewable energy alternatives;
- Restoring forest health
- and fire resiliency

A Collaborative Approach
for Reducing Wildland Fire
Risks to Communities
and the Environment

*10-Year Strategy
Implementation Plan*



December 2006





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RECOMMENDATIONS:

Achieve Parity among Renewable Technologies
Improve Federal Land Management Policies

Transfer Environmental Benefit Costs to Beneficiaries

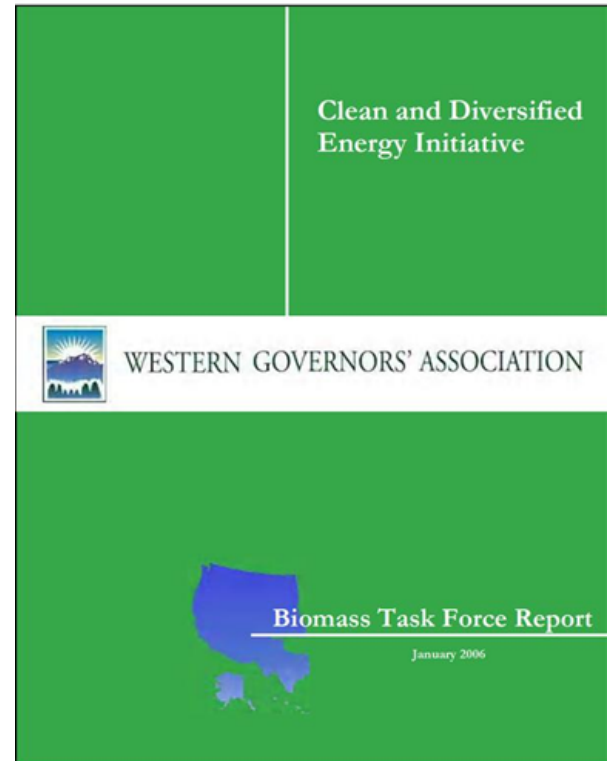
Demonstrate Government Leadership in the Purchase of
Power/RECs from Biomass and by supporting Biomass
R&D

Recognize the Value of Firm Capacity
Properly Allocate Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)
Establish a Single Definition of Biomass

Revise Utility Interconnection Policies

Establish and Require Long-Term Programs Projects

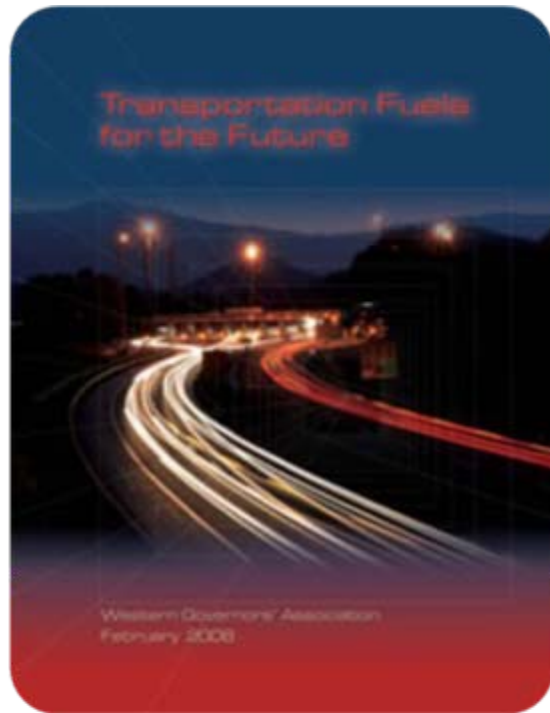
Implement Appropriate Air Quality Permitting Criteria





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- Transportation Fuels for the Future



- **08-02 Transportation Fuels for the West: A Roadmap for Energy Security and Improving the Environment and the Economy (February 2008)**

- **Western Governors established a Council of their representatives to oversee the implementation of the resolution**
 - Council will develop an implementation plan and report progress back to the Western Governors in 2009

 - The Council's activities are focused on education, outreach, and coordination among states and with the federal government



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- Western Strategic Bioenergy Assessment

Goal: To develop a biomass supply chain optimization model for the Western United States

- Provide a projection for the role that biofuels could play in the West by 2015
- Inform policies and steps that can be taken to encourage the development and deployment of biofuels.
- The model is now being expanded to the national level in a project led by WGA and funded by DOE

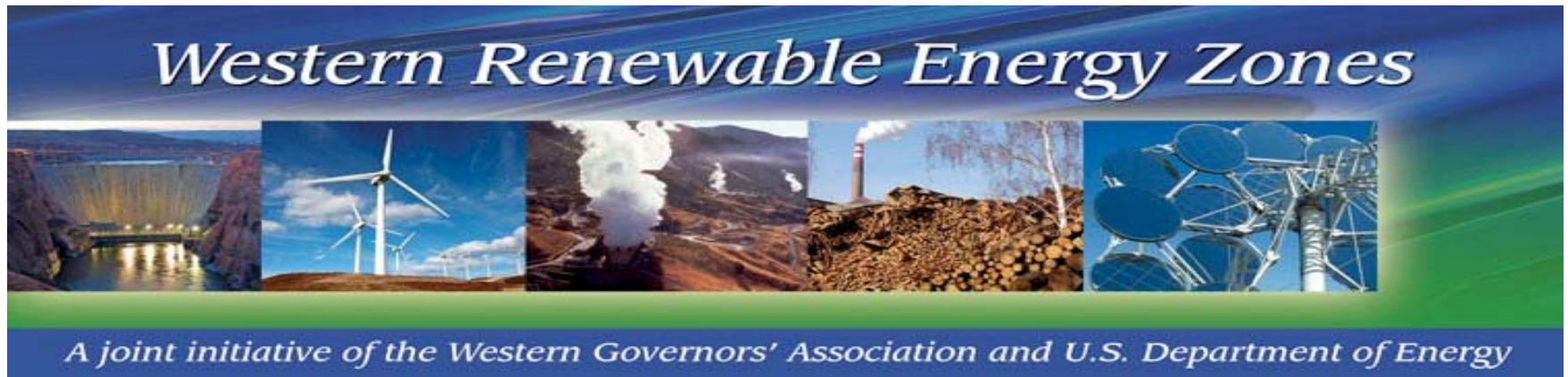


Project contributors: University of California- Davis, Antares Group, Kansas State University, NREL, U.S. Forest Service



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- Western Renewable Energy Zones



Building Transmission for Renewables in the West

- The goal of the Western Renewable Energy Zone (WREZ) initiative is to develop a *consensus* proposal among the states and provinces in the Western Interconnection on how best to develop and deliver energy from renewable resource areas throughout the region to load centers.



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GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase communication with partners, collaborate on projects, achieve a higher focus on assisting states & communities
- Strengthen reporting to chartered organizations, such as the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, the National/Regional Biomass Partnerships, and the WGA
- Seek additional funding and recognition for WBUG program and state projects



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