



Environmental Research & Education Foundation

Lighting a path to sustainable waste management practices

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Environmental Research and Education Foundation Receives Grant from the Biofuels Center of North Carolina

Raleigh, NC – The Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF), one of the largest sources of funding for solid waste research in the U.S., received \$93,119 in funding from the North Carolina Biofuels Center (NCBC). The NCBC was created by the N.C. legislature as the nation's only private non-profit agency working comprehensively for all aspects of biofuels development. Its formation is based on the premise that biofuels provide enormous agricultural, economic and strategic value to the state. EREF received funding from the NCBC for a project entitled, "Utilizing Municipal Solid Waste as a Biofuel Feedstock." The overarching goal of the project, which will be done in collaboration with Maverick Biofuels, North Carolina State University and Waste Industries, is to determine the potential for using Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) as a feedstock for biofuel production by evaluating the mechanisms and infrastructure needed to make this process a viable industry in the state of North Carolina.

The project's specific objectives are as follows:

1. Compare conversion of MSW into biofuels with methods currently being used to generate energy from MSW in the form of electricity or heat, such as landfill gas to energy, and waste to energy.
2. Summarize MSW management and operational infrastructure and evaluate how it can be used to support needed infrastructure for the biofuels industry.
3. Develop materials from this study to educate the public and policymakers about the biofuel production feasibility/capability using MSW as a feedstock.

"The application for this project was submitted in response to interest from the EREF Board of Directors in seeking funding from non-governmental entities beyond the corporate sector," said Dr. Bryan Staley, EREF's President and Chief Executive Officer. Henry Saint Bris, Senior Vice President of Strategy for Suez Environnement and Chairman of the EREF Board of Directors, noted, "This project seeks to develop ways to utilize waste as a resource via diversion from traditional end-point means. Because EREF's stakeholder base represents the majority of the solid waste industry, the foundation has the ability to leverage these results to support MSW to biofuel conversion technologies in North Carolina and beyond."

About EREF: *EREF is a 501(c)3 class charity that funds and directs scientific research and educational initiatives for waste management practices to benefit industry participants and the communities they serve. For more complete information on EREF funded research, its scholarship program and how to donate to this great cause, visit www.erefdn.org.*

About NCBC: *In 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly and other state leaders recognized that biofuels offered enormous agricultural, economic, and strategic value to the state over time-and that an entire new sector must as a result be created across the landscape. Following recommendations of [North Carolina's Strategic Plan for Biofuels Leadership](http://www.biofuelscenter.org), the Legislature created the Biofuels Center of North Carolina (www.biofuelscenter.org), the nation's only agency working comprehensively over time for all aspects of biofuels development. A private non-profit corporation funded permanently by the North Carolina General Assembly, the Center is charged with charting North Carolina's path over years to gain large capacity for alternatives to petroleum-based liquid fuels. The Center assists all parties statewide involved in the science, growing, production, and logistics of biofuels, and in addition addresses the educational, public information, and policy issues of a growing new sector. The Biofuels Center is based in Oxford on North Carolina's Biofuels Campus, a partnership project with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Over the next decade, the Campus will take shape as the nation's only large acreage site for biofuels trial growing, company incubation and partnerships, demonstration facilities, and public education.*