

Biomass Benefits

As a domestic, renewable energy source, biomass offers an alternative to conventional energy sources and petroleum-derived products - while providing environmental, economic, and national energy security benefits.



Biomass and the U.S. Economy:

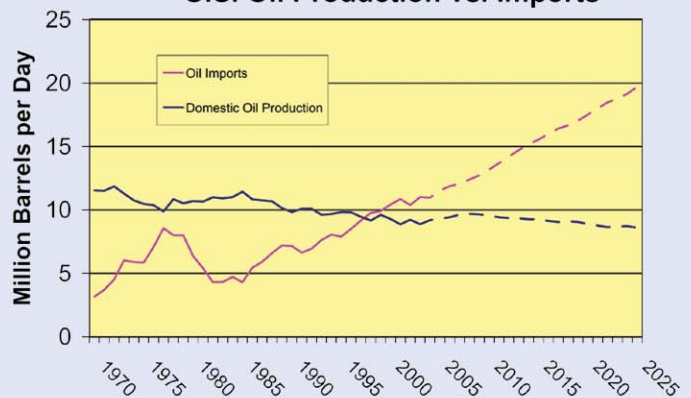
Utilizing domestic biomass resources can:

- Create new revenue streams for farmers
- Create new jobs in rural communities
- Retain energy dollars in local economies
- Reduce vulnerability to energy price swings

Biomass and U. S. Energy Security:

Increasing biomass consumption will help lessen dependence on oil imports and reduce vulnerability to energy supply disruptions. For example, corn-derived ethanol production could decrease crude oil imports by 1.6 billion barrels through 2012.

U.S. Oil Production vs. Imports



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



Biomass and the Environment:

The U.S. could improve land, water, and air quality by using biomass resources to offset fossil fuel consumption. Along with reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxide (NO_x), lead, and mercury, substituting biomass for petroleum-derived counterparts is also an effective strategy for CO₂ mitigation.