



**I-CITE
INCUBATING COMMUNITIES OF INFLUENCE FOR TRANSFORMATION
OF THEIR ECONOMIES AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Renewables and Rural Energy Opportunities Study Tour:
Renewables, Biomass, and Biogas policy and practice exchange**

*Invited participants: Farming and Forestry practitioners,
policy makers, and young leaders from the US and the EU*

Reducing land use's share of overall global GHG emissions has been as a major challenge in international climate policy. Numerous demands for food and also biomass energy generation exert pressure on land. On the other hand: the world population must be fed; a low carbon economy must transform fuels resources.

Past projects organized by the applicant, such as a transatlantic farmer-to-farmer exchange, have shown the great interest and success such an exchange can reap. Our proposed exchange between professional foresters and farmers, policy makers in these fields, local non-profit advocacy groups and biomass experts would create a problem focused, goal oriented conversation. This tour will pay special attention to the role that renewable energy (RE) policy plays in agricultural and forestry policy and the implications of RE policies, specifically feed-in tariffs, on rural economies.

The study tour on land use, agriculture and forestry will address questions like: What are balanced approaches to how land should be used to meet future demands for food and energy alike? How has support of renewable energy affected rural economies? How can we use the tools at hand to reach our goals faster? What are supportive policy approaches? The study tour, which takes place in Bavaria, Germany and Upper Austria will include a visits to one of the regions biogas plants, a region committed to hundred percent renewable energy consumption (so called "bionenergy-regions"), and analysis of the biofuels value chain. In Austria, biomass heat installations will be visited in tandem with discussion of forestry practices and forest products. Support policies for renewable energy will be compared and attention given to the rural context. The compatibility of good land stewardship or agricultural practice with energy systems will be discussed throughout, with special focus on comparative economic models and barriers vs. pathways to profitability. Firsthand accounts on successful methods of disseminating new research to practitioners through national and local administrations, agricultural and forestry agencies or farmers associations will be exchanged. While foresters and farmers may not always have a lot in common, the intersection of energy policy with agricultural and forestry policy (especially in the case of renewable energy support) is an area of strong overlap. Crossing these boundaries under the roof of bioenergy production by bringing in energy suppliers will promote insights and transformative change.

DRAFT PROGRAM (subject to change)

Sunday, 21 August 2011

Morning	Arrival and transfer to the hotel
16:00	Optional program-related activity (tbd)
19:00	Welcome Dinner Introduction – Ecologic and ACUS provide overview of the tour, subject matter focus, describe travel plans and logistics

Monday, 22 August 2011

	<i>Lay the foundations of renewable energy policy (particularly feed-in tariffs) in Germany, Austria and across the EU; Discuss economic support for biomass/biogas as enabled by the German Renewable Energy Law; Comparative forest economy and management practices; Discussion among participants on their local conditions, challenges and needs</i>
8:30	Meeting in the Hotel Lobby and walk to Schweisfurth Stiftung Haus
9:00 – 10:30	Panel 1 - The political origin and effect of the German Renewable Energy Law, feed-in tariffs, with a specific focus on rural farmers and foresters <i>Bavarian /Munich-based politician from the Christian Social Union Party</i> <i>Green party member or Social Democrat for contrasting approach: economic recovery through renewable economic growth: 110,000+ biomass jobs</i> <i>European farmer/forester: personal experience and perspective from home country</i> <i>Munich-based biomass equipment manufacturer: financial stability provided by the German Renewable Energy Law</i>
10:30 -11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 -12:30	Panel 2 – Rural energy and renewables from the American perspective: Insight to local and European participants
12:30 -14:00	Lunch
14:00 -15:00	Transfer to site visit location (bus)
15:00 -17:00	Site visit: school powered by woody biomass company; Representative from the biomass operator on their business model and operations concept. Discussion of the role of feed-in tariffs
17:00 -18:00	Transfer to Munich
19:00	Dinner Dialogue (facilitated dinner discussion)

Tuesday, 23 August 2011

9:00 – 10:30	Depart hotel in Bus for Rachel Carson Institute: discussion on Environment and Culture: the psychology of resource harvest, humans' historic relationship with resource extraction or harvest
10:30	Representative from the German Forest Service on German Management Practices with Q&A
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:00	Discussion in small groups among participants
12:00 – 12:30	Transfer)
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch in Augustiner Keller Post lunch speaker: representative from German Biomass Research Center (DBFZ) in Leipzig
14:00 – 15:00	Transfer in bus to Freising, Germany
15:00 -17:00	Site visit German Biogas Association: Reception and discussion Small group discussion among representatives/owners/operators of German biogas plants Transfer to Munich
19:00	Dinner

Wednesday, 24 August 2011

	<i>Focus on the widespread implementation of renewable energy, particularly biomass, in Oberösterreich.</i>
8:30	Meeting in the Hotel Lobby and transfer to Main station
9:27- 12:09	Train to Linz, Austria
following	Check-in at Hotel Ibis, opposite site of Main Station
13:00	Transfer to Upper Austrian Energy Saving Coalition (ESV), our host in Austria
13:30	Light Lunch and Welcome at ESV
14:00 -15:30	- ESV introduction (10 minutes) - Renewable energy policy und bioenergy in Austria (ESV presentation – 30

	minutes) - US respondent (10 minutes) - European respondent (10 minutes) - Discussion and Q&A
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break
16:00	Discussion with local forest products company on the hierarchy of wood uses, harvest methods, roadless areas management, beetle infestation practices, and contracts with private timber harvesters
19:00	Dinner and discussion among participants; Welcome from Oberösterreich State Governor Dr. Josef Pühringer/or State Council Member Rudi Anschober (Austrian Green Party and responsible for State energy issues)/or Franz Dobusch (Mayor of Linz)

Thursday, 25 August 2011

9:00	Meeting in hotel lobby and transfer to Austrian Energy Efficiency Academy
10:00	Welcome at Austrian Energy Efficiency Academy
10:30 – 12:30	Group break outs: elect from one of the following mini-academies: 1. Biomass and solar thermal: How To of combined systems 2. Technical class on boiler-biomass systems, handling the regulation of hydraulics within the plant, and answers to participants technical questions 3. Renewable Energy Communities: biomass as baseload power for 100% locally produced, self-sufficient energy communities
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
afternoon	Field trip with Austrian Energy Academy to see a mobile wood chipper, manufacturing plant for biomass boilers, and various types of wood chip storage and drying facilities.

Friday, 26 August 2011

8:30	Meeting at hotel lobby after check-out and transfer
9:00 – 10:30	Tour of district heat network supplied by biomass; discussion of storage methods to provide adequate supply for the winter heat load, during the time of year when access to harvest is difficult or impossible.
11:00	Pick-up luggage and walk to the trainstation.
11:51- 14:30	Train back to Munich / Lunch in the train
following	Check-in at Hotel

16:00 – 17:30

Site visit: Tour a Municipal Solid Waste derived Biogas plant;
Abfallwirtschaftsbetrieb Munchen

19:00

Farewell Dinner

Saturday, 27 August 2011

Individual departure