

Global Warming Task Force Forestry Policy Recommendations

1. Advanced biomass and biofuel commercialization and utilization

- a. Increasing the supply of low-carbon bioenergy and the use of bioenergy by state and local governments.
 - i. Create Energy Crop Reserve Program that would pay an incentive to landowners to grow perennial grasses and energy crops on marginal land.
 - ii. Provide financial support to biomass producers for the purchase of new equipment and technology needed to harvest, process and transport feedstocks.
 - iii. Require state owned or occupied facilities to use solid/liquid/gaseous fuels derived from biomass to provide 25% of the energy needs by 2025.
 - iv. Encourage the UW system, through the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center, to research biomass technology for the production of heat, electricity, transportation fuels, chemicals and other products. In particular, encourage research on advanced bioenergy sources – with greater carbon, energy and environmental benefits – such as cellulosic ethanol and advanced hybrid trees and grasses.

2. Incentives for Afforestation and Reforestation

- a. Enhancing existing state and federal programs to promote additional participation in afforestation and reforestation.

3. Forest Loss Prevention

- a. Decreasing the loss of forests due to conversion and parcelization. The main recommendation is to develop a Forest Legacy Program similar to the Federal USDA Forest Legacy Program.

4. Sustainable Forest Management

- a. Creating incentives for private landowners to engage in sustainable forest management techniques and other sequestration enhancement activities including:
 - i. Increasing technical resource availability
 - ii. Expanding existing programs such as WFLGP
 - iii. Developing a short term incentive program called the Carbon Sequestration Tax Incentive Program.

5. Urban Forestry

- a. Increase funding to the Urban Forestry Grant Program in order to support the Urban Forestry Council's "20 million by 2020" which would add 20 million urban trees on private and public land and preserve the estimated 27 million already in the state.