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November 3, 2009

Dear Great Lakes Bay Region Bioeconomy Workgroup member,

At our October 20th regular meeting we decided to invite Jim Cross, Site Manager of the Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation to speak at our November 17 meeting. Jim has agreed to join us and will provide an update on the expansion at the Thomas Township site. The semiconductor has grown dramatically and is now helping to attract other alternative energy ventures to our area. Local leaders such as you will be important in landing these new businesses in the future. Please plan to attend to learn how.

An educational conference on the bioeconomy will be held in East Lansing on December 1, "BIOconference, Growing the Bioeconomy, Solutions for Sustainability". Michigan will be one site of eleven across the Midwestern United States. This will be a full day program beginning at 9:00am and ending at 6:30pm. You may find more details at <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bioeconomy/>

MSU Extension has recently released five new bulletins on the bioeconomy. These two page fact sheets are available at any MSUE county office or as PDF files on the internet at www.emdc.msue.msu.edu. Here are the titles and bulletin numbers for your reference.

E3076	The Future is Now: What You Need to Know About Ethanol
E3077	Fueling the Future: Potential Biomass Crops for Michigan
E3078	Growing the Future: Switchgrass Management for Ethanol
E3079	Sustainable Crop Removal: Maintaining Soil Quality
E3080	Cow-powered Farm: Exploring the Possibilities of Anaerobic Digesters

We hope to see you at the November 17th Great Lakes Bay Region Bioeconomy Meeting at 10:00am at the Saginaw County MSU Extension office.

Sincerely,



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Bioeconomy Innovation Counselor



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