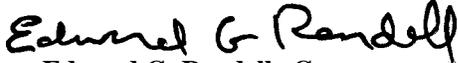


**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER**

Subject:		Governor's Renewable Agricultural Energy Council		Number:		2005-08	
Date:		Septemeber 20, 2005		By Direction of:		 Edward G. Rendell, Governor	

- WHEREAS, In 1950, the United States was 100% self-sufficient on its own oil reserves, but, in less than fifty years, the nation shifted its dependency on oil imports to meet two-thirds of our daily requirements; and
- WHEREAS, America's dependence on non-renewable energy sources from foreign nations poses a risk to the Commonwealth's and Country's energy, economic, and environmental security; and
- WHEREAS, Pennsylvania spends more than \$30 billion annually on energy fuel imports; and
- WHEREAS, agriculture and agriculture-related industries are the number one industry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, contributing more than \$44 billion to the state economy; and
- WHEREAS, renewable agricultural energy has the potential to support and grow the agriculture industry in Pennsylvania by providing up to 64,000 additional jobs, diversifying agricultural activities, and stimulating the growth of crops that strengthen the agriculture industry; and
- WHEREAS, agricultural energy sources could save the average household \$1,200 annually on energy bills; and provide an additional source of income, increase the tax base, and thereby, benefit county and local services including schools, health care facilities, and roads; and
- WHEREAS, a two-tiered Portfolio Standard has been enacted in Pennsylvania to ensure that in fifteen years, 18% of all energy generated in Pennsylvania comes from clean, efficient sources. The Portfolio Standard also requires 8% of all electricity sold at retail to come from traditional renewable sources such as solar photo-voltaic energy, wind power, low-impact hydropower, municipal solid waste, biomass energy, biologically derived methane gas, and other sources; and
- WHEREAS, the Portfolio Standard will give farmers a more level playing field for power generation from agricultural methane or wind turbines; and

- WHEREAS, imported ethanol fuels from out-of-state costs an additional 15 cents per gallon as compared to ethanol fuels produced with in-state products; and
- WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has an abundance of resources, such as mixed waste, straw, forest thinning, and forest residues, needed to produce cellulosic ethanol; and
- WHEREAS, manure digesters produce methane gas which can increase the profitability of farms in Pennsylvania; and
- WHEREAS, the agriculture industry can be a critical partner in fostering alternative energy sources that will reduce our dependence on foreign energy; and
- WHEREAS, interagency coordination for the development and promotion of biofuels and agricultural renewable energy sources is essential in order to create a comprehensive agricultural renewable energy strategy for the Commonwealth.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby create the **Governor's Renewable Agricultural Energy Council** (hereafter referred to as "Council") as the Commonwealth's entity to coordinate the development and expansion of agricultural energy industries in the state of Pennsylvania.

**1. Functions.** The functions of the Council shall be to:

- a.** Make recommendations to the Governor on policies, procedures, regulations, and legislation that would aid in the development of renewable energy.
- b.** Serve as the Governor's liaison to the agricultural community on policies, procedures, regulations, and legislation that affects the production of renewable energy in order to ensure that state government is accessible, accountable, and responsive to the constituency developing renewable energy.
- c.** Serve as a resource to all departments, commissions, and agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction to ensure that these government entities are cognizant of the issues surrounding the development of renewable energy.
- d.** Provide guidance and assistance to help industry establish and develop the infrastructure necessary to deliver renewable energy sources to consumers within the Commonwealth.

**2. Composition.** The Council shall be composed of the following individuals appointed by the Governor:

- a.** The Secretary of Agriculture or his designee and the Secretary of Environmental Protection or her designee.
- b.** Two representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

- c. Two representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.
- d. One representative from the State Conservation Commission.
- e. One representative from the Governor's Policy Office.
- f. One representative from the Department of Community and Economic Development.
- g. One representative from the Pennsylvania Legislature.
- h. One representative from the United States Department of Agriculture.
- i. One representative from a local government entity.
- j. Five active farmers who implement, use, or produce agricultural energy inputs.
- k. Four individuals with knowledge and expertise in agricultural energy and environmental law, regulation, and research, including ethanol, biodiesel, wind energy, methane, and gasification.
- l. Four individuals from colleges/universities specializing in various sectors of agricultural energy development and one individual specializing in agricultural crop based energy.

**3. Chair.** The Secretaries of Agriculture and Environmental Protection shall serve as co-chairs of the Council on a rotating basis. Each term as chair shall last a year. The Secretary of Agriculture shall serve the initial term.

**4. Compensation and Expenses.** The members of the Council shall not receive a salary or per diem allowance for serving as members of the Council but shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Commonwealth policy.

**5. Terms of Council Members.**

a. The terms of the Secretaries of Agriculture and Environmental Protection shall be concurrent with their holding public office.

b. The remaining Council members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor and may be removed at the will of the Governor.

**6. Relationship with Other Agencies.** All agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor shall cooperate with and provide any necessary assistance to the Council in performing its functions. The Council shall receive administrative support from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and shall coordinate its functions and activities through the Department's Policy Office.

**7. Council Reports and Studies.** The Council may conduct studies and shall issue reports as it deems necessary on issues affecting the use of renewable energy in Pennsylvania.

**8. Procedure.** The Council is authorized to establish subcommittees, rules, and procedures for the effective implementation of its functions consistent with this order.

**9. Effective Date.** This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

**10. Termination Date.** This Executive Order shall remain in effect unless revised or rescinded by the Governor.