
ADVANCING THE BIOECONOMY IN OHIO

The Center for Innovative Food Technology (CIFT) is working in Partnership with the ATIP Foundation and the US Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, in the execution of a sustainable, scalable, replicable Model for Rural Economic Development, utilizing Federal research outcomes, market assessments, and patented technology discoveries.

Ohio is one of 8 locations in the US that co-hosted a Regional Forum with the Foundation & USDA in 2016- 2017 to introduce and solicit feedback on the Federal Report, titled *Federal Activities Report on the Bioeconomy*¹, released in February 2016 by the Biomass Research & Development Board (with representation from 7 federal agencies and the Office of the White House). The Foundation presented the feedback to the BR&D Board in December 2016, and elements were incorporated into the subsequent BR&D publication titled *The Bioeconomy Initiative: Implementation Framework*², released in October 2018.

Based on decades of federal research, these two publications from the BR&D Board document the potential for the growth of the bioeconomy, described as utilizing all manner of agricultural production, products, co-products, and waste to create materials and or services of value that could be commercially viable.

The Model developed by the Foundation is based on input from the 2016-2017 Regional Forums, that came from six identified stakeholder sectors: (1) Academia; (2) Economic & Workforce Development; (3) Elected officials at Municipal, County & State levels; (4) Business & Industry; (5) Financial Services; and (6) the supply chain, from source of biomass to end user.

The Model has already attracted corporate attention, with 9 corporate prospects and 1 committed business who are each considering establishing operations in the Region.

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¹ https://biomassboard.gov/pdfs/farb_2_18_16.pdf

² https://biomassboard.gov/pdfs/Bioeconomy_Implementation_Framework_FINAL.pdf