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Events - Recipes - Contests - Deals Inside!

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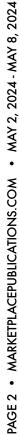
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Why hasn't biomass caught on more as a renewable energy source? - PJ, via email

Biomass is organic material derived from living or recently living organisms like plants, animals and microorganisms. It can be used as a renewable energy source via combustion, fermentation or conversion to biofuels. Some biomass sources, like oil or alcohol-rich crop residue and animal manure, are widely produced on an industrial scale. As we deplete and intentionally shift away from the pollutive natural gas, oil and coal, optimists believe that biofuel may become a viable widespread renewable alternative.

First-generation biofuels use food crops, like corn and sugarcane, but this diverts resources from food production. Instead, second-generation biofuel uses inedible biomass, like wood and agricultural waste. These are low-cost and can serve also to reduce waste, as they use animal and plant waste that would otherwise go to landfills. The U.S. Department of Energy says using up to a billion tons of biomass each year for biofuel could reduce petroleum consumption by 30 percent and create new domestic jobs.

Biomass proponents call biofuel carbon neutral because the carbon dioxide (CO2) released during its combustion is offset by the amount that is absorbed by the plants during growth. Others believe this overlooks factors like land use change, biomass processing emissions, and the methane released during decomposition. Biomass combustion also releases carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, highlighting the environmental and health risks associated with bio-

It takes decades for biomass-produced carbon to be removed from the atmosphere. Studies suggest that it may even be a dirtier business than fossil fuels, with wood and corn-based ethanol emitting from 1.25 to 1.5 times more CO2 than coal per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated. Research conducted by Harvard's Jonathan Buonocore suggests that biomass combustion causes more health-related deaths than conventional coal-fired power plants. Moreover, biomass production can contribute to loss of forests and biodiversity, and indirect land use change. Burning biomass can cause significant public health issues, including asthma, heart and respiratory diseases, birth defects, and even death.

Mitigating environmental and health drawbacks and enhancing the effectiveness of current technologies can help make biofuel more viable. Investing in advanced biomass conversion technologies, such as gasification and pyrolysis, can reduce greenhouse gas and toxic byproducts during combustion. Promoting sustainable sourcing practices, including the exclusive use of agricultural and forestry residues rather than dedicated energy crops, can minimize deforestation and habitat destruction.

Biofuels today are more expensive than conventional fuels like natural gas and crude oil. Researchers aim to design processes that better utilize lignin and sugars in biomass. If this can be achieved, biomass-derived aviation fuel could potentially achieve a break-even price as low as \$3.15 per gallon of gasoline-equivalent, offering a competitive edge against traditional jet fuel costs. If we can address these health, environmental and technological challenges, we may well realize the full potential of biofuels.



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fo

Specials

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com.



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JONES BEACH NATURE CTR

5/1: 1:30-3pm. \$4. Adults, ages12+. Walk: Learn the history and design of Jones Beach. 5/2: 1:30-3pm. \$4. All adults. Walk: Discover the Dunes. (Walk is 1 mile in sandy terrain.) 5/9: 1:30-3pm. \$4. Adults, ages12+. Craft. Must register for all events. West End of Jones Beach. 516-809-8222. www.JonesBeachENC.org

LI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

5/2, 5/7-5/10: 10:15 and 12pm. 5/5: 2pm. Ages 3+. \$10 w/admission. \$14 theater only. "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!". 516-224-5800. 11 Davis Ave., GC. www.LICM.org

SUPPORT GROUP

5/2-6/6: (Thurs.) 12-1:30pm. Online support group for individuals diagnosed with breast cancer within the past 18 months. For information and to register: 516-877-4315. www.breast-cancer.adelphi.edu

ASBURY SHORTS FILMS

5/3: 7:30pm. \$20. An evening of the world's best short films. 516-323-4444. Molloy College, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. www.MadisonTheatreNY.org

OUR TIMES COFFEEHOUSE

5/3: 7pm (doors open). 7:30: open mic. 8:30: concert. \$25 donation (included coffee & cake) Folk songwriter Christine Lavin performs. The Ethical Society, 38 Old Country Rd, Garden City.

PLANTING FIELDS

5/4: 10am-12pm. Ages 8-14. \$25. **Workshop:** Framing flowers.

5/11: 10am-4pm. \$10 adults, \$9 seniors, \$7 ages 7-17. Self-guided tour of Coe Hall. Expanded Exhibition: Decisive Moments at Planting Fields. (see website for guided tour schedule and more info.)

516-922-8680. 1395 Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay. www.PlantingFields.org

SANDS POINT PRESERVE

5/4: 10am-4pm. \$95/car + \$8 credit card processing fee. Fairy Festival: fairy house walk, music, face painting, crafts, costume contest, outdoor games, nature walks & more. (Rain date: 5/5)

5/11: 10am-12pm. \$40. Forest Bathing walk. Tickets must be purchased in advance. 516-304-5076. 12 Middle Neck Rd., Sands Point. www.SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org

WESTBURY STREET FAIR

5/4: 10am-4pm. Vendors, food trucks, music, art exhibit and more. Post Avenue.

GARVIES POINT PRESERVE

5/4 & 5/5: 10am-4pm. Museum admission: \$5 adults, \$3 ages 5-12. Native Plant Sale. 516-571-8010. 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove. www.GarviesPointMuseum.com

OLD WESTBURY GARDENS

5/4: 10:30-11:30am. Free w/admission. Ages 3-5. Storybook Stroll: "Hurry and the Monarch." Craft.

5/4: 7:30-10pm. \$30, \$25 ages 62+. **Poetica Musica:** Bach and Way Beyond. **5/9: 7-9pm.** \$15. **Lecture:** A Second Helping:

5/9: 7-9pm. \$15. **Lecture:** A Second Helping Restoration of the Service Wing Food Areas - New Spaces and Stories of Life at Westbury House

All tickets are to be purchased in advance.
Registration required for most activities. 71 Old
Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. 516-333-0048.
www.OldWestburyGardens.org

SPRING FEST

5/4: 12-5pm. Presentations with birds and turtles, butterfly releases, crafts, lawn games and more. 516-869-6311. Clark Botanic Garden, 193 I.U. Willets Rd., Albertson. www.NorthHempsteadNY.gov

LADY SUPREME

5/4: 7:30. \$40-\$45. **A Diana Ross Experience.** 516-599-6870. Elmont Library Theatre, 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont. www.PlazaTheatrical.com

SPIRITUALITY FOR SINGLES

5/4: 8:30pm. \$10 donation. Ages 40+. Guest musical performance. Snacks, pizza, and beverages served. 516-561-6994. St. Aidan Parish, 510 Willis Ave., Williston Park.

ALLEY POND

5/5: 12-2pm. \$34. Adults. **Fluid Art:** Swipe and balloon smash.

5/10: 5:30-6:45pm. \$5 (fee will be used to care for APEC's animals). Ages 10+. Self Defense Basics

Register for all events. 718-229-4000. 224-65 76th Ave., Oakland Gardens. www.AlleyPond.org

NASSAU MUSEUM OF ART

5/5: 3pm. Free w/admission. Urban Art Evolution: Gallery tour w/Christopher Pusey. 5/16: 1-2pm. Free w/admission. Brown Bag lecture with Riva Ettus: Urban Art Evolution. First come, first seated. 516-484-9338. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor.

ST. FRANCIS OUTREACH

5/6: 10am-2pm. Free. Ages 18+. Health Screenings. Blood pressure, blood test for cholesterol and diabetes screening. Info: 311 or 516-869-6311. Port Washington Adult Center, 80 Manorhaven Blvd.

www.NorthHempsteadNY.gov 5/7: 10am-2pm. Fuschillo Park.

(5/7: 10am-2pm. Fuschillo Park, Carle Rd at Broadmoor Lane, Carle Place.)

BLANKETS OF LOVE

5/6: 1-2pm (meets on Tues.). Ages 60+. Crochet and knit blankets for a worthy cause. Must register. Call 311 or 516-869-6311. Clinton G Martin Park, 1601 Marcus Ave., NHP. www.NorthHempsteadNY.gov

CROCHET WORKSHOP

5/7: 1-3pm. (Meets 5/7, 14, 21, 28.) \$60. Adults only. Learn different ways of creating a pattern. (Not for beginners.) 516-239-1157. 199 Broadway, Lawrence. www.FriendsofRockhall.org

CLARK BOTANIC GARDEN

5/10: 10am-6pm. 5/11: 10am-4pm. Free admission. Plant sale, art exhibit, raffles, twice loved jewelry & accessories. 516-869-6311. Clark Botanic Garden, 193 I.U. Willets Rd., Albertson. www.NorthHempsteadNY.gov

NHP MOTHER'S DAY PARADE

5/11: 10am. Mother's Day Parade. Parade route: Lakeville Road to Jericho Turnpike east to Village Hall.

SPRING FAIR

5/11: 9:30am-12:30pm. Free. Plant sale, craft vendors, thrift shop, homemade baked goods. Kid's crafts: 12-1:30pm. Bake off: call for info. 516-354-4969. United Methodist Church of Floral Park, 35 Verbena Ave., FP.

PLANT REBATES

North Hempstead residents are encouraged to plant native plant gardens to replace lawns and existing garden spaces. Residents can receive up to \$350 per household for the purchase of native plants. To qualify, residents are required to complete an application about their proposed garden size, native plant species lists, photos of the plants' location and basic garden layout. Funding is limited and applications that meet the requirements will be accepted on first-come first-served basis. For information and details on how to apply, call 311 or visit www.northhempsteadny.gov/np

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27 Covert Ave., Floral Park 516-326-7400 nonnasdelifp@gmail.com



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RECIPE OF THE WEEK

hat's amore



1 lb chicken, chopped 1/2 cup salsa, divided 1/4 cup sour cream 8 tortillas (8 in) 1/3 cup refried beans 1/2 cup guacamole 6 oz shredded cheese

Heat oven to 350 F.

In skillet, cook chopped chicken until done.

In medium bowl, mix cooked chicken, 1/4 cup salsa and sour cream until blended.

In small bowl, mix refried beans and remaining salsa until blended.

Lay two tortillas on baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

Spread chicken mixture over both tortillas. Place second set of tortillas over chicken mixture. Spread guacamole over top tortillas. Place third set of tortillas on top and spread refried bean mixture over tortillas. Place fourth set of tortillas on top and sprinkle shredded cheese over tortillas.

Bake 10 minutes until cheese is melted.

Find more snack recipes at Culinary.net.

See More Recipes On Our Website: www.MarketPlacePublications.

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Plaque Donations: \$300/Plaque

Any Denomination Welcome

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Sandro's 7 Step Professional Lawn Care Program

Step 1. Pre-Emergence Crabgrass Control & Fertilizer (April 1-April 30)

This treatment will control crabgrass before it sprouts certain broadleaf weeds and will provide spring green-up without excessive top growth.

Step 2. Spring Lawn Treatment (April 15-May 15)

This treatment of fertilizer will provide spring green up without excessive top growth.

Step 3. Pre-Emergence Crabgrass Control (April 15-May 15)

This treatment will control crabgrass before it sprouts and also certain broadleaf weeds.

Step 4. Broadleaf Weed Control & Fertilizer (May11-June12)

Weed control applied at this time will get rid of dandelions and other broadleaf weeds, roots and all. This formulated fertilizer maintains a healthy green color and prepares your lawn for the warmer months ahead.

Step 5. Insect Control & Fertilizer (June20-August 15)

Insect control will be applied to stop populations of destructive surface feeding insects such as cinch bugs and sod webworms before they can damage your lawn. Fertilization at this time will keep your lawn healthy and green throughout the hot summer.

Step 6. Summer Recovery Treatment

(September 1-October 8)

A fertilizer treatment formulated to help your lawn recover from drought and heat stress will now be applied.

Step 7. Lawn Winterizer (After October 17)

This treatment of fertilizer will promote strong root growth throughout the winter and will greatly influence the performance of the turf during the next spring.

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