

S 1294

Bioenergy Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Energy

**Introduced:** May 12, 2015

**Current Status:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-118.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-118. (May 19, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1294>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		May 18, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 19, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Energy

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## Bioenergy Act of 2015

This bill requires the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a working group known as the Bioheat and Biopower Initiative to: coordinate research and development relating to biopower and bioheat projects, provide recommendations to USDA and DOE regarding the implementation of this bill, and ensure that grants are awarded using an open and competitive process.

Bioheat is the use of woody biomass to generate heat, and biopower is the use of woody biomass to generate electricity.

DOE must establish: (1) a grant program for projects to support innovation and market development in bioheat and biopower, and (2) working groups to share best practices and collaborate in project implementation.

The Forest Service must establish a grant program to support commercially demonstrated thermally led wood energy technologies. Priority is given to projects proposed by State Wood Energy Teams, which are groups of stakeholders that identify sustainable energy applications for woody biomass.

The bill requires USDA to establish a loan program to support construction of thermally led residential, commercial or institutional, and industrial wood energy systems. The bill also makes these projects eligible for loans under USDA's energy efficiency and conservation loan program.

DOE and the Forest Service must establish a bioheat and biopower research program to advance research on the costs and benefits, recommend policies and investments, assess the feasibility of thermally led district wood energy opportunities, and assist communities pursuing thermally led wood energy opportunities.

## Actions Timeline

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- **May 19, 2015:** Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-118.
- **May 12, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 12, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2796; text of measure as introduced: CR S2796-2797)