

Halifax County Economic Development Commission

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PRESS RELEASE

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HOBGOOD ENTREPRENEURS CONTINUE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT *NC Green Business Funds Will Add Renewable Energy Component to Gasification System*

Halifax, NC – In November, Governor Beverly Perdue announced that Hobgood-based Biomass Marketing Associates, along with 17 other companies, would receive a grant from North Carolina’s Green Business Fund. These highly competitive grant funds are designed to help small businesses “develop and market promising green and alternative energy technologies and products.”

Biomass Marketing Associates manufactures clean, energy efficient, and environmentally-sound gasification units for biological waste and animal mortality disposal. The \$100,000 grant from the NC Green Business Fund will allow

Biomass to work to add a renewable energy component to their current gasification units. The company will collaborate with North Carolina State University to develop a process to capture the heat from the gasification unit that can be used as a source of ambient heat and hot water for washdown.

Biomass owners David Mayer, S.L. Allen, and Benny Bunting recently hosted a tour of the company’s production facility for the Halifax County Board of Commissioners, Halifax County management personnel, and representatives of the Halifax County Economic Development Commission. The company showcased a completed gasification unit, weighing approximately 12,000 pounds, on its way to North Carolina State University to begin research and development for a renewable energy component.

“Biomass is a perfect example of creative entrepreneurs developing promising technologies that not only solve problems, but also support the local economy,” commented James Pierce, Chairman of the Halifax County Board of Commissioners.

In addition the production input of its three owners, Biomass contracts with James Wiggins and Sons of Scotland Neck for the steel fabrication work. An area brick mason, trucking company, and crane operator are used in the production and transportation of the gasification units, adding to the local economic impact.



“It is important that we support our small businesses in reaching their full potential,” said Frank Avent, Hobgood resident and Chairman of the Halifax County Economic Development Commission. “The work of the Economic Development Commission in helping Biomass secure funding from the NC Green Business Fund will pay dividends for years to come.”

The mission of the North Carolina Green Business is to encourage the expansion of small to medium businesses that have innovative commercial technologies, products and services to grow a green economy in North Carolina. The North Carolina Board of Science & Technology, a division of the NC Department of Commerce, administers the North Carolina Green Business Fund which was established by the NC General Assembly in 2007.

About Halifax County Economic Development Commission

The Halifax County Economic Development Commission (HCEDC) is a 12-member advisory board appointed by the Halifax County Board of Commissioners to implement activities to support the expansion and retention of existing business/industry as well as the recruitment of new businesses to Halifax County. For additional information, contact Cathy A. Scott, Executive Director, at 252-519-2630 or cathyscott@halifaxdevelopment.com.