



Leading by Example Jo Carroll Energy Plans for Illinois' first Biomass Center



Jo-Carroll headquarters is located in Elizabeth IL

Most people are familiar with coal, natural gas and nuclear electricity generation, but utility-scale generation using waste wood, corn stover and switchgrass has never been done in Illinois. Electric cooperative Jo Carroll Energy is changing that reality.

Jo Carroll Energy is building an 80 megawatt, biomass-fueled, renewable energy center - the first of its kind in the state of Illinois. The project is sited on approximately 60 acres immediately south of the Danisco plant on Illinois State Route 84.

The plant will be fueled by various types of renewable biomass, such as clean waste wood, corn stover and switchgrass. By using fuel stocks that were once living plants removing carbon dioxide from the air, the facility will have a much smaller carbon footprint than traditional power plants.

“A member-owned cooperative like Jo-Carroll Energy has a

vested interest in the communities it serves,” said Jo-Carroll Energy President and CEO Michael Hastings. “Northwestern Illinois is our home. Our children breathe this air. We are committed to building a project that meets our growing energy needs, promotes long-term rate stability, creates good-paying jobs, adds to the local tax base,

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Joe Mattingley, Jo-Carroll Energy, Chairman of the Board

and supports local agriculture in a sustainable, environmentally responsible fashion.”

The facility will have the capacity to produce enough electricity to power more than 10,000 homes. In addition to generating electricity, the plant intends to sell the steam it produces to the adjacent Danisco plant for use in that company's industrial processes. Emissions from the facility will be scrubbed to meet or exceed all applicable environmental regulations.

The projected cost of the facility is approximately \$140 million. While the project is still in the planning

phase, the cooperative hopes to start construction in 2009 and begin operations in 2012.

Jo-Carroll Energy Chairman of the Board Joe Mattingley said that the cooperative will seek feedback from civic, business and community leaders throughout the development process.

“As a not-for-profit cooperative, our objective is to enhance the quality of life in our region through safe and reliable service at the lowest practical cost,” Mattingley said. “This project is consistent with that vision, and we will work with the community to ensure that our new facility is a good neighbor. As the details of our plan come in to focus, we will be sure to keep stakeholders abreast of developments, and seek their input where appropriate.”

Jo Carroll Energy is an Energy Education Council member through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

