

Economic development opportunity for the University of Iowa

Fuel the University's Main Power Plant with corn stalk pellets to boost the local farm economy

Blending corn stalk pellets into the fuel mix creates a major economic development opportunity, with benefits for the University of Iowa, Iowa City and the surrounding community.

1. Grow the local economy and area incomes
2. Increase margins and protect markets for local ethanol producers
3. Accelerate the University's transition to renewable biomass energy



Image source: <http://www.industcards.com/st-coal-usa-ia.htm>

Economic Benefits of burning corn stalk pellets at the University of Iowa Power Plant (2018-2030)*

Project scale	30% blend 	One Pellet Mill 	60% blend 
Wages & income	\$28 Million	\$43 Million	\$56 Million
GDP growth	\$52 Million	\$78 Million	\$103 Million

*Benefits based on economic analysis by Regional Strategic LTD (see www.TrestleEnergy.com/economic-analysis). Values are scaled from results presented in scenario 1 of Tables 7 & 9 according to the estimated pellet volumes.

1. Grow the local economy and area incomes. Burning corn stalk pellets will stimulate new local industries in biomass supply, processing, and logistics. Developing this value-added opportunity will increase incomes for area farms, businesses, and residents. The economic benefits summarized in the table above will accrue statewide, but are expected to be concentrated in areas where the corn stalks are collected and processed, as illustrated in the figure to the right.

2. Increase margins and protect markets for local ethanol producers. Corn stalks are produced with corn grown for ethanol. As a result, burning corn stalk pellets reduces the carbon footprint of ethanol. This increases the value of locally-produced ethanol in California or other markets with Low Carbon Fuel Standards, which will keep local ethanol flowing to these premium markets and push up producer margins.



3. Accelerate the University's transition to renewable biomass energy. Burning corn stalks provides a way to generate cost-effective renewable energy at existing power plants. The University of Iowa is already in the process of shifting their fuel supply to biomass. Corn stalk pellets can be supplied cost effectively today – dramatically accelerating the University's shift to renewable biomass energy.