



Illinois Biomass Innovation Hub Stakeholder Meeting

Thursday, August 28, 2025

8:00 – 8:20 a.m.
[University of Illinois
Philanthropy Center](#)

Arrival and Registration

[303 St Mary's Rd, Champaign, IL 61820](#)
Parking available in the [iHotel](#) parking lot

8:10 – 8:30 a.m.
[UIUC Energy Farm](#)

Periodic Shuttles to [Energy Farm](#) and Networking (Final Shuttle departs at 8:20 AM)

[4110 S Race St, Urbana, IL 61802](#)

8:30 – 8:40 a.m.
[UIUC Energy Farm](#)

Welcome

[Chancellor Charles L. Isbell Jr.](#), introduced by Emily Heaton

8:40 – 9:00 a.m.

Overview of the Illinois Biomass Innovation Hub Concept

[Emily Heaton](#), Professor of Crop Sciences, Founding Director of
the Biomass Innovation Hub

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Highlight Tour of Miscanthus Research on Energy Farm (5 x 12 min stations + travel time)

1. Miscanthus Breeding ([Erik Sacks](#))
2. Ecosystem services ([Carl Bernacchi](#), [Michael Benson](#), [DK Lee](#))
3. Agronomy (Emily Heaton, [Travis Hedrick](#))
4. Biotechnology ([Andrew Leakey](#))
5. Harvest/processing and end products ([Brian Jacobson](#),
[Tim Mies](#))

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Shuttle to Integrated Bioprocessing Research Lab

1300 W Pennsylvania Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Tour of [Integrated Bioprocessing Research Lab](#)

[Brian Jacobson](#), Associate Director of Strategic Operations,
Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory and Food Science
and Human Nutrition Pilot Processing Plant

11:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Shuttle to Plant Biology Innovation Greenhouse

1902 S Fourth St, Champaign, IL 61820

11:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Tour of [Plant Biology Innovation Greenhouse](#)

[Andrew Leakey](#), Professor of Plant Biology, Director of Center for
Advanced Bioenergy and Bioproducts Innovation
[Wendy Yang](#), Professor of Plant Biology

11:45 – 12:00 p.m.	Walk/Shuttle to University of Illinois Philanthropy Center 303 St Marys Rd, Champaign, IL 61820
12:00 – 1:00 p.m. <i>University of Illinois Philanthropy Center, Room 102/103</i>	Lunch and Networking “What’s in a barrel of biomass?” Vijay Singh , Professor of Ag and Biosystems Engineering; Founder Executive Director, Integrated Bioprocessing Research Lab
1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Introduction to Afternoon Activities Emily Heaton , Professor of Crop Sciences
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Industry Panel Travis Hedrick , AGgrow Tech Miles Gathright , Boardwurks Brad Valentine , Genera Moderated by Kim Kidwell , Associate Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Break
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Needs and Opportunities Workshop Session Small group networking activity to identify high priority targets and develop public-private connections.
3:30 – 4:15 p.m.	Group Report-Outs and Synthesis Tracy Parish , Director of External Relations and Strategic Partnerships, Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks and Next Steps Emily Heaton , Professor of Crop Sciences
4:30 p.m. Houlihan’s Restaurant and Bar at the I-Hotel	Optional Happy Hour for Networking & Discussion