



Advanced Manufacturing Research & Collaboration Cluster (AMRCC)

Alternative Materials & Energy Resources Work Group (AM&ER WG)

Iowa Business Council Policy Statement

The Iowa Business Council supports policy initiatives that mitigate competitive weaknesses or leverage advantages pertaining to innovative research, commercialization, and the resulting attraction of a highly skilled and educated workforce.

AMRCC Alternative Material & Energy Resources Work Group

Background: Business plans benefit most from policies that promote strong industry clusters stimulated by aggressive innovation. Companies that lead their industries in ideas, innovation, and market-reach thrive and have great staying power. They also tend to attract a more educated and skilled talent pool, one that naturally networks across occupational communities while creating economic activity that resists migration and sustains local economies.

Issue: Of increasing importance to economic potential in Iowa is effective deployment of renewable resources as viable, sustainable substitutes for petroleum- and carbon-based products and fuels.

Goal: To make Iowa a leader in alternative materials and renewable energy resource research, engineering, development, and production.

Who/What: The **Alternative Materials & Energy Resources Work Group** is a consortium of industrial and academic innovators who utilize raw and composite renewable, recyclable, and biodegradable materials in commercial products and energy consumption.

Why: Evolving product and energy resource limitations, unpredictable market forces, and evermore strident regulatory policies provide an opportunity for economic development strategies to employ pragmatic sustainability as a critical component.

Desired Outcome: A business plan based on sustainable disciplines will utilize raw material more efficiently to reduce the environmental footprint of a company or institution, which leads to reduced costs and improved margins. At the same time, new markets of consumers should emerge to whom leading-edge product innovation and sustainable practices appeal.

“Biomass” defined: Any organic material that is available on a renewable or recurring basis.

Who We Are: A collaborative consortium sponsored by the Iowa Business Council to incorporate academic and industrial innovation utilizing bio-based materials and renewable energy resources in products and their applications.

AM&ER Working Group goal: To make Iowa the recognized leader in development and utilization of bio-based materials and renewable energy resources through education, engineering, commercialization, and advanced manufacturing.