

APPLYING SPATIAL INFORMATION TO BIOMASS MANAGEMENT

LAB OVERVIEW

Level: Grades 9-16

Estimated Time to Completion: 90 Minutes

Prior Knowledge: Background Provided

In this lab investigation, students will become familiar with the Biofuels Atlas, a web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) that contains spatial information related to biomass and biofuel production in the United States. Students will use the software to inventory biomass and biofuel resources on local and regional scales to identify areas suitable for biomass and biofuel production.

Upon completion, students will be able to:

- Describe the basic components and structure of modern Geographic Information Systems (GIS).
- Understand biomass and biofuel data sources and data collection.
- Inventory biomass and biofuel production on local and regional scales using online spatial information provided by Biofuels Atlas.
- Develop thematic maps identifying suitable areas for various biomass and biofuel production.
- Identify factors limiting biomass and biofuel production.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Computer with Internet Access

NOTES TO INSTRUCTOR

- Information about other GIS Software is available in the "Supporting Materials" folder of the downloadable lab package.