

CROPS

EPA praises plant

Key Points

- The EPA Energy Star award was presented to the Laddonia ethanol plant.
- The ethanol plant reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 31,000 tons per year.
- The plant owner's goal is to reduce the environmental impacts of biofuel.

By KRIS LANCASTER

EPA recognized the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission for reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions at an April 6 ceremony in Kansas City. An Energy Star Combined Heat and Power Award was given for the combustion turbine-based system at the Poet Biorefining ethanol plant at Laddonia.

"EPA is proud to recognize the outstanding pollution reduction and energy efficiency innovations of this project by presenting this award. The heat recovery system is contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment," says William Rice, acting regional administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

In September 2007, the heat recovery steam-generation system became operational. Electricity is generated by a natural gas-fired turbine, which requires approximately 26% less fuel than typical on-site thermal generation and purchased electricity. Based on this comparison, the system reduces carbon dioxide



STAR POWER: EPA presented an Energy Star Award to the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission for energy savings and pollution reduction innovations at the Poet Biorefining ethanol plant in Laddonia. Pictured are: (from left) Scott Lucas, Macon Missouri Utilities; John Grotzinger, Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission; and William Rice, acting EPA Region 7 administrator.

emissions by an estimated 31,000 tons per year, equivalent to 6,400 acres of pine or fir forests storing carbon for one year, or the annual emissions from 5,200 passenger vehicles.

Waste heat is recovered from the turbine exhaust and produces up to 63,000 pounds of steam per hour to support ethanol production. The system generates up to 13 megawatts of electricity.

"We want to thank the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission for helping Poet in its mission to further



CLEAN ENERGY: The Poet Biorefining ethanol plant at Laddonia has a combustion turbine-based system that increases operating efficiency and cuts energy costs, while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 31,000 tons annually.

reduce environmental impacts of transportation fuel," says Jeff Broin, Poet CEO. "As this partnership demonstrates, we're committed to making ethanol production even more efficient."

Minimizing its environmental footprint was the company's goal. "We have a solid track record in the co-generation system based on the successful system at Poet's ethanol plant in Macon," says Macon's operations representative, Scott Lucas. Macon is one of the 32 cities in Missouri that receive electricity from the facility.

"Electricity generated by the gas turbine at the ethanol plant in Laddonia helps keep electric rates stable for municipal electric customers throughout

Missouri," says John Grotzinger, MJMEUC chief operating officer.

MJMEUC is a statewide agency formed to provide community-owned utilities the ability to pool their resources to buy and sell electric power and invest in power generation and transmission facilities. These community-owned utilities serve 347,000 retail customers.

The EPA's Combined Heat and Power Partnership program recognizes projects that reduce emissions and use at least 5% less fuel than state-of-the-art, comparable separate heat and power generation.

For more information about the Energy Star Combined Heat and Power Awards, visit www.epa.gov/chp/public-recognition/awards.html.

Lancaster is an EPA public affairs specialist.

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