

GREENER POWER?

PROJECT TESTS BIOFUELS TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT

SLEMCO's power supplier, Louisiana Generating, is conducting a pilot project at its Big Cajun II plant in New Roads to combine switchgrass and sorghum with the coal it burns to produce electricity.

The goal is testing the potential of these biofuels for reducing carbon output at the plant. If the project is successful here in Louisiana, other plants in the network may use the same techniques to reduce their carbon footprints.

Some 20 acres at the generating plant site in New Roads will be cultivated to raise varieties of switchgrass and high-biomass



Pilot project crops outside Big Cajun II

sorghum selected to produce high yields for Louisiana's soil and climate. A local grower will manage the crops, which will then be added to the coal in the combustion process used to generate electricity.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has identified switchgrass as an ideal energy crop. Power generated from using switchgrass and sorghum is expected to be carbon neutral, possibly even carbon negative (Lucky Account Number 1401460000). ●



ENERGY SAVING IDEAS

Save half the energy by using a microwave instead of the stove any time you need to warm up or defrost small amounts of food. However, when preparing large meals your stove is usually more efficient. In the summer, though, consider how using a microwave also adds less heat to your kitchen, helping reduce your air conditioning bill.

For more household energy tips from the California Energy Commission, visit http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/saving_energy/index.html.

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