

May 14, 2024
For Immediate Release

BIOECONOMY INVESTMENT FORUM SETS THE STAGE FOR REGINA'S MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR BIOMASS CLUSTER

(REGINA) Together with a broad range of public- and private-sector leaders, Economic Development Regina (EDR) is making the case for growing a biomass cluster in the Greater Regina Area (GRA) – an opportunity set to generate as much as \$1.8 billion in economic activity by 2027.

"With a recent surge in alternative fuel opportunities, technological advances, and funding, there is no better time to capitalize on the emerging biomass sector in Regina," EDR President & CEO Chris Lane said. "We're excited to bring together the right people to the right place at the right time to carry this opportunity forward."

The Bioeconomy Investment Forum brings together leaders and decision-makers from across Regina's biomass opportunity, including producers, government, value-added businesses, investors, and more. The event includes presentations, demonstrations, and discussions that outline Regina's place in a massive emerging global sector.

In partnership with Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) and Praxis Consulting, EDR has developed a market study for Regina's biomass cluster. The study outlined a major opportunity for primary producers and value-added businesses alike. Key findings include:

- Access to feedstock: 15+ million tonnes of agriculture biomass within 200km annually
- Access to markets: Multiple ports and more than 270 million consumers within 2 days drive
- Key investments: \$6+ billion in announced capital investments in the GRA
- Economic impact: \$1.8+ billion in economic activity by 2027
- Job creation: 4,100 jobs, with a potential \$240+ million in employment income by 2027

"Regina's position as a hub for agribusiness excellence, coupled with our network of innovative partners and access to resources, supports our readiness to expand our bioeconomy sector," Mayor Sandra Masters said. "By embracing these opportunities, we anticipate job creation and robust economic growth as we continue to establish our city as a leader in this transformative industry."

As part of the event, EDR signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with several organizations for the purpose of growing and developing Regina's economy, including Biomass Cluster. Those MOUs include:

MOU partner	Purpose of partnership
The Growth Board (City of Regina, EDR, OneHoop, and the University of Regina)	Discuss and deliver potential opportunities that build the GRA's local economy
Global Transportation Hub	Ensure a coordinated, aligned approach to attracting business investment to the GRA
Hebert Group, Community Builders Alliance	Identify and advance key opportunities for value-added agriculture in the GRA and southeast Saskatchewan

Event participants are noted in the attached agenda.

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For more information, contact:

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ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDER QUOTES

"With world-class agriculture sector and sustainable and abundant agricultural feedstocks, the Greater Regina Area is a readily developed biohub in Canada that can support the scale-up of a bio-based manufacturing industry to meet the growing demand for low-carbon bioenergy, biofuels, and biomaterials."

Dr. Mahmood Ebadian, Project Principal, Ecostrat Inc.

"Many of the critical pieces for a robust bioeconomy are present in Saskatchewan. I'm looking forward to being part of the conversation on how to develop these tremendous economic and environmental opportunities."

David Schick, Vice President, Western Canada, Innovation and Regulatory Affairs
Canadian Fuels Association

"Through our agriculture and food legal practice group, we see the momentum that's building in the biomass sector in and around the Greater Regina Area. The Bioeconomy Investment Forum will be an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss and collaborate on future opportunities in this dynamic area and we are excited to be part of that."

Samer Awadh, Partner and Co-lead of the Agriculture and Food Practice Group at MLT Aikins LLP
and Member of the Board of Directors of Economic Development Regina

"Agriculture has immense opportunities ahead in both production and value-added agriculture. To fully capture this potential collaboration is an essential ingredient. The Hebert Group and the Community Builders Alliance look forward to working together with EDR to identify key opportunities in southeast Saskatchewan and the GRA. These opportunities create projects that translate into increased investment, job creation and community services – all things that help our cities and rural communities, such as Moosomin, thrive."

Kristjan Hebert, President, Hebert Group

About the bioeconomy and the GRA's biomass cluster

The bioeconomy encompasses sectors that use renewable biological resources to produce other value-added products. The GRA's biomass play primarily focuses on the agriculture sector, and includes crops and crop residue, including canola, wheat, and flax. Those products can be transformed into bioenergy (including renewable diesel, biodiesel, sustainable aviation fuel, and fuel pellets) or other biomaterials (including bioplastic, compostable packaging, pulp and paper, biochar).

Surrounded by more than 80 million acres of cropland, and with more than \$4 billion in announced investments, the Greater Regina Area is the natural centre of a massive, sustainable value-added agriculture opportunity. From renewable fuel to pulp and paper to fertilizer, the GRA's biomass cluster has the potential to deliver more than \$1.8 billion in economic activity and more than 4,100 jobs to the region by 2027 – while contributing to a cleaner, more sustainable economy.

[Learn more about Regina's Energy and Renewables sector.](#)

About Economic Development Regina Inc.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REGINA INC. (EDR) is the lead agency for economic development for the Greater Regina Area (GRA).

EDR provides leadership to the community with specific accountability for the following core functions:

- Support industry growth and diversification through retention, development and attraction of industry.
- Find innovative ways to promote sustainable growth while effectively addressing the challenges associated with it.
- Market and promote the Greater Regina Area for business and investment.
- Ensure the Greater Regina Area offers a vibrant and diversified economy for investors, a climate of growth for business and works toward a high quality of life for residents.

REGINA'S BIOMASS OPPORTUNITY

By 2027, Regina's biomass opportunity is expected to exceed \$1.8B, representing 6.2% of the region's total economic activity, adding \$625M to the GDP, and creating over 4,100 jobs.



Surrounded by
80M
Acres of cropland



\$4B
In announced
bioeconomy
investments



4,100+
Potential new job
opportunities



Access to
270M
Customers
within 2 days



\$1.8B+
In economic
activity by 2027

EMERGING BIOMASS CLUSTER

REGINA'S NATURAL ADVANTAGE



15M
Tonnes of agriculture
biomass within 200km



3
Hours to US border



4.6MMT
Announced canola
crush capacity

ECONOMIC IMPACT



\$620M+
In GDP in 2027



\$240M+
In potential
employment
income



Collaboration • Education
Investor Outreach • Talent Outreach

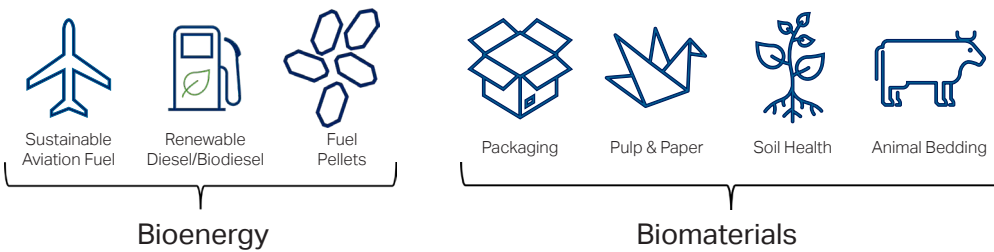
EconomicDevelopmentRegina.com



THE NATURAL HOME FOR CANADA'S LARGEST BIOMASS CLUSTER

The Greater Regina Area (GRA) is a natural home for primary production, value-added processing, manufacturing, and technology development. That critical mass of activity has led to the natural development of a biomass cluster in the region, creating new opportunities for investment, industry, and innovation.

The cluster utilizes renewable biological resources – in the GRA's case, primarily crops and crop residue – to develop bioenergy (including renewable diesel, biodiesel, sustainable aviation fuel, and fuel pellets) or other biomaterials (including bioplastic, compostable packaging, pulp and paper, and biochar).



THE OPPORTUNITY

Surrounded by more than 80 million acres of cropland, and with more than \$4 billion in announced investments, the GRA is the epicentre of Saskatchewan's biomass sector.

Boasting access to 15+ million tonnes of feedstock within 200km, the GRA's biomass sector is forecast to generate more than \$1.8 billion in economic activity by 2027 and more than 4,150 jobs.



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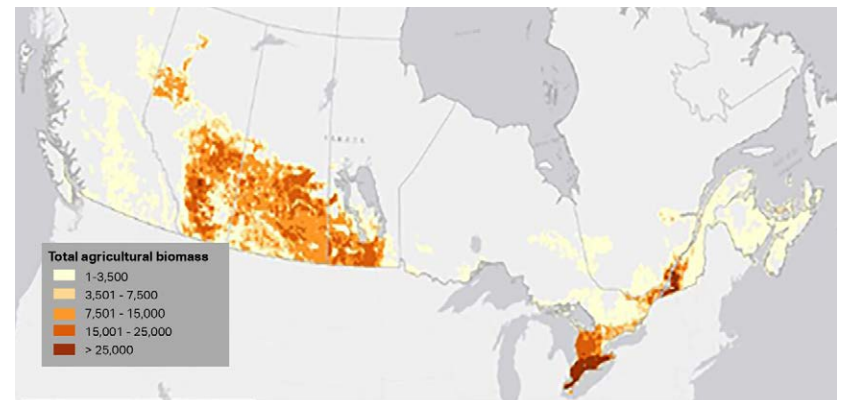
DEMAND

Global demand for biomass and biofuel is on the rise, accounting for more than \$30 billion in global trade, with major markets in Europe, the UK, and Asia. Key market opportunities include:

Saskatchewan: Biomass utilization in Saskatchewan is in its early stages, with localized energy production and potential growth in large-scale bioenergy facilities.

Canada: The GRA and Saskatchewan have a major role to play in helping Canada meet its goal of producing 6% of energy demand using biomass.

Global: Global demand for biofuels and biomass is rising due to aggressive decarbonization policies, presenting Canada with an opportunity to be a leading exporter if logistical challenges are overcome.





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GROWTH BOARD BRINGS TOGETHER KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO GROW REGINA'S ECONOMY

(REGINA) A new partnership is paving the way for continued growth and innovation in the Greater Regina Area (GRA). The Growth Board brings together academic, business, and economic development, Indigenous and municipal administrative leaders to uncover, advance and support growth and innovation in the GRA.

Founded by Economic Development Regina (EDR), the City of Regina, OneHoop, and the University of Regina, the intent of the Growth Board is to consider, analyze, back and deliver opportunities that help build the GRA's economy today and for the future.

"Regina works best when we work together," EDR President & CEO Chris Lane said. "The Growth Board brings together Regina-focused organizations who can not only identify and articulate opportunities that fit within Regina's growth plan, but also the Research and Development to Commercialize and the opportunity to advance prosperity for Indigenous peoples. We're excited at what the future holds for the Board and our city."

Founding members cemented the partnership by signing an MOU at Regina's first [Bioeconomy Investment Forum](#), which outlined Regina's case for an emerging biomass cluster in the Greater Regina Area (GRA). The forum provided an appropriate background for the agreement, as each of the founding members will play a critical role in the success of the cluster.

The Board will engage other potential members and agencies as those opportunities arise. Key metrics of success include active participation by all members, opportunities considered, economic impact, and knowledge sharing and innovation.

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ADDITIONAL STAKEHOLDER QUOTES

“The University of Regina is excited to be part of this significant collaboration. With our research expertise, reputation for innovation, proven leadership, and infrastructure, we are well-positioned to play a pivotal role in supporting a healthy and prosperous city. This partnership will also play a meaningful role in the lives of our students, who, as part of the associated projects and opportunities will be able to advance their knowledge and skills, creating a solid foundation for our leaders of tomorrow.”

Dr. Jeff Keshen, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Regina

“The strength of connections between businesses, governments and our educational institutions is critical to the economic health of our region. The Growth Board brings together the City, EDR, UofR and OneHoop to explore emerging opportunities so that we can respond quickly to those best suited for Regina. The City is pleased to formalize our participation on the Growth Board.”

Chad Jedlic, Director, Land, Real Estate & Economic Development, City of Regina

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