

# Show Me Energy Cooperative

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## Background

### Show Me Energy Cooperative

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64019

<http://www.goshowmeenergy.com/>

The Show Me Energy Cooperative is a cellulosic biofuels facility which is located in Centerview, Missouri. In 2007 this cooperative was formed by a collaboration of farmers. This cooperative is still owned and operated by about 600 farmers. This producer owned cooperative is currently a non-for-profit organization.

Show Me Energy, whose farmers' land spans across thirty-eight counties, has built relations with the University of Missouri: Columbia, University of Missouri: Ralah, the State of Missouri: Department of Agriculture, the State of Missouri: Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Department of Agriculture. These relationships have been vital to ensuring the success of the cooperative.

## Driving Forces

Since Show Me Energy is owned and operated by farmers, they function in the interest of the farmer. Operating in the interest of the farmer happens in many different ways at Show Me. Show Me has helped farmers to begin growing biomass or harvesting their crop residue. Show Me believes that the farmer can help to transform the United States into a productive biomass economy. As well as giving the farmer help, they have worked hard to keep farmers knowledgeable of the energy market in the United States. They have done this by keeping the farmer informed of business, economic, political, and social change within the energy market.

Show Me Energy desired to create a model that was innovative, created jobs, and sparked economic growth. The model they created was innovative because it was one of the first facilities of its kind in the nation. Show Me felt that the repeatability of the model would naturally lead to job creation. That job creation, along with the increased profits in a local area has led to economic growth. In order to make sure this model was repeatable Show Me had to establish conditions that were suitable for local energy development. This was done

by helping the farmers being to produce biomass.

Show Me got the National Wildlife Federation's support due to the fact that they chose crops that have positive environmental benefits. Environmental organizations such as the NWF have chosen to support the project due to the fact that it serves as a wildlife habitat and helps to conserve soil.

### National Wildlife Federation

11100 Wildlife Center  
Dr.  
Reston, VA 20190  
<http://www.nwf.org/>

## Economics

While they in the early stages of development, Show Me created a program called "Plant Baby Plant." With this program, farmers associated with the cooperative elected to put marginal land up for energy grass planting. The "Plant Baby Plant" program was popular enough that 20,000 acres were signed up in seven weeks. Show Me Energy's "Plant Baby Plant" and the construction/production in their facility has caused farmers income per acre to increase because their marginal land has become more profitable. This increase in profitability has caused the surrounding community economies to grow and has created many green collar jobs. The creation and operation of the Show Me Energy Cooperative facility alone has created twenty-one jobs. This increased profitability on



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