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## **Renewable energy critical pillar of Obama recovery plan**

LAKEWOOD, Colorado — On Tuesday, April 14, President Barack Obama spoke to a crowd at Georgetown University about the perfect storm of economic challenges the U.S. faces and the ways in which renewable energy can help drive America's economic recovery. According to Obama, utilizing renewable energy helps secure America's energy future, and will allow the U.S. to take the lead in the 21st century, creating millions of new jobs and spawning new industries.

"I do not accept a future where the jobs and industries of tomorrow take root beyond our borders. It is time for America to lead again," Obama said.

Citing the urgency presented by the economic crisis, Obama outlined the five "pillars" upon which the country's financial future will be founded: regulating the financial industry, increased funding for education, new investments in renewable energy and technology, increased healthcare investment, and budget reduction.

"If we don't invest now in renewable energy or a skilled workforce or a more affordable health care system, this economy simply won't grow at the pace it needs to in two or five or 10 years down the road," Obama said.

Bioenergy—the nucleus of today's biomass utilization movement—is renewable energy made from any organic material derived from plant or animal matter. Biomass is an attractive petroleum alternative because it is a renewable, carbon neutral resource that is more evenly distributed over the Earth's surface than finite hydrocarbon energy sources, and may be exploited using more environmentally friendly technologies.