Student Information  
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Project Information  
Project Name: Biomass conversion at Energy Farm  
Project Topic: Energy  
Project Summary: For many years, the UI has grown significant quantities of biomass plant products at the Energy Farm on South Farms. There have been a few preliminary attempts to identify a post-research use for this material, including the cancelled Vet Med Combined Heat and Power (CHP) project and a study of the compatibility with existing boilers at Abbott Power Plant.  Meanwhile the biomass material continues to be stockpiled at the Energy Farm. This project is to fund a preliminary engineering study to convert the existing (and future) biomass from the Energy Farm into power for the on-site Energy Farm facility. This study will define the required equipment, space, and funding needed to install this small renewable energy plant.  
Student Involvement: Although the actual funding will go to an architect/engineering firm for the preliminary engineering design work, students will be involved in a significant way, through the design review process.  The study will have a design review team, which will include student representatives from the SSC Energy Working Group. There are also students involved in the Energy Farm research program, and they will be asked to provide feedback on the initial report. This is a simple engineering project, and I welcome your suggestions on how to facilitate or increase student involvement.  
Timeframe: The study should be completed approximately six months after funding approval.  
Budget: $25,000