



*Southern Growth Policies Board presents
Southern Energy: Abundant, Affordable and American –
2009 Innovator Award Winner*

Centers of Innovation for Agribusiness & Energy

Georgia Centers of Innovation



1

Objective: To make Georgia nationally and globally competitive through technology and innovation.

The Centers of Innovation program was formed in 2005 as part of Governor Sonny Perdue's Strategic Industry Program. Two Centers – the Center of Innovation for Agribusiness (COI-Ag) and the Center of Innovation for Energy (COI-Energy) – collaborate on bio-energy projects. The COI-Energy also handles solar, wind, and waste to energy projects.

The COI-Ag focuses on technology-oriented companies in precision agriculture, value-added agriculture such as nutraceuticals and organics, renewable fuel biomass production, poultry, forest products and biotechnology. COI-Ag applies technology to maximize yields and reduce costs, and streamlines processes at packaging and distribution companies for bottom line impact.



2

COI-Energy increases the production and use of renewable energy in Georgia. Georgia industries are well-positioned to capitalize on the state's renewable natural resources such as pine forests and agricultural products, along with waste streams from municipalities and industries. Companies gain a competitive edge when paired with the state's university brain trust, cutting edge research facilities, and well developed rail and shipping systems.



3

The Centers assist companies with direct advice, introductions to the regulatory and research communities, and strategic industry connections. The net effect is expedited commercialization of innovations for entrepreneurial ventures. Together, they light the way for innovative companies to thrive in Georgia.



4

1. Unmanned farm equipment and machinery are part of the innovations that are being developed.
2. Field demonstration of water-saving technology including irrigation systems controlled by wireless rural broadband internet connections.
3. Compressed wood pellets used as all-natural biomass to heat poultry houses, effectively reducing energy costs.
4. Center of Innovation for Agribusiness Director Bill Boone assists an incubator resident.