Priority **13: Expand production and processing of LOCAL BIOMASS AND BIOFUELS for small farms**

**132 out of 584 respondents (22%) ranked this topic as highest priority. Of those, 92 provided justification as follows:**

* 61 respondents (or 66%) commented that these alternative fuels sources will reduce farmer expenses and increase diversification for improved sales and profits.

*“The cost of fuel keeps going up. Will the high cost of fuels put the farmer out of business? If these represent some money making crop alternatives for farmers, it is a good thing. If these end up as a less expensive alternative for on-farm use, it is a good thing.”*

* 47 respondents (or 51%) commented that we need to develop alternatives to fossil fuels and create more localized energy and energy independence.

*“Energy and all fuels will on increase in price but not availability. Using existing renewables will extend fuel consumption. Our society will be a petroleum based consumer for years to come, but finding a niche market for farmer’s contribution will help.”*

* 26 respondents (or 28%) commented that we need biofuel alternatives to address environmental concerns including climate change, clean water and clean air.

*“Global warming is having large negative consequences to farming. We should research and promote the efficient use of these materials on the farm and in the community both for the cost benefit as well as reducing carbon pollution.”*

* 13 respondents (or 14%) commented that it would be a profitable way to use marginal lands in New York.

*“Biomass and biofuels are another way to use and profit from abandoned and marginal farmland in the state.”*