

## **Energizing Rural Communities Prize Cover Page**

Team: Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone Initiative

Title: Breese, IL BDO Zone

### Short Description:

Ecostrat USA is a North American leader in assessing, developing, optimizing, and managing biomass supply chains. Ecostrat's Bioeconomy Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone Initiative is a regional risk rating, certification, and economic development program that drives biobased energy project development. This project will certify and rate Breese, IL as a BDO Zone and use that rating to drive bioenergy plant development and financing.

'AAA', 'AA', or 'A' BDO Zone ratings identify the best areas in the US for low-risk bioeconomy project development, and put local businesses and economic developers in contact with hundreds of bio-based project developers to workshop project development in the BDO Zone and set up local supply contracts.

Part of the ability of BDO Zone ratings to drive local bioenergy projects derives from the unique credibility ratings have with investors: all BDO Zone ratings are issued within the framework of the US industry Standards for Biomass Supply Chain Risk (BSCR), developed by Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and Ecostrat with 6-year support from the US Department of Energy and a group of over 65 capital market investors in the bioeconomy who have publicly announced the availability of \$1 billion to be invested in BDO Zones.

Video Pitch Link: <https://youtu.be/pHHzQOW-xk>

### Key Project Members:

**Ecostrat USA:** Jordan Solomon, President and CEO. [Jordan.Solomon@ecostrat.com](mailto:Jordan.Solomon@ecostrat.com).

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**Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois:** Kyle Anderson, Executive Director.

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### Other partners:

**CAAFI**

**AFCC**

**AMCREF Community Capital**

Ecostrat USA

Plymouth, MI

Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

Glen Carbon, IL