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## New energy sources touted

### Copeland gets support from former EPA administrator

By *GINGER GIBSON*  
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Republican candidate for lieutenant governor Charlie Copeland and former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman called for finding sustainable energy sources and promoting in-state research to help the economy grow during a tour of the Delaware Biotechnology Institute on Friday.

Whitman, the former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator, also joined Copeland for a state Republican leadership luncheon.

Whitman said research into alternative fuel sources is necessary, adding that since corn ethanol has proved to be a less-than-perfect option, further development of technologies that make ethanol using switchgrass or plant cellulose are needed.

Critics of switchgrass have said using the plant to power cars and light homes could be a decade away, but Whitman said the possible timeline shouldn't deter governments from funding research.

Copeland's Democratic opponent, Insurance Commissioner Matt Denn, said he supports extending research into biotechnology, and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Jack Markell also supports expanding research.

"I've been down to DBI a number of times, and I think they do wonderful work there in terms of supporting research," Denn said.

"Jack Markell has outlined a pretty specific plan that I look forward to working on."

Whitman threw her support behind Copeland, saying it's important to have a two-party government and for members of the parties to work across political lines to get important goals accomplished.

"We're going to need people who have fiscal responsibility, who understand the importance of balancing budgets, keeping taxes low and helping people to help themselves," Whitman said. "[The Delaware Republican party] is a party that recognizes it's not a sin to work with Democrats if you need to get something done to help the public."

Copeland and Whitman toured the institute, a branch of the University of Delaware that focuses on biotechnology and life sciences research, including the study of alternative fuel sources.

Copeland said Whitman helped to set up New Jersey's biotechnology center that was used as a model to develop Delaware's.

The state's Strategic Fund should be used to promote research like biotechnology and sustainable energy to recruit and retain companies on the cutting edge of energy research, Copeland said.

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"For the last eight years it's been wasted," he said. The fund has been used at failed attempts to retain companies that were going to leave anyway, instead of recruiting new companies, Copeland said.

The candidate said promoting research and development of alternative energy sources would be a goal if he is elected. He pointed to his background in technology -- he got a degree in computer science and physics from Duke and worked for DuPont before taking over his family's printing company.

Copeland also served as the Senate liaison to the Delaware Science and Technology Council that was chaired by Lt. Gov. John Carney. Copeland pointed to Carney's tenure on the Science and Technology Council and said if elected, he would like to assist with similar endeavors.

"As lieutenant governor I will bring a unique skill set," Copeland said.

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