



NEWS RELEASE

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Vermont biomass feasibility studies underway

The State of Vermont and the US Forest Service are conducting preliminary small scale biomass energy feasibility studies for select facilities in Vermont.

The program is intended to expand the consideration and implementation of appropriate scale wood energy projects in Vermont. The effort promotes the sustainable and most efficient use of forest resources to provide renewable energy and accomplish greenhouse gas reduction.

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation is conducting the studies in cooperation with the US Forest Service Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC) under its Woody Energy Technical Assistance Program.

The program was announced at the Annual Vermont School Woodchip and Pellet Users Conference. The application deadline was March 1.

Program managers received 34 applications from a diverse array of facility types, including schools, manufacturing facilities, state- and town-owned buildings, housing and mixed-use facilities across Vermont. These small scale projects are thermal or thermal led combined heat and power proposals. Applications were ranked based on the following criteria:

- Type of current heating fuel
- Average annual fuel bill
- Facility's existing heating and distribution system(s)
- Completeness of the application

Ten facilities were selected to receive biomass pre-feasibility studies based on their applications. The site-specific reports they receive will outline whether or not biomass heating makes sense from a practical perspective. They will include a summary of the wood utilization options, the opportunity for fuel savings and a 30-year life cycle cost analysis.

Facilities selected to receive a Biomass Pre-Feasibility Report include:

- The Academy School, Brattleboro
- Applegate Apartments, Bennington
- Barnet School, Barnet
- Fairfield Center School, Fairfield
- Hardwick Elementary School, Hardwick

- Kazon Building, West Rutland
- Rutland Town School, Rutland
- Sharon Elementary School, Sharon
- Wallingford Elementary School, Wallingford
- West Rutland School, West Rutland

An additional 19 facilities were selected to receive site visits. The site visit will be used to collect additional information and make a final determination about the usefulness of a biomass pre-feasibility study. Additional studies may be completed as appropriate facilities are identified and funding is available.

Facilities selected to receive a site visit include:

- Dummerston Town School District, Dummerston
- Estey Complex, Brattleboro
- Fairfield Community Center, Fairfield
- Fairfield Town Offices, Fairfield
- Farm and Wilderness Foundation, Plymouth
- Flood Brook Union School, Londonderry
- Green Street School, Brattleboro
- Morrisville Elementary School, Morrisville
- Oak Grove School, Brattleboro
- Orange Center School, East Barre
- Peoples Academy, Morrisville
- Robinson Elementary, Starksboro
- State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Regional Office Complex, Essex Jct.
- Swenson Granite Company, Barre
- Wallingford Town Hall, Wallingford
- Washington Village School, Washington
- West Rutland Fire Station, West Rutland
- West Rutland Highway Garage, West Rutland
- West Rutland Town Hall, West Rutland

For more information on the use of wood energy in Vermont, please contact Paul Frederick with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation at 802-241-3698 (paul.frederick@state.vt.us).

For more information on the WERC Wood Energy Technical Assistance Program, please contact Lew McCreery at 304-285-1538 (lmccreery@fs.fed.us).

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