

## Increasing Use of Forests for Energy

### State Foresters Report on Increasing Production of Energy From Wood

#### The Challenge

As the price of nonrenewable energy increases and supplies dwindle, alternative sources are needed to meet demand. Forests produce renewable bioenergy, as well as traditional wood products. As energy consumption in the United States increases, wood is still a cost-effective alternative to other fuels. Development of new technologies for renewable energy could expand the use of woody biomass to meet a range of energy needs. Biomass projects can also stimulate the economy and provide development opportunities. An action plan was needed to advance sustainable forestry and encourage new bioenergy opportunities, and to influence, diversify, and increase energy markets for low grade materials.

#### The Solution

With funding from the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Wood Education and Resource Center, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) prepared a report on how they can reenergize Federal and State efforts to maintain and diversify markets for forest products. The report focuses on the role of the State Foresters, their agencies, and partners in encouraging the use of forest-derived wood and wood used for energy production. The strategies developed promote the use of woody biomass in thermal, electric, and biofuel or bioproducts energy applications.

The report establishes a sound knowledge base on which to build policies and incentives to improve technologies, encourage the development of applications, and promote sustainably managed forests. In addition, the report identifies ways that the State Foresters can serve as informed advocates for the increased use of biomass as an energy source.



*Chipped forest residue is delivered to a biomass electric plant. Photo courtesy of Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC.*

#### Resulting Benefits

##### Renewable bioenergy

- increases energy efficiency,
- reduces dependency on fossil fuel, resulting in a more secure energy future,
- reduces greenhouse gas emissions,
- provides state-based Renewable Portfolio Standards and Production tax credit incentives, and
- provides economic development opportunities for local economies.

#### Sharing Success

The 46-page report, *A Strategy for Increasing the Use of Woody Biomass for Energy*,

- is available on the NASF Web site: <http://www.stateforesters.org/files/NASF-biomass-strategy-FULL-REPORT-2009.pdf>,
- was presented at the 2008 NASF Annual Meeting,
- was distributed to the full NASF membership,
- includes a list of selected Web sites offering information on biomass feedstocks, technologies, and policies.

*Woody biomass is renewable and meets a wide range of energy needs.*



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