

# **Community Wood Energy: Bristol - Bethel and Beyond**



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# Forest Guild

- Guided by the highest Ethical Standards
  - will disassociate if harmful to forest
  - see the forest as possessing intrinsic value
- Promote and practice Excellent Forestry
- Focused on rural communities



# Guiding Philosophies

- Do what you can do in the place where you are with the resources at hand
- Better is Better
- We are one of many guilds building sustainable communities.

# **Principles of Community Wood Energy**

- Sustainable production
- Efficient use
- Local sourcing
- Fair access

# **Community Wood Energy Win-Win-Win-Win**

- Supplies low cost energy solutions to rural communities
- Fosters community engagement in resource decisions
- Promotes sustainability on private and public land base
- Reinforces rural economies, sense of place and sense of community



# **Bristol, Vermont- Mount Abe High School Pilot Project**

- Powerful alignment of assets/commitment
  - Community selected wood fired energy system
  - Student and community involvement
  - Vermont Family Forests
  - NFA- Vermont Town Forest Project, Farm Bill
  - BERC- technological expertise and experience
  - Forest Guild- NE program goals, forestry and funding connections
  - Doris Duke Foundation summer intern
  - Vermont Community Foundation

# **Completing the Bristol Project**

- 1) Conduct harvests on private and municipal lands
- 2) Complete Mt. Abe sustainable sourcing storybook- Caitlin Cusack
- 3) Prompt a community decision making process

# Completing the Bristol Project

- Develop “Introduction to Community Wood Energy Projects for Guild Foresters”- Forest Guild
- Synthesize lessons from Bristol into a model blueprint for additional Community Wood Energy Projects- Forest Guild





# **Preliminary Lessons Learned**

- Community engagement is key- knowledge building and celebration
- Partnerships are crucial- need authentic community contacts to join with outside expertise
- Sufficient community based resources required- internship/contractor- the more connected to local scene the better

# Summary

- Community wood energy projects offer multiple benefits
- Our partnership has experience working together and is learning valuable lessons
- We are poised to transport our new expertise to the Mahoosuc region

