PINCHOT INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION

Wood Bioenergy

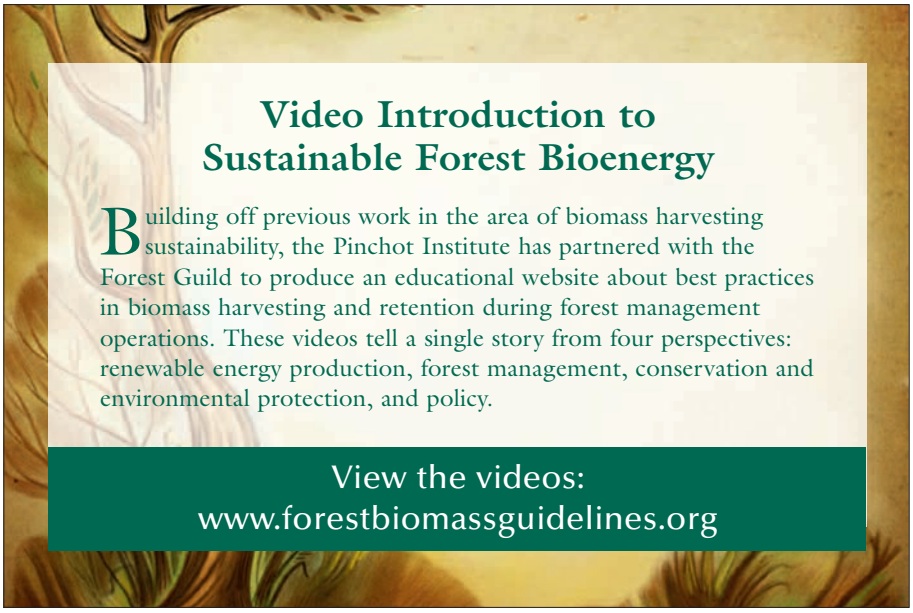
People have drawn energy from wood since gathering around the first campfires millennia ago. As society's demand for energy intensifies, our forests are increasingly being looked to as a source of fuel. While many forest landowners welcome the new revenue and opportunities to use biomass harvests for meeting multiple forest management objectives, communities across the US are asking important questions about the sustainability of wood bioenergy proposals in their local areas:

- How big is too big?
- Will wood energy markets change forest management opportunities?
- Can biomass be sustainably recovered from our forests?
- Do wood bioenergy projects retain and/or create jobs in rural communities?
- Will wood energy markets bolster or compete with existing industries?
- Is wood bioenergy good or bad for environmental quality and our climate?

pinchot.org/bioenergy

American Marten, Tongass NF, Chad Hood

The Pinchot Institute is at the forefront of research, analysis, and education on sustainability issues related to forest bioenergy. Our work seeks to find clear solutions to the challenging questions around the sustainability of wood bioenergy, helping people realize the limits and the potential of this energy source.



Video Introduction to Sustainable Forest Bioenergy

Building off previous work in the area of biomass harvesting sustainability, the Pinchot Institute has partnered with the Forest Guild to produce an educational website about best practices in biomass harvesting and retention during forest management operations. These videos tell a single story from four perspectives: renewable energy production, forest management, conservation and environmental protection, and policy.

View the videos:
www.forestbiomassguidelines.org

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A program of
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Case Study: *Pathways to Sustainability–Meeting the European Biomass Supply Chain Requirements*

Research and analysis on wood energy markets reveals that international trade in wood biomass for bioenergy is expanding. European renewable energy production forecasts suggest significant growth through the next decade with accelerating demand for industrial wood pellets and wood chips from the Southeastern US.

Binding and non-binding European sustainability criteria have led to an array of sustainability initiatives and certification systems endorsed and developed at the country level, some by the biomass industry. While wood from North America is often considered lower risk from a global wood supply perspective, this perception may not exempt US sources from these criteria.

Working at the crossroads of government and corporate policy on both sides of the Atlantic, the Pinchot Institute recently released a report that outlines options for the biomass export sector to avoid controversial sourcing, highlighting ways that companies within this sector can reduce actual or perceived risks to biodiversity, water resources, and other natural resource values. This report describes four potential pathways, each representing a different approach to mitigating environmental risks in the supply chain. These pathways are not mutually exclusive and may be adopted together, depending on the options preferred by producers, allowing biomass exporters to make different sustainability claims. The four pathways described are: *certified forest management*; *controlled and mixed sourcing*; *inspected compliance with stewardship plans and best practices*; and, *uninspected compliance with stewardship plans and practices*.

This project was made possible with major funding provided by the Ford Foundation, USDA Forest Service, Harry R. Hughes Center, Blandin Foundation, H. John Heinz III Center, Meadwestvaco Foundation, Potlach Corporation, California Energy Commission, California Department of Forestry, Forest Guild, Environmental Defense Fund, Manomet, Inc., and the University of Minnesota.

Read the full report:
pinchot.org/pathways

Fostering thoughtful discourse and ensuring that production and procurement of forest-derived biomass occur in a sustainable manner