Pathways to Sustainability

Applying Sustainable Pathways
To Wood Procurement Policies

The Transatlantic Trade in Wood for Energy:
A Dialogue on Sustainability Standards and GHG Emissions
Pinchot Institute for Conservation
October 23 - 24

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“Applying Pathways to Sustainability”

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- UK: 6 million tons from SE US in next 5 – 10 years
- Harvesting for wood energy use will rise from between 54% - 113% by 2050 (USFS)
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- Concerns of sustainability
- Government Policies
  - EUTR Due Diligence
  - UK Renewables Obligation (UK RO)
  - EU RED
  - UK TPP
  - National Procurement Policies
    - CPET
    - TPAC
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Increasing noise from...

• Campaigning ENGOs
  – Dogwood Alliance, NRDC, Greenpeace
Increasing concern from...—Public

• Biomass plant row to reach Downing Street
  Last updated at 14:16, Monday, 02 July 2012

• THE fight to stop a biomass power station coming to Barrow is heading to Downing Street.
• Anti-power station group Furness Opposes Biomass is set to present its petition against plans for the 80MW facility to representatives of prime minister David Cameron on July 12.
• The petition against Centrica’s proposals to build the plant at Roose has so far attracted more than 12,000 signatures and is believed to be the biggest petition ever collected in Furness. The new power station would replace the existing gas-fired Roosecote facility.
• Campaigner, Councillor Ray Guselli, has said the issue has seen an unprecedented response from people in the area.
• He told the Evening Mail: “We are going down to present the petition the Thursday after next. We are restricted to six people going down, as only so many can hand it over to Number 10.
Our study asked, “How Can Companies...

– meet increasing product demands?
– assure/ensure sustainability of the resource?
– reduce the potential risk of environmental degradation?
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Assessed a range of SFM practices and programs in SE US available to family and private forest owners

- Forest certification
- State Forest Stewardship Programs
- Professional Forest Management
- Logger Training
- BMPs
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Assessed these SFM practices and programs available for family/private owners in SE US against...

– Effectiveness in reducing environmental risk?

– Cost barriers for companies and family-forest owners?
Why did we focus on small landowners?

• To paraphrase Willie Sutton “Because that’s where the wood is.”
Family forest owner demographics

- Own 67% of SE commercial forest
- 134 million acres
- 3% have management plans
- 13% have formal FM advice (Europe – 77%)
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• Existing Programs and Practices in SE US

• Certification
• Forest Stewardship Program
• Professional Forest Management
• Logger Training
• BMPS
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• Defining Sustainability – Montreal Process Criteria
  – Report compares SFM programs and practices against:
    – Conservation of Biological Diversity
    – Productive Capacity of Resources
    – Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality
    – Long-term Societal Benefits and Needs
    – Legal Policy and Institutional Frameworks
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Putting It To Practice – Can Different Pathways Have an Impact?

Two Hypothetical Mills

Criteria for Siting

• Convergence of State Hwys
• Near an Interstate
• Railway to ocean port
• Robust state forestry agency
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Selected Sites

- Convergence of roads
- Proximity to interstate highway
- Access to rail line
- Proximity to port
- Timber supply
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Selected Sites

• Lawrenceville, VA
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Selected Sites

- Lawrenceville, VA
- Hazelhurst, GA
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• SFM Acres In 70 Mile Radius of Each Site

• Inventoried the following within radius
  – Traditional Certified Acres
  – Certified Group Acres
  – Forest Stewardship Program Acres
  – Acres Under Professional Forest Management
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What did we find?

– Lawrenceville, VA
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- What did we find?
  - Lawrenceville, VA

- ATFS 272,743 ac.
- FSP 136,223
- Gr. Cert 99,229
- Foresters 45,979
- Total 549,174 ac.
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What did we find?
– Hazelhurst, GA
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• What did we find?
  – Hazelhurst, GA

• ATFS 673,491 ac.
• FSP 217,208
• Gr. Cert 77,204
• Foresters 8,584
• Total 967,903 ac.
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Findings and Conclusions:

There currently is not enough certified wood in the SE US to meet 70% UK TPP recommendations*.

- ATFS: 12,517,911 Acres
- FSC: 472,602
- SFI: 20,736,911

(*CPET Option A)
Findings and Conclusions:

There are substantial acres under some type of SFM program or practice within the operating radii.

Lawrenceville, VA  
549,174 acres

Hazelhurst, GA  
967,903
Findings and Conclusions:

Plenty of available acres to grow SFM in the SE US.

Lawrenceville, VA  
6,549,326 total acres in radius

Hazelhurst, GA  
5,974,523 total acres in radius
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Recommendations:
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• Facilities, customers and policy makers should look toward other sources of SMFs.
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• Choose the pathway “menu” right for your company
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• Facilities, customers and policy makers should look toward other sources of SMFs.
• Choose the pathway right for your company
• Consider non-traditional certification
  – Group certification
  – En masse certification (e.g. AL FSO, MS Sec. 16)
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Recommendations:

- Facilities, customers and policy makers should look toward other sources of SMFs.
- Choose the pathway right for your company
- Consider non-traditional certification
- Incentivize SFM for FFO and other private owners
  - Seedlings, forest management advice, mgt. plans, etc.
  - Green premiums (e.g. GREC)
Thank you!

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