Partners

US Forest Service, Centers for Urban & Interface Forestry

Cooperative agreements with:

• University of Florida, School of Forest Resources & Conservation
• Southern States Energy Board (SSEB)

• Also involved: UF Food & Resource Economics, UF Agriculture and Biological Engineering, Southern Regional Cooperative Extension, and private consultants
1) Increase awareness and knowledge about using woody biomass for energy production

2) Foster communication, collaboration, cooperation among community leaders, biomass suppliers and potential users, forest managers, and others about the possibilities of bioenergy

3) Provide outreach strategies to communities as they begin to discuss new opportunities
Question:

How can information best be presented to facilitate its incorporation into decisions by local governments and industry?
Program Products

• General Technical Report
• Biomass Ambassador Guide
  – Outreach Guide
  – 16 Fact Sheets
  – 14 Case Studies
  – 13 Economic Profiles
  – Presentations
• CD, Web site:
  www.interfacesouth.org/woodybiomass

All outreach materials were designed based on public perceptions research and pilot tests.
Wood to Energy

This project aims to increase community understanding and discussion about the possibility of using wood for energy in the South. We are generating outreach materials for Biomass Ambassadors to use in communities across the region. The materials are currently in draft form and we are seeking input and suggestions for improving them.

Population growth in forested areas across the South could generate potential interest and a ready supply of woody biomass for energy. People often have a variety of questions about using wood for energy, many of which are answered in our Fact Sheets. It often helps to see how others are using wood; our Case Studies illustrate 14 examples of utilities, industries, and facilities that use wood for energy. A number of communities in the South have a reasonable potential to sustainably harvest enough wood to power a municipal building, hospital, industry, or several thousand homes. To find out more about how much wood some communities could economically harvest and transport, click here.

Biomass Ambassador Guide:
- Table of Contents (PDF)
- Foreword and Acknowledgments (PDF)
- Outreach Guide
- Fact Sheets
- Case Studies
Selected Counties for Community Case Studies

Legend
- Selected Counties
- 13 SE US States

Matthew Langholtz, July 2006
Supply Curves

$/MMbtu

Trillion BTUs Per Year

Megawatts

Dry tons/year

Truckloads/year

Homes powered/year
Supply Curves

The diagram illustrates the supply curves for different energy sources. The vertical axis represents the cost in $/MMBtu, ranging from $0.00 to $3.50. The horizontal axis indicates the energy production capacity, measured in 5 Trillion BTUs per year. The graph shows two distinct curves:

- The green curve represents the supply from Buncombe Co., NC.
- The red curve represents the supply from Orange Co., NC.

The data points are marked at specific energy production levels, with corresponding costs and other metrics such as Megawatts, Dry tons/year, Truckloads/year, and Homes powered/year.
Survey Results: Attitudes

• Pre-forum
  – 43% of participants felt positive or highly positive about a wood-to-energy proposal

• Post-forum
  – 81% of respondents felt positive or highly positive when options they chose as favorable are included in the proposal
    • Options include wood sources, transportation methods, and forest management strategies
Conclusions

When:
- Issues are complex and involve multiple viewpoints
- Citizens are concerned but not too knowledgeable
- Citizen input will create better solutions

Community forums may be helpful to:
- Bring the experts and citizens together
- Create a neutral atmosphere conducive to learning
- Help people make meaningful contributions to community decisions