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**CONFERENCE TO INTRODUCE USE OF WOOD BIOMASS AS ALTERNATIVE
HEATING FUEL FOR NORTH COUNTRY AND ADIRONDACK FACILITIES**

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Energy Smart Park Initiative (E\$PI) announce the North Country Woody Biomass Conference on May 13th, 9am-4pm, at "The Wild Center" in Tupper Lake. The conference costs \$40. Preregistration is required and space is limited.

Woody biomass for heating is a renewable and carbon neutral source of energy that is locally produced from on-going timber harvests and sawmill/forest products manufacturing operations.

The May 13th Conference will feature expert speakers on biomass boiler technology options, chip and pellet fuel supplies, wood energy and energy conservation, emissions and permitting issues, case studies of facilities currently using biomass heating, and financial assistance.

This conference is part of a grant-supported program for municipal and institutional facilities in the 14-county North Country/Adirondack region that are interested in exploring the feasibility of using locally produced wood to reduce annual heating costs. The program provides matching grants covering 75 percent of the cost of studies to assess the feasibility of utilizing woody biomass for heat in qualifying facilities. Studies will evaluate costs, savings and site specific engineering issues.

Institutional and municipal facilities can participate in one or more of several activities planned for 2008 that will serve to educate decision makers and others about biomass boiler technology and the potential economic and social benefits that using wood energy can provide. Many facilities in the Northeast have already converted from fossil fuels to biomass heating systems, and are currently realizing these benefits. The purpose of this project is to catalyze the same in the North Country. In addition, biomass energy can provide a supplement to "green initiatives" that facilities may be undertaking.

Space is still available for interested facilities managers and others. Members of the press are also encouraged to attend. For more information and to register, please call 1-866-260-4837.

More information about the project, the conference schedule and registration form, and an application form for a feasibility study may be downloaded from the Energy Smart Park Initiative web site (www.energysmartpark.org).

The E\$PI Steering Committee includes: The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks, Adirondack Sustainable Communities, Adirondack North Country Association, Community Power Network, Community Energy Services/North Country Energy Smart Communities, and the Building Codes Assistance Project/Alliance to Save Energy.