



North Country Woody Biomass Alternative Energy Feasibility Project for Municipal and Institutional Facilities



The Opportunity: The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Adirondack Energy Smart Park Initiative (E\$PI) are administering a grant program for municipal and institutional facilities that are interested in exploring the feasibility of using locally produced wood to reduce annual heating costs. It is expected that colleges, prisons, schools, municipal buildings, and many other small- to medium-scale energy facilities will benefit most from this program because they are large consumers of fossil fuels and the buildings involved often meet the unique requirements needed to utilize wood for fuel.

Potential Savings on Heating Costs by Using Local Wood: Every year, North Country building managers spend millions of dollars on fossil fuels to heat their buildings, many of which leak heated air throughout the harsh winter season. The DEC and E\$PI have developed a program to study ways to convert some facilities to the use of locally abundant and sustainable woody biomass fuels for heat, while also educating facility managers about opportunities to dramatically cut energy costs through energy conservation measures.

Program Activities Overview:

- DEC will provide 75 percent of the cost of a study to assess the feasibility of utilizing woody biomass for heat in qualifying facilities. Each study will evaluate costs, savings and site specific engineering issues.
- Conference on May 13th in Tupper Lake, NY that will provide and overview of biomass energy and its many opportunities. **Topics will include:**
 - Available boiler technology options (e.g. wood chip systems, pellet systems)
 - Operations and maintenance requirements
 - Fuel availability
 - Public relations issues
 - Case studies of facilities in the northeast using wood for heat
 - Emissions/permitting issues
 - Linking wood energy with other conservation opportunities
- Field trip(s) to facilities currently utilizing wood for heating.

Renewable, Sustainable Energy: Woody biomass for heating is a locally produced product from on-going timber harvests and sawmill/forest products manufacturing operations. It is a “renewable” and “carbon neutral” source of heating energy because, unlike fossil fuels, the carbon released from burning wood is recaptured by the growth of new trees. Also, many sources of wood harvested in the North Country are certified as “sustainably managed” through various recognized forest certification programs. Woody biomass costs less than fossil fuels on a Btu basis and is a viable alternative for many buildings in New York’s North Country.

Local Wood Energy
*Offering the potential for
facility energy cost savings
and improved forest
management and timber
product utilization in the
North Country*

For More Information Contact:

NYS DEC Forest Utilization Program
518-402-9415
www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4963.html

The Adirondack Energy Smart Park Initiative
1-866-260-4837
www.energysmartpark.org