



NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release
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Sept. 21, 2010

Ministry of Forests and Range

BIOMASS GUIDE HELPS TURN WOOD WASTE INTO CLEAN ENERGY

VICTORIA – As part of National Forest Week, an updated information guide was released today to help stakeholders and investors develop bioenergy projects in British Columbia using wood waste and other biomass resources.

“The BC Biomass Guide provides all of the necessary tools for those interested in developing biomass projects,” said the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification. “By investing in this guide, our Government is encouraging green technology solutions, allowing us to be more energy-efficient and creating new economic opportunities.”

“One of my key priorities is to improve utilization by turning what was previously considered waste and debris into bioenergy,” said Minister of Forests and Range Pat Bell. “The BC Biomass Guide is an excellent primer for First Nations, small communities, municipalities, and industry interested in pursuing bioenergy opportunities.”

“Bioenergy production will help us meet our future energy demands, as well as encourage economic growth and job creation in rural communities,” said Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Bill Bennett. “This guide supports our energy objectives by assisting new projects that convert wood waste into clean energy.”

In addition to bioenergy stakeholders in British Columbia, the information provided in the BC Biomass Guide is of interest to potential investors and partners outside the province.

The guide covers a wide range of biomass topics including technologies, markets, financing, consultation and partnerships with First Nations, energy sales, and ownership models. Initially published in 2007, it has been updated to reflect recently launched projects, new policy directions, funding program changes, and advancements in technologies and applications.

Funding to update the guide was provided by the BC Bioenergy Network and Western Economic Diversification Canada, as well as the Northern Rural and Remote Communities Green Heat Initiative and the Resources North Association.

“The BC Bioenergy Network is pleased to support this initiative to ensure the rapid advancements that have taken place the last few years in the B.C. bioenergy sector are reflected in this comprehensive guide,” said BC Bioenergy Network executive director Michael Weedon.

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The guide directly supports the BC Bioenergy Strategy and its goal to build bioenergy partnerships that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen B.C.'s long-term competitiveness, and achieve electricity self-sufficiency for the province.

The BC Biomass Guide is available online at:
<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/nfw/bioenergy-guide-2010.pdf> as well as
<http://bcbioenergy.ca/home/>

National Forest Week 2010 runs from Sept. 19-25 across Canada. Minister Bell's message and other interesting forestry information is available at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/pab/nfw/

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A backgrounder follows.

Media Contact: Cheekwan Ho
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Forests and Range
250 387-8482

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BACKGROUND

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FUNDING PARTNERS FOR THE BC BIOMASS GUIDE

BC Bioenergy Network

Established in April 2008 with a \$25-million grant from the provincial government, the BC Bioenergy Network is an industry-led association that acts as a catalyst for deploying near-term bioenergy technologies. It also organizes mission-driven research for the development and demonstration of sustainable technologies to build a world-class bioenergy capability in B.C.

Western Economic Diversification Canada

Western Economic Diversification Canada is a federal government department that works with the provinces, industry associations and communities to promote the development and diversification of the western economy, co-ordinates federal economic activities in the West and represents the interests of western Canadians in national decision-making.

Resources North Association

Natural Resource Canada's Forest Communities Program awarded Resources North a five-year funding agreement in 2007. The organization works to help communities in the development of tools and techniques to meet challenges created by major changes in the resource sectors.

Northern Rural and Remote Communities Green Heat Initiative

The Northern Rural and Remote Communities Green Heat Initiative facilitates the development of the green-heat sector in rural and remote northern British Columbia. Green heat refers to renewable energy technologies that can be applied to space-heating and cooling in residential and commercial buildings. Funding is provided by the federal government, provincial government and industry. Project partners and supporters include Community Futures, First Nations, industry, economic development organizations, and potential clients.

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