



Appalachian Wood Energy Innovations Conference

Asheville, North Carolina
August 24 - 26, 2016

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, 100 RESORT DRIVE, ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Conference Background and Why You Should Attend

The primary goal of the Appalachian Wood Energy Innovations Conference is to bring various stakeholders together that have an interest in developing renewable biomass markets in a region heavily dependent on fossil fuel resources. It is not a question of whether there is enough biomass but whether there is a strong enough network or supply chain to tackle the challenges that a biomass industry will face including harvesting challenges in a dynamic landscape, financing difficulties for suppliers and producers, public concerns on environmental impacts, the decreasing support of favorable national and local tax policies and incentives, and the current cost of traditional fossil fuel alternatives such as natural gas. Communities within the Appalachian region historically have been energy independent as the region contains a diverse set of natural resources including woody biomass, coal, and hydropower.

The energy landscape is changing as national policy seeks to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from the power industry with a campaign to increase the national share of

electricity from renewable energy sources. Local communities with an abundance of biomass resources have the opportunity to diversify their energy mix, increase energy security, and create local economies. The emergence of bioenergy facilities either for power or fuel creates new market opportunities for forest industry byproducts such as logging residues and mill wastes. Sustainable biomass markets provide opportunities for landowners to better manage working forests through thinnings, improving wildlife habitat, or reducing hazardous fuel loads. Biomass markets offer an ideal solution to diversify the energy mix for a region that has been traditionally energy self-reliant.

JOIN US FOR THIS FORUM ON APPALACHIAN REGION RENEWABLE ENERGY

Hear from industry, federal agency and university experts on woody biomass policies and incentives, ongoing research and pilot projects, supply chain challenges, environmental impacts and benefits, and market development opportunities for using wood as an energy source or bioproduct in the Appalachian Region.



Conference Highlights

- Keynote address by US Congressman Mark Meadows of the 11th District of North Carolina
- Overview of the economic and energy landscape and how it has changed in the southern Appalachian region
- Typical biomass projects and wood energy market opportunities
- Social perspectives from private forest landowners and rural communities on wood energy
- Procuring biomass in a challenging landscape from private and federal forestlands
- Preliminary results from WERC grant, "Appalachian and Foothills Energy Markets"
- Adding biomass to the portfolio – utility generation management and cost perspective
- Sustainable biomass markets and environmental benefits
- CFE credit hours for professional natural resource managers

Optional Events

- Half-day tour on August 24th at the DuPont State Forest with special presentations pertaining to woody biomass harvesting. Van transportation and box lunch is provided, seating is limited.
- Evening social and mountain style dinner at Buxton Hall in downtown Asheville on August 24th.

Registration Details

- The Full Conference Registration fee of \$250 includes the optional DuPont State Forest Tour on August 24th, daily continental breakfast, morning and afternoon break service on August 25th and 26th. Luncheon and full reception are included on August 25th.
- Dinner and networking in downtown Asheville at Braxton Hall on August 24th is \$30. Transportation is provided through the Crowne Plaza's hotel shuttle service. Space limited.

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Conference Sponsors

Get your organization's position of bioenergy in front of conference attendees by becoming a sponsor organization. Conference sponsorships are \$750 each and include your organization's logo on the conference website, program, and signs on site. A complimentary conference registration is included for the organization's representative. We invite you to visit the website for full details at biomassforestry.org

Conference Organizers

Helene Cser, Conference Chair and Extension Forestry Associate with North Carolina State University and Brian Becker, Conference Co-Chair and Program Manager for the Virginia Community Wood Energy Program at the Center of Natural Capital, collaborated with a diverse planning committee representing members from associations, governmental agencies, nonprofit groups and academia. NC State University's Extension Forestry program is providing registration and logistical support for this conference.

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