

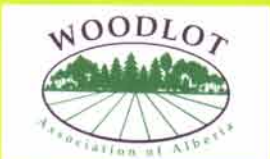
Western Farm & Forest

Sustainable Land Management Opportunities

SPRING 2008

New tax rules
for woodlots
in the works

Changes to
crop insurance



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Report on wood heating to be put into practice

By GEN HANDLEY

A report exploring the potential of Alberta's woody biomass has given rise to two pilot programs in Alberta communities this summer.

Buildings in Camrose County and in Clearwater County will be equipped with boilers to generate energy from the burning of excess wood.

"I see this as just the beginning," says Toso Bozic, an agroforestry and woodlot extension specialist who helped create the report *Energy from Wood Biomass Combustion in Rural Alberta Applications*. "Eventually I see pretty well every community in Alberta using wood for heating energy."

The county building in Camrose, the county building in Clearwater and possibly the recreation building in Clearwater will be heated by wood biomass.

Created under the Woodlot Extension Program of Alberta and the Agricultural Policy Framework, the report looks at the opportunities of using wood as an energy source for rural Alberta.

"The results of the report are extremely positive because it shows how wood can be used as an energy resource in Alberta," says Harald Welling, one of the authors of the report. "It shows that it is possible."

Bozic says the concept is not to show how to produce energy that can be sold to the larger market, but instead is to provide cheaper energy to small communities and individual farms.

Along with the economic savings of not having to rely on natural gas for heating, the environmental benefits are just as substantial.

Welling says that carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by up to 2,900 tonnes if a building uses a wood-burning system producing 3.5 megawatts.

Bozic and Welling both say that the wood used first will be leftover wood from construction and forestry operations, but it is definitely possible to sustainably harvest woodlot trees for

Woodlots ally moves north

By GEN HANDLEY

After three busy with Alberta Agriculture and Food, organization development specialist Martine Bolinger is leaving the department as well as the Woodlot Extension Program, a project she helped plan and facilitate.

"The past three years have been great," she said. "And we've had so much fun."

Bolinger says the people she met are what made the past few years so memorable.

"It's always been about the clients, the landowners, and their stories," Bolinger says. "Learning about why they make the management decisions they do and about their interests - I find that especially in woodlots, there's an interesting bunch of people."

When Bolinger speaks of the interesting people she's met, she is also speaking about all her colleagues in the department.

"Really motivated, passionate people work for the department, especially for the Woodlot Extension Program," she says. In addition to all the people she's come across, Bolinger will also look back fondly on the trips she made to people's woodlots.

"Those days away from the office were fantastic," she says. "Out in the field learning new stuff - it was just a variety of experiences. I guess now I'm going to be one of those people



out there," she adds, referring to her move to a farm near Eaglesham.

Naturally, it has trees on it.

Bolinger believes there's strong value in the Woodlot Extension Program and hopes it continues to serve woodlot owners in the province.

"Wood is important to Alberta's sustainability and energy independence, especially as a heat source," she says. "There's so much we can do with the trees we have and with planting more trees all over the province. I think almost every landowner has room for more trees."

Woodlot Extension Program

heating as well.

"It can be done," Bozic says.

The extension specialist adds that the technology they are looking at is 90 to 97 per cent efficient so there is little-to-no noxious emissions from the wood combustion.

The report also looks at how a wood fuel supply chain would develop with increased demand and also possible barriers such as fuel supply infrastructure, market perception and current practices of leaving forest wood waste on the forest floor.

For more information call Toso Bozic at (780) 908-6905 or Harald Welling at (780) 908-6905.



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Alberta
Community Wood Energy
Demonstration Project

The Installation
Of a Wood Biomass Heating System
In the Camrose County Office Complex



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