



# Woodlot Extension Program

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### Report calls for integration of wood-biomass into the Alberta energy equation.

The Woodlot Extension Program of Alberta and the renewal chapter of the Ag Policy Framework is pleased to present *Energy From Wood Biomass Combustion in Rural Alberta Applications*. It is an introduction to understanding the potential for wood-biomass in Alberta. The report explores the positive economic and environmental impacts of carbon neutral heat and power, possible from modern wood burning technology.

### Rural communities can gain greater energy independence with wood biomass.

The report's purpose is to provide information to assist the energy development efforts in the Province of Alberta in assessing "Wood-Biomass" as a viable energy alternative in rural applications in Alberta. The main objective is to investigate the existing parameters for the promotion and adoption of efficient biomass technologies to fire commercial and industrial heating systems at the individual business to network scale. The declining supply of affordable fossil fuels and growing ecological and geopolitical concerns linked to their utilization has increasingly focused public attention on renewable energy sources, including biomass.

### Alberta can lead by removing barriers and demonstrating the utility of wood heat.

Beyond the technology and fuel supply the authors, Harald Welling and Thom Shaw, give an overview of the wood fuel supply chain. Asking the question - how would the wood chip supply chain likely develop as demand increases? The report advocates an inclusive and holistic approach to industry development that includes rural landowners, forest industry and the citizens of Alberta. A process for preliminary project assessments is included and potential barriers to adoption of these technologies are explored. Some of the barriers highlighted include: wood fuel supply infrastructure, market perception, user bias, lack of renewable energy training, economic barrier, policy and regulations, subsidies and current practice of leaving forest waste on the forest floor.

To view the full report: *Energy From Wood Biomass Combustion in Rural Alberta Applications*

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa11648](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/apa11648)

**Contact:** Toso Bozic - Agroforestry/Woodlot Extension Specialist  
(780) 415-2681 or [toso.bozic@gov.ab.ca](mailto:toso.bozic@gov.ab.ca)  
WEP online: <http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca/diversify>

**Harald Welling** - Consultant  
983 Burrows Crescent NW  
Edmonton, AB, T6R 2L1  
(780) 908-6905 [biogenx@telus.net](mailto:biogenx@telus.net)



-30-

RENEWAL.