



# WOOD<sup>to</sup> ENERGY

## Outreach Program

Energy security and climate change concerns are encouraging many communities to reconsider their energy use and sources. In the South, where forests are in close proximity to expanding urban areas, woody biomass may be an appropriate energy resource. InterfaceSouth of the U.S. Forest Service and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation of the University of Florida have developed an outreach program to help communities discuss the possibility of using woody biomass for energy production. The program is jointly funded by the U.S. Departments of Energy and Agriculture.

The overall objectives of the program are to

- 1) increase awareness and knowledge about using woody biomass for energy production;
- 2) foster communication and collaboration among community leaders, potential wood fuel users, wood suppliers, forest managers, and others about the possibilities of using bioenergy in their communities; and
- 3) provide outreach strategies to communities as they begin to discuss new options for energy resources.

The following outreach materials are included to enhance community discussions:

**Biomass Ambassador Guide** provides suggestions and materials for conducting outreach programs, such as community forums, symposia, or a media campaign, to introduce woody biomass to community leaders and citizens. Also includes a slide presentation, sample press releases, FAQs, and survey questions.

**Fact Sheets** provide information about the environmental, economic, and technical aspects of using

wood for electricity and combined heat and power. Common concerns expressed by members of the public, such as air quality, carbon neutrality, and forest management, are addressed.

**Case Studies** give an in-depth glimpse at some of the utilities, industries, and schools that are using wood to provide heat, power, or electricity. Urban waste wood, sawdust and scraps from manufacturing, and forestry residue are successfully used to generate power.

**Community Economic Profiles** explore the amount of wood available in 28 selected counties in the South, estimate the cost to transport that wood to a central location, and estimate the regional impact to the local economy of using wood in 20 and 40 MW facilities.

**Wood to Energy: Using Southern Interface Fuels for Bioenergy** is a Forest Service General Technical Report that provides a summary of the current literature and perspectives on using wood for energy in the southern wildland-urban interface. This publication is due to be released in late 2008.

These materials and more can be found at:

<http://www.interfacesouth.org/woodybiomass>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

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