



BIOPOWER

Reducing greenhouse gasses — the natural way



Biomass simply means “natural material” — trees, plants, agricultural waste and other organic materials. Biomass energy — or biopower — uses these natural materials to generate electricity in a way that’s cleaner and more efficient than most other generation techniques. Biomass generating facilities typically use natural bio-fuels to produce steam, which drives a turbine that turns a generator to produce electricity.

THE BENEFITS OF BIOPOWER



- Biopower is twice as effective at reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) as other forms of renewable energy — and helps reduce America’s dependence on fossil fuel generating facilities.
- Biopower is “carbon neutral” and far cleaner than fossil fuels, which add to global warming by releasing previously trapped carbon into our atmosphere when burned.
- Biopower reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 15.2 million tons annually, while diverting over 25.3 million tons of organic materials that would otherwise decompose, be open burned, or accumulate in the forest as overgrowth material.
- Biopower improves the health of American forests and reduces firefighting costs by clearing millions of tons of forest waste annually — which otherwise would be fuel for deadly forest fires.
- America’s biopower industry provides 18,000 jobs nationwide — many in rural areas.
- Biopower producers contribute millions to local tax bases each year.



A GROWING INDUSTRY

- Biopower is expanding rapidly in the U.S. and is now a \$10 billion industry — with 80 facilities in 20 states generating 15 million mwh of power annually. Most of this power is sold into the nation’s electricity grid, helping to meet America’s rising demand for clean energy.
- Biopower is now the nation’s second-most popular form of renewable energy, providing electricity for two million American homes.
- In addition to providing clean energy, biopower protects our environment by preventing scrap lumber, agricultural cuttings, forest debris and other organic waste from being open dumped in landfills.
- By “recycling” organic materials, biopower provides another revenue source for America’s agricultural and forest product industries.