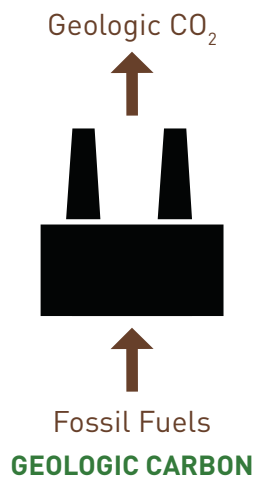


BIOMASS: A CARBON CYCLE

ABOVE: Bioenergy fuels recycle carbon that is already part of the atmosphere in a three step cycle: Biomass absorbs carbon dioxide as it grows. When biomass burns for heat or power, it simply releases the same CO₂ it absorbed in the forest. The basic cycle of growth, combustion and regrowth is carbon neutral.

BELOW: Burning fossil fuels releases geologic carbon into the atmosphere that has been trapped under the Earth's surface for millions of years. Unlike using biomass for energy, burning fossil fuels adds additional carbon to the atmosphere.



WHAT IS BIOENERGY?

It is the energy you use for electricity, heat, and transportation fuel that is made from biomass - an important energy resource that can be produced from organic matter, such as plants, or residuals from sustainably managed, healthy forests. Biomass used for energy is a smart utilization of this resource and prevents it from being discarded in landfills, left to decompose on forest floors or burned inefficiently.

Unlike using fossil fuels to produce energy, which releases carbon from permanent storage, plants and trees used for bioenergy reabsorb the carbon released, which is a net positive for our environment.

Bioenergy is a net positive for our economy too. Together, our industries employ tens of thousands of Americans, mostly in rural areas, working to bring bioenergy to you.

Learn more at www.bioenergyday.org.

BIOENERGYWORKS



www.usabiomass.org



www.pelletheat.org