



Pellets Included in the Province's Energy Blueprint

Sussex —(Oct. 22, 2011) Fostering the development and use of wood biomass, especially pellets, is one of the steps detailed in the Department of Energy's recently released Energy Blueprint, which lays out a 10-year vision for the energy sector. Wood biomass is to have a role in achieving the Province's goal to increase renewable energy generation.

Fundy Model Forest General Manager Nairn Hay is pleased to see the Province's commitment to develop and implement supporting policies to optimize the use of wood-based biomass and the increased use of pellets from wood and agricultural waste included in the action plan for the next three years.

Fundy Model Forest has been working with the New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners, the Department of Energy, and other stakeholders for several years to explore how to increase the use of wood biomass and identify barriers. In May 2011 Fundy Model Forest, the Department of Energy and the Canadian BioEnergy Centre at University of New Brunswick Fredericton co-hosted a workshop addressing the Current state of pellet/biomass industry in New Brunswick and beyond from many aspects: producers, supply chain, capacity, production, resource, technology and price.

"A number of issues were identified immediately following that workshop and are included and addressed in the action plan," Fundy Model Forest General Manager Nairn Hay said.

There are currently no standards for pellet production in Canada. The Province's Energy Action Plan states that there is an opportunity for New Brunswick to lead in the development and expansion of the pellet industry by adopting pellet standards, possibly in conjunction with other Atlantic provinces.

This year, Fundy Model Forest is supporting work at the Canadian Bio-Energy Centre at University of New Brunswick Fredericton to analyze pellets produced in New Brunswick, testing for content and emissions. "We hope this work will contribute to the creation of standards," Hay said.

The priorities identified to develop renewable energy resources, include

- developing a provincial biomass resource map;
- promoting and distributing wood-based pellet industry research and best practices;
- identifying distributed generation, district heating and cogeneration best practices; and
- encouraging further investigation of bio-fuel development.

The Action Plan item dealing specifically with wood-based biomass resources identifies several initial priorities:

- stringent efficiency, emission and quality standards for central heating systems;

- increasing consumer confidence by developing NB Pellet standards that meet or exceed those proposed by the Pellet Fuels Institute;
- a quality assurance and compliance program;
- protocols for the handling, transportation and storage of pellets;
- continued and expanded use of wood based biomass as a heating source for government buildings, including schools and hospitals;
- certification requirements for pellet system installers;
- enhanced feedstock source considerations, such as minimal certification levels, quality assurance, and sustainable forest practices;
- incentive programs through Efficiency NB (both residential and commercial);
- increased domestic demand for biofuels that complements government and other stakeholders' efforts to develop the value-added wood sector in New Brunswick;
- policies to support increased use of wood biomass for combined heat and power, or thermal applications; and
- biomass district heating applications.

The New Brunswick Energy Blueprint can be downloaded from the Department of Energy's website at <http://www.gnb.ca/0085/index-e.asp> or <http://www.gnb.ca/0085/index-f.asp>

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