

Pellet-based Heating Study Has Started

Testing is now underway to evaluate the efficacy of pilot-fired heating at a community centre near Fredericton. The assessments are being carried out by the University of New Brunswick's Wood Science & Technology Centre/Canadian BioEnergy Centre in co-operation with the Keswick Valley Community Recreation Centre. The Centre recently installed a Okofen PES 36 boiler system, replacing a base board heating system, which had in turn replaced oil heating. Researchers will be able to compare heating costs across the three systems.

One of the objectives of the emission tests will be to determine the amount of particulate matter released into the atmosphere. Project proponent Ron Smith has been consulting with the NB Lung Association regarding emission concerns.

The New Brunswick Department of Energy and the NB Federation of Woodlot Owners, along with Fundy Model Forest, have been collaborating on this on-going effort to encourage pellet-based heat and energy. Energy NB recently provided additional funding to the Canadian BioEnergy Centre for the pilot study.