



## MISSIONS TO CANADA

### **Finnish mission to Northern Ontario and Quebec**

October 8-10, 2008

Following CANBIO's annual conference, a consortium of Finnish companies and organizations headed to three forestry communities in northern Ontario and Quebec that were seeking expertise and equipment to start-up biomass projects. "All the destinations were handpicked by CANBIO as being the most ready for early development. They've been discussing bioenergy development for a long time," said CANBIO President Doug Bradley who coordinated the visit.

The Wood Energy Network, or [Wenet](#), led the consortium that included:

[Kesla](#): offers technology for harvesting, forwarding and chipping of forest energy.

[Antti Ranta](#): offers modern and flexible trailers designed for wood chips/pellets transportation.

[Megakone](#): offers compact size small scale (< 1 MW) biomass boilers and containers (turnkey solutions).

[Andritz](#): offers large scale (> 30 MW) BFB biomass boilers (cogen, industry).

[Joensuu Science Park](#): specialized in joint venture and other project generation.

[Nakkila Boilers](#): an experienced turnkey supplier of 1-10MW quality boilers for biofuel heating plants. Nakkila has developed a flexible modular concept, allowing a wide range of fuels with different moisture contents.

The visits started off with tours and overviews of existing facilities and resources by local developers, followed by intense discussions with the suite of Finnish experts on how the area's resources could be turned into a sustainable, bioenergy business hub. Highlights of each regional tour are below:

### **Hearst, Opatatika and Kapuskasing**

Led by Daniel Sigouin, Economic Development Officer for Hearst, the Finns were given a tour of the region. In Kapuskasing, Adèle Bordeleau Economic Development Officer for the city, showed delegates forestry operations, a massive hog fuel pile, a willow plantation and potential sites for bioenergy projects. Paul Nadeau, Economic Development Officer for Opatatika hosted a lunch in his community, and explained its needs. A networking dinner in Hearst, with local companies, contractors and economic development officers, wrapped up the day.

The second day was devoted to intense discussions and presentations between the Finns, regional economic development agencies and private industry. Ideas for developing a "Bio-park," which integrates biomass technologies ranging from heat and power, to renewable chemicals and fuels - and compliments existing local industries like sawmills, furniture manufacturers and plywood plants - was seen by both sides as having huge potential. "A biomass park could become a splendid pilot project to demonstrate integrated use of local biomass resources in Canada," says Jouko Parviainen, who heads Wenenet.

Regional economic development offices are working closely with Wenenet to undertake a feasibility study for the project. Some funding could be secured through the \$3.6 million Hearst Regional Green Technology Center which is being developed, but Sigouin is seeking additional partnerships and funding from both private and public sectors.

### **Témiscaming, Béarn and Ville-Marie**

Organized by Francis Dessureault, industrial development advisor for the region, known as Duhamel-Ouest, the delegation visited biomass sites near three communities. Starting in Témiscaming, Claude Brisson, president of [Écoflamme Inc.](#), a local company involved in developing pellet projects, gave delegates an

overview of its recent activities and projects in the region. A tour of new harvested forest sites followed and afterwards the Finns shared their expertise on round wood harvesting and biomass disposal.

On the second day, the Finns were guided around the municipality of Béarn by mayor Luc Lalonde. He guided them on a tour of buildings which the region wants to integrate into a district-heating network fed by biomass-fired boilers. The nearby community of Ville-Marie is seeking to start a similar biomass district-heating project, and the Finnish delegation was shown around by Francis Dessureault. A district heating feasibility study currently being undertaken by the Témiscaming Development Corporation was also presented by Dessureault. Presentations by Finnish companies and an intense discussion of best development possibilities took place in the afternoon.

"The expertise and experience offered by the Finns was very interesting. I'm talking from my point of view and the regional one," says Claude Brisson of Écoflamme. Regional officers and Wenet are continuing to share knowledge, and for his part, Brisson says Écoflamme will definitely do business with at least one of the Finnish companies. "We started negotiations with two of the companies for possible partnership and one of them, MHG, has exactly the computer program we need for biomass harvesting."

### **Matapédia, Mont-Joli, Amqui, Causapsca**

The visit to the Matapédia region was led by Yoland Légaré of the 76-member Coopérative forestière de la Matapédia. The cooperative was one of the driving forces behind the current \$1.3 million conversion of the Amqui Hospital's heating system to a wood-fired biomass boiler that is planned to heat a number of major municipal buildings in the region. The Finns were shown around the hospital and given a presentation of the project. Following a lunch with Amqui's mayor, the Finns were guided around Causapsca and told of their plans to build district and central heating projects in the community. In the evening, the Finns gave presentations on each of the company's technologies, best harvesting and supply chain practices from Finland and key success factors for biomass heating projects.

At the end of all three tours, the Finns invited local communities and companies to their own region of Joensuu next May - to tour long-standing small, medium and large-scale bioenergy boilers, an integrated pellet facility, district heating facilities and harvesting and production operations. CANBIO is helping to organize the tour, and places are filling up quickly. If you're interested in taking part, please contact [Douglas Bradley](#).

### **Austrian mission to Northern Ontario June 21-22, 2007**

On the heels of the Ontario Standard Offer Program to boost bioenergy development Christopher Rees (VP: Ontario Region, President: Suthey-Holler) led two missions to Northern Ontario in 2007. Nine Austrian companies came to Sturgeon Falls and North Bay, and after presentations they held one-on-one business meetings with prospective partners and interested parties from Northern Ontario. Austria plays a leading role in bioenergy in Europe.

### **Finnish mission to Timmins, Ontario September 10-11, 2007**

Finnish companies and organizations came to Timmins for presentations, and one-on-one meetings. They included leaders in biomass harvesting technology such as John Deere, Kesla, Terra Patris, Pentin Paya and Metla, and also leaders in community-scale heat and power equipment such as Metso Power, Megakone, MHG Systems, and Hermia.

[BACK TO CANBIO HOME PAGE](#)