



Canadian Bioenergy Association
1769 St. Laurent Boulevard, Suite 318
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 5X7

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 August 2007

Throwing a lifeline to Atlantic Canada's forest industry

Canadians don't like wasting leftovers – especially when it comes to forests. “Canada has over 16 million tonnes of old bark sitting in piles, the bioenergy equivalent of Alberta's tar sands, and each year over 11 million tonnes of leftover harvest waste is either burned or left to rot in the bush,” said Douglas Bradley, President of the Canadian Bioenergy Association (CANBIO), speaking in Ottawa last week.

The problem? Harvesting leftover wood is still expensive and is not integrated into Canada's harvesting practices like it is in Scandinavia where energy from wood is a boom industry. “But soaring energy costs, advances in waste recovery equipment, and government support for bioenergy generation is changing the economics – and can help support Atlantic Canada's threatened pulp and paper communities,” said Bradley.

That's why the Canadian Bioenergy Association is hosting “Realizing the Bioenergy Opportunity,” an international bioenergy conference in Toronto from September 12-14. The event is intended to boost Canada's bioenergy industry by bringing together European experts and investors, Canadian municipalities and the forestry sector to network, explore partnerships and create business opportunities.

Delegates will hear from Canadian and European experts on how to take advantage of forest and harvest residues. A quarter of all Finland's energy comes from bioenergy – the highest of any industrialized country. The Finnish Wood Energy Network (WENET) will present the latest technologies and success stories from Scandinavia. Delegates can also meet one-to-one with WENET experts for specific advice.

At the region's first ever bioenergy conference this spring, Provincial Energy Minister of Jack Keir said he wants to make New Brunswick the bioenergy hub of Atlantic Canada, but some experts say the region has a long way to go because only a few bioenergy projects are in place.

“The Toronto Conference can help Atlantic Canadians by sharing information, examples and technologies from Europe and other Canadian provinces' bioenergy strategies,” said Bradley. “Atlantic Canada's forests and ports give it great potential to develop onsite heat and power, or to develop ‘transportable’ woody biomass products such as condensed wood pellets or higher end fuels like bio-oil from fast pyrolysis, either for domestic use or for sale into the lucrative European market,” he said.

Canada's Dynamotive Energy Systems is a global leader in fast pyrolysis, a method that turns wood into a liquid fuel called bio-oil. Dynamotive already operate the world's largest bio-oil plant, a 130 tonne per day facility at West Lorne. A second larger plant at Guelph, which started up in May, will manufacture 200 tonnes of bio-oil per day. Delegates will get a rare chance to visit the plant on a study tour.

The Conference program and online registration are available on the CANBIO website: www.canbio.ca.