



Canadian Bioenergy Association
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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.



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British Columbia's pine beetle infestation should be leveraged into making bioenergy

Every year British Columbia could recover enough pine-beetle waste wood to generate 670 MW of power in small communities and provide 2.7 TWh of heat for local industry, or alternatively, build 175 world class bio-oil plants to make renewable fuel to replace fossil fuel in pulp mill lime kilns, according to a study by Douglas Bradley, President of the Canadian Bioenergy Association.

"With a few properly placed incentives and effective use of the world's best forest waste equipment, British Columbia's forestry communities could use the glut of forest waste to shift to a lucrative bio-based economy producing renewable energy, products and chemicals from wood," he announced today.

BC's Ministry of Forests' reports 9.2 million hectares of forests were killed in 2006 by the mountain pine beetle. Experts say the beetles will kill 80 per cent of merchantable pine by the end of their run, which could last another ten years. To create economic value from a resource that would burn or rot otherwise the BC government wisely increased the annual allowable cut, but the high rate of damaged wood has resulted in much higher than normal forest waste left at roadside

"Canada has to 'make it work' to get economic value from this resource" said Bradley. "The province has huge 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."

That's why CANBIO is organizing "Realizing the Bioenergy Opportunity," a three-day international conference to be held in Toronto from 12-14 September 2007. 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.

Conference delegates will hear from Canadian and European experts on economical recovery of waste wood, bioenergy opportunities arising from the pine beetle infestation, and how to produce high-value energy and renewable products in a sustainable manner.

A quarter of all Finland's energy comes from bioenergy – the highest of any industrialized country in the world. 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.

"Europe can help BC find export opportunities or advise on how to integrate bioenergy into its domestic economy and the conference will be an excellent platform to make this happen," said CANBIO Director Melissa Felder.

European demand for bioenergy is rapidly increasing, thanks to its recent pledge to boost renewable energy use to 20 per cent by 2020, said Felder. "But Western Europe has limited land area to produce renewable forests or agricultural crops, so interest in Canadian woody biomass is high."

Southern Ontario is already home to the world's largest bio-oil plant, a 100 tonne per day facility now being expanded to 130 tpd at West Lorne, owned and operated by Dynamotive Energy Systems. A second larger plant at Guelph, which started up in May, will manufacture bio-oil from 200 tonnes of biomass per day. Delegates will get a rare chance to visit the plant on a study tour.

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