



On July 4th 2009, a 125 foot pile of woodchips burst into flame at the "Biomass 1" Power Plant in White City, OR. It happened again on August 17th. Fuel piles at Biomass Power Plants are prone to internal combustion. See:

<http://kezi.com/news/local/138002>

HOW CAN I HELP?

GET INVOLVED in the local grassroots movement committed to stopping Biomass. Go to:

www.greenfieldbiomass.info

CONTRIBUTE! The Concerned Citizen's of Franklin County are locked in an expensive legal battle to appeal the Greenfield Zoning Board's decision to grant Madera Energy Inc., the permit to build the Biomass plant. We desperately need your financial assistance. Checks can be made out to **CCFC** and mailed to:

CCFC
P.O. Box 653
Greenfield, MA 01302

To make a tax deductible contribution follow the instructions on the website

DID YOU KNOW?

...the American Lung Association *already* gives the Pioneer Valley an "F" for air quality!

...clear cutting is already happening in MA forests (www.maforests.org/) The proposed Biomass plants would quadruple current logging!

... **70 trucks** will clog Rte 2 delivering woodchips to the Biomass plant *every day!*

High street would be dug up for 5 miles to put in pipes to deliver water to the plant!

There are at least 24 schools within a 10 mile radius of the Biomass plant proposed in Greenfield!

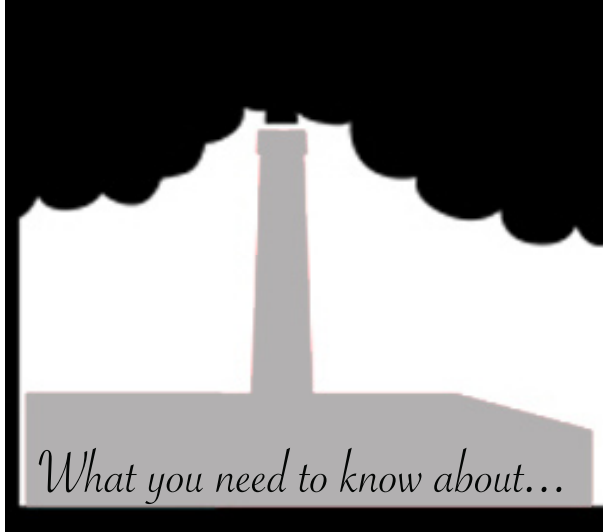
...the McNeil Biomass plant in Burlington VT is the #1 worst polluter in Vermont!

...THE BIOMASS POWER PLANT PROPOSED FOR GREENFIELD WOULD RELEASE **ONE BILLION POUNDS OF CO2** INTO THE ATMOSPHERE ANNUALLY.

..this Biomass power plant will cost \$250 million. The developer will get paid \$60 million ...of taxpayer money! We're paying them to screw us!

DOES THIS MAKE SENSE TO YOU?

BIOMASS FAQ'S



- Air Quality
- Deforestation
- Public Health
- Climate Change
- Water Impacts
- Industrial Track Record



the concerned citizens of franklin county

BIOMASS? No thanks!

www.greenfieldbiomass.info

BIOMASS FAQ's

What is "Biomass" anyway? "Biomass" is a term used by the energy sector to indicate any non-fossil-fuel "organic" material that can be burned to produce energy. Lumber fits under this category, but so does municipal solid waste (trash), tires, construction & demolition debris, crop & animal wastes, energy crops, and landfill gas. The Biomass plant proposed for Greenfield is a wood burning plant that would incinerate woodchips at a rate of **1 ton per minute**. Burning green wood is about 24% efficient. 76% of the energy would go up in smoke.

Is Biomass "green?" The energy industry and many law makers on the state & federal level claim that Biomass is "green." But, if built, the Biomass power plant proposed for Greenfield would consume the equivalent of **22 square miles of clear-cut timberland annually**. All the CO2 sequestered in the trees would shift to the atmosphere, where it would contribute to global climate change. Much of the timberlands that would normally trap CO2, would be cut down. Does that sound "green" to you?

How would a Biomass plant affect our air quality? There are currently 3 Biomass power plants proposed for the Pioneer Valley -- one in Greenfield, one in Springfield, and one in Russell. If built, these three plants would add tons of hazardous chemicals to our skies:

- 492 tons of Nitrogen Oxides
- 98 tons of Hazardous Air Pollutants
- 17 tons of Carbon Monoxide
- 165 tons of Particulate Matter
- **2.2 million tons of Carbon Dioxide**

Do these pollutant pose public health concerns? Yes. **Nitrogen Oxides** (NOx) are precursors to the formation of ground level ozone, a pollutant that causes human respiratory health problems. **Hazardous Air Pollutants** (HAPs) is a term that includes 187 compounds identified as toxic, including chromium, lead, mercury, benzene and methylene chloride. Mercury and lead both cause damage to neurological development in children. **Particulate Matter** (PM) is extremely small airborne material that can be inhaled into the lungs. EPA studies connect high concentrations of PM's to increased risk of cardiopulmonary disease, lung cancer & heart disease.

Don't energy companies have any regard for public safety? The track record for Biomass energy producers is disgraceful. Biomass power plants in Maine have been repeatedly fined for violating emissions standards. A pile of woodchips at a Biomass plant in Athens ME smoldered for 4 weeks, causing the respiratory illness among the local population. Boralex, the company that ran the plant, waited *14 days* before reporting it to the Maine DEP! When wood became less cost effective fuel, Boralex applied for and received permits (without public comment) that allowed them to burn construction and demolition debris (CDD) instead. The stacks poured out a new, more toxic bouquet of chemicals and the locals just kept breathing it in.

Does Biomass affect Climate Change? The Biomass plant proposed for Greenfield would release 1.5 times as much CO2 per megawatt as the Mount Tom coal-fired plant. It would be fed by log-

ging the very forests that are among the world's most effective carbon sinks--just when we need them most. Biomass incineration takes CO2 that safely resides in wood and moves it to the atmosphere where it can wreak global havoc.

What about our forests? According to a state study, a 50-MW plant (Greenfield's plant would produce 47-MW) consumes 650,000 tons of wood per year. After merchant grade lumber is figured in, the acreage of logged timberland required to sustain this appetite would equal 32,500 - 65,000 acres per year. To put this into perspective, the average acres logged in MA between 2001 and 2005 was less than 30,000. So feeding *one* 50-MW Biomass plant would require more logging than the entire state sustained in recent years. What's worse, the logging would be concentrated in our immediate vicinity because the Biomass plants try to harvest wood within a 50 mile radius. (see: www.massenvironmentalenergy.org)

...and our water? The Biomass plant proposed for Greenfield will use 500 to 880 thousand gallons of water per day. The water will be piped 5 miles uphill (along High Street) from the wastewater treatment center on the Deerfield River. 80% of this wastewater (that contains complex unregulated mixtures of pharmaceuticals, endocrine-disruptors, and household cleaning chemicals) will evaporate and in a plume of steam released from a 30 foot stack. The remaining 20% will condense and be piped back to the treatment plant to be released into the Deerfield River.