

# Balancing Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship Meeting Notes

## November 15, 2011



**Team Goal: Community members steward both a vibrant economy and our human and natural resources so that all generations thrive.**

**Next meeting:** Dec. 13 at 8:00 am at Tri-County CAP Resource Center

### Decisions Made

- Gather and disseminate information/resources for planning, funding, financing, and implementing biomass heating projects to support the participants of the recent tour which demonstrated a significant level of interest in this heating option.

### Discussion

#### Debrief from tour:

- Options for various scales of wood heating options very helpful to people. Exposure to both helps to get the information out in the community even for those who were primarily interested in only a small or large option.
- At least three community contacts left the session excited and seriously considering putting biomass on the table as a real option.
- As more systems come on line this increases the opportunity for production and sales of these fuels within the county which is good for the logging industry and the local economy.
- Reinforced that the county's choice of a pellet system for the new nursing home was the right choice for the county's circumstances.
- The 60-90 concept shared by Bede Wellford was powerful. Wood biomass isn't an all or nothing prospect. Installing a system that meets 60% of peak heating needs and continuing to use an existing boiler to supplement, impacts 90% of fuel costs since most of the heating demand over the season is at 60% or less of peak.
- As more of these types of bio-mass installations come on-line, the costs will go down.
- People were quite satisfied with the tour (our feedback) and left with a better understand of biomass (UNH survey). The highest interest for other energy topics in the feedback was solar. It was unclear if people were thinking about solar heat or solar electricity.

#### What next?

Rather than switch focus just yet, the team felt it was critical to follow the biomass work a bit further. Specifically, to gather additional information about tangible resources that would help our local communities that are interested in the wood biomass option to move forward.

- Sources of consultations – size and types of systems that would be appropriate and other factors they should be considering
- Funding and financing options
- Companies that produce/install systems

#### **Agreed to do:**

Look at existing resources that people have already put together:

- Clean Air/Cool Planet (Leona)
- Look at Northern Forest Center (Brian)
- Community Finance Authority (Noreen)
- Call Sarah Smith & Chuck Henderson (Noreen)

- Companies that produce/sell pellets and wood chips

First, reach out to contacts about existing information so we aren't recreating the wheel:

- Chuck Henderson, Sarah Smith & Rick Demark about the existing resources they would point people to.
- Clean-Air/Cool Planet & Northern Forest Center - what have they already gathered?
- Honeywell re: performance contracting, etc.
- Bede Wellford
- Contact for county nursing home

**Attendance:** Brian Walker, Dorothy Solomon, Noreen Downs, Ray O'Brien, Leona Simon & Cyndi Paulin

Meeting Schedule:

Tuesdays - 8:00 - 9:30 am

- December 13