



U.S. Industrial Pellet Association

NEWS RELEASE

## **New report shows biomass delivers significant carbon benefits**

**Vancouver — 24 September, 2013** — BC Bioenergy Network (“BCBN”), a provincially-funded leader supporting the growing bioenergy sector in British Columbia and the Wood Pellet Association of Canada (WPAC). Canada’s leading pellet producer based association announced the Canadian release of a report titled *“Forest Sustainability and Carbon Balance of EU Importation of North American Forest Biomass for Bioenergy Production”*. The report, which was released in Brussels earlier today by *Bridging with Biomass*, a coalition of North American and European wood pellet producers, shows that the use of solid biomass for power generation achieves significant carbon savings. BC Bioenergy Network is pleased to have participated in and provided a financial contribution of \$11,000 towards the Canadian contribution to this important work.

The study reveals that when assumptions and real data from the field are used for modeling forest carbon dynamics, the production of energy from sustainable solid biomass results in an immediate or very rapid contribution to climate change mitigation. Because of its ability to provide reliable, sustainable and base-load supply, solid biomass allows Europe’s energy utilities to reduce carbon emissions from coal-fired plants and is expected to contribute significantly to meeting the European Union (EU)’s 2020 renewable energy target.

“This comprehensive report provides useful information about the sustainable forest management regulation and policies that underpin the use of forest residuals feedstock for BC’s pellet producers.” said Michael Weedon, Executive Director of BC Bioenergy Network. “Additionally, this report will help all stakeholders better understand the various issues related to biomass sustainability.”

“Although EU biomass production potential is large, the role of biomass imports from countries outside the EU is critical to meeting these targets. North America (US and Canada) is expected to remain the most important supply region for the European Union for importing biomass, mostly wood pellets,” noted Gordon Murray, Executive Director of the Wood Pellet Association of Canada. “It is important that policy makers understand the supply chains coming from other countries and how they contribute to meeting their low carbon and renewable energy targets.”



The report, which was produced in collaboration with several European energy utilities and other organizations, focuses on British Columbia in Canada and the Southeast region of the United States, the two main supply regions of forest-based fuel pellets for EU consumption. It reflects the fact that in reality biomass originates mainly from forests which are managed under a multiple products approach, using by-products from other wood industry activities, such as tree tops and limbs left over after harvest, sawmill residues and low quality round wood that doesn't meet the standards for lumber processing. In addition, forests from these regions are subject to strict national rules and legislation, which ensure environmental protections are in place and that forests are sustainably managed.

**About THE WOOD PELLET ASSOCIATION OF CANADA** - The Wood Pellet Association of Canada is a member-driven organization advancing the interests of Canadian wood pellet producers. Our goal is to help members grow through promoting the role of wood pellets in the Canadian and global markets, supporting market and technical research, and encouraging fair and open energy trade.

**About BC BIOENERGY NETWORK** - Established in April 2008 with a \$25 million grant from the BC government, BC Bioenergy Network is an industry-led association that acts as a catalyst for deploying near-term bioenergy technologies and organizing mission-driven research for the development and demonstration of sustainable world class bioenergy capability in BC. For more information about the BCBN, visit [www.bcbioenergy.ca](http://www.bcbioenergy.ca).

**For further information, contact:**

Gordon Murray, Executive Director  
Wood Pellet Association of Canada  
Telephone: (250) 837-8821  
[gord@pellet.org](mailto:gord@pellet.org)  
[www.pellet.org](http://www.pellet.org)

Michael Weedon, Executive Director  
BC Bioenergy Network  
Tel: 604-891-1257  
[michael.weedon @bcbioenergy.ca](mailto:michael.weedon@bcbioenergy.ca)  
[www.bcbioenergy.ca](http://www.bcbioenergy.ca)