

EUGENE GREEN?

**THE ONLY THING
GREEN IS THE MONEY**



**Come with us while we follow the profits to see
which local companies, agencies, and organizations
are lying to you in order to make money.
Brought to you by Eugene Rising Tide
& Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates**

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HOUSE BILL 3674

In February 2009, the Oregon Legislature unanimously passed House Bill 3674, which will make eligible nine biomass burning facilities built before 1995, some the biggest and most polluting in the state (including International Paper in Springfield, the biggest polluter in Lane County), to receive renewable energy credits (RECs) under Oregon's aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which lawmakers claim will help Oregon reach its greenhouse gas reduction targets. The RPS requires that utilities meet 25 percent of their energy needs

The compromise legislation ensures this renewable energy resource continues to help the state reduce its carbon emissions while also maintaining Oregon's aggressive RPS and improving the health of our forests.

-Governor Kulongoski

from "renewable" sources by 2025, and establishes that "renewable" energy producers sell their RECs to the public utilities who pay with citizen ratepayers' money. Unfortunately, the RPS essentially equates forest biomass with solar as "renewable" and sets no energy conservation standard.

As energy demand is predicted to grow, the goal will likely result in a further stretch of what is considered "renewable." Although Governor Ted Kulongoski vetoed a similar bill in 2009, he is anxious to sign HB 3674 because it requires that the 9 facilities wait until 2025 to sell their accumulated credits, a back room compromise among the timber industry, the utilities, the State, and so-called environmental groups. Sadly, the very same legislators representing Eugene in the successful legislative fight to end field burning in 2009 voted for credits to the biggest, baddest forest biomass burning facilities. The Western Environmental Law Center (WELC), which led the campaign to end field burning, and Oregon Sierra Club, which has a policy against forest biomass extraction from public lands, both refused to take action against the Seneca facility. WELC never testified against it. The pollution from forest biomass burning is worse in many ways than that from field burning, and the field burning victory in last year helped grease the tracks for HB 3674 to sail through the Legislature. Sierra Club thinks HB 3674 is too controversial to take on. Oregon Conservation Network and OSPiRG also wimped out on HB 3674.

REAL vs. FALSE SOLUTIONS

A real solution is one that actually solves the problem, at least to a substantial degree, that it's intended to solve, indefinitely and at the scale proposed. Preferably, real solutions do not create unintended negative consequences and are socially just. Any real solution to address climate chaos must not do so at the cost of substantial resource depletion, as we need our natural resources to adapt to climate change. Real solutions include: energy conservation and efficiency, solar systems, increased bicycle-only streets, local food infrastructure, and green jobs thereof.

A false solution is unreliable or a non-solution for the problem that it is intended to solve at the scale proposed. Often, false solutions are also dangerous. Some classic examples are forest biomass burning, carbon offsetting, biofuels, and cap and trade.



CAP & TRADE BAD MEDICINE FOR A SICK ECONOMY

Cap and trade involves a cap, or limit, on total national greenhouse gas emissions from companies interested in participating and their trading of emissions allowances and carbon storage credits. It is a false solution to address climate change because: 1) based on a voluntary, profit-motivated market dominated by the largest corporations and their traders, it fails to guarantee any reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; 2) because of corporate control of the legislative process, the cap would be set too high; and 3) any emissions reduction could be too late, as we are currently beyond the threshold for catastrophic climate change (we are at 390ppm global atmospheric CO₂ when the threshold is 350ppm). Cap and trade is dangerous because it is socially unjust, rewarding the biggest emitters, like Chevron, who can most afford to pay to emit and which have already recently benefited from the subprime bailout. Some projects that count for credits, like tree plantations where native forest recently stood, threaten subsistence communities. Furthermore, cap and trade distracts and steals resources away from implementing real solutions.

In 2009, the **American Clean Energy and Security Act** (a.k.a. Waxman-Markey, or “climate” bill), which primarily would implement a cap and trade system and subsidies for burning forest biomass to produce electricity, passed the U.S. House. Currently under debate in the U.S. Senate is a bill, by Senators. Boxer and Kerry, that would implement the same, prompting NASA climate scientist James Hansen to declare that this “climate” legislation is “worse than nothing.” Although Congressman Peter DeFazio does not support cap and trade, he and Senator. Ron Wyden are leading proponents of native, public forest logging and forest biomass extraction — dangerous, false solutions to wildfire risk and energy overconsumption.

Who's responsible for these dangerous, false solutions? The oil, coal, and timber industries and non-profits that are giving into, or even greenwashing, cap and trade and forest biomass burning subsidies: **The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club** just to name a few.



WHAT IS FOREST BIOMASS

“Forest biomass” is used to mean any carbon removed from the forest — whole trees, understory plants, “slash” debris left after logging, or residue after processing lumber for other purposes. Whether the residue left over after processing a massive private forestland clearcut or “slash” left after native forest logging on public lands, forest biomass extraction is part of a failed, profit-driven paradigm of forest mismanagement. It’s stealing from the public trust, from future generations.

There is no “waste” in an ecosystem. Removing carbon from the forest floor is removing a structural and nutritional component that is essential to the health of the forest ecosystem, just as carbon is an essential component in your compost bin. Biomass extraction may also jeopardize the natural return of at least some nitrogen to the forest floor.

Removing carbon from the forest and burning it for energy is by no means carbon-neutral and, in fact, contributes to climate change, according to a growing number of scientists, by removing it from long-

term storage, burning it, and by putting the forest at greater risk of die-off. Half of all carbon in Pacific Northwest forests is stored on the forest floor and in the soil, which erodes into waterways with logging and biomass extraction. No civilization has survived the destruction of its soil.

It is scientifically well-supported that logging and other extractive measures result in more CO₂ emissions than wildfire does. A mounting body of scientific evidence shows that logging (termed ‘thinning’), often the precursor to biomass extraction on public lands, actually increases wildfire risk. Plus, fire provides benefits to the forest that logging or other extraction do not. Moreover, wildfire risk involves other factors besides the amount of woody fuel present, especially with climate change. Western Oregon forests, with a long fire cycle, have not suffered as much as short-cycle east side forests from fire suppression. Nevertheless, the fire suppression experiment has clearly failed. Notice that it is the same decision makers who allow the conversion of fire-resistant older forest to fire-prone tree plantations who are subsidizing logging and biomass burning as a way to reduce wildfire risk — the only thing green is the money flowing from the timber industry into their campaign budgets.

Burning forest biomass pollutes the air more per amount of energy produced (by a factor of 1.5 to 3.2 for CO₂) than burning fossil fuels does. The burning facilities are usually located close to a socioeconomically disempowered population, emitting pollutants, including soot, nitrous oxide, carbon monoxide, mercury, dioxin, and incomplete by-products of pesticide combustion if the wood comes from private lands. The technology needed to reduce the pollution is expensive, essentially wasting money to undo the damage to public health caused by our energy overconsumption and is not effective for all pollutants. Merely filtering the pollution from burning does not protect our forests from our society’s energy greed.

Forest biomass is a not renewable or reliable energy source on the scale proposed. Burning forest biomass for electricity or liquid fuel is taking priceless, irreplaceable resources — our forests, clean water, and clean air — and using them in a way that yields the least value. At the rate of consumption assumed by the U.S. Congress in the current “climate” bill, some scientists predict that total global deforestation could result by 2065.

THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE

FOREST BIOMASS BURNING MOST DANGEROUS FALSE SOLUTION IN EUGENE

A \$45 million facility in West Eugene is currently under construction by **Seneca Jones Timber Company**. It's located next to Seneca's mill along Hwy. 99 in West Eugene, just outside Eugene's toxics reporting zone (i.e. The City has no obligation to tell people what they are exposed to), will burn 32 tons of wood per hour to generate 18.8-MWatt of electricity; water consumption and pollution is also a notorious threat with all such facilities. Seneca, calling itself "sustainable," claims that 75% of the wood burned would come from residues after processing timber (for other uses) from its 165,000 acres of land that it owns, but they have not shown that they have enough residues to support the rate of consumption over the long-term. When these residues aren't enough, will they be allowed to start cutting mature trees, as is happening right now in Massachusetts? Plus, these residues are dependent on massive clear-cutting and pesticide poisoning of rural communities that must change.



SENECA FACILITY OPPONENTS

Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates, Cascadia Rising Tide, Lane County Health Advisory Committee, Citizens for Public Accountability, Candidate for Lane County Commissioner Tom Brandt (running against pro-timber incumbent Faye Stewart)

SENECA FACILITY CRITICS

Oregon Toxics Alliance, Centro Latino Americano, Many Rivers Group (local Sierra Club chapter), Lane County Commissioner Rob Handy

SENECA FACILITY DO-NOTHINGS

Cascadia Wildlands Project, Oregon Wild, Western Environmental Law Center (although they fought for a field burning ban)

SENECA FACILITY ENDORSERS

Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy, City Councilor Andrea Ortiz, Good Company

WHO ELSE IS RESPONSIBLE

In 2009, **Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB)** Board members voted 4 to 1 (Bob Cassidy dissenting) to contract with Seneca for electricity from the facility, asserting that forest biomass is a "renewable" and "reliable" source of energy to become part of its "Green Power" program, admittedly without applying environmental criteria. EWEB hired Good Company, a consulting firm, which essentially recommended the deal without considering the climate or other impacts from Seneca's clear-cutting and pesticide use. EWEB held no public involvement process and restricted the free speech of Seneca facility protestors engaging in street theatre at its Earth Day Celebration. The EWEB Board members, although elected by the citizens, allow EWEB's General Manager (currently Randy Berggren) to have a great deal of control. The Board is currently hiring a new General Manager.

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Later in 2009, the **Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA)**, granted Seneca the pollution permit it lawfully needed to build the facility. (If EWEB had not signed the contract, it is likely that a non-local utility would have, so LRAPA is really what could have stopped this facility.) Despite public testimony and comments expressing opposition, the decision was based primarily on the whims of LRAPA Director (dictator), Merlyn Hough, who wants it to be a “model facility” and dismisses environmental justice concerns. Both LRAPA and **Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** rejected appeals from **Oregon Toxics Alliance** because under LRAPA’s rules and state law, only the permit applicant (Seneca!) is allowed to appeal! This means that citizens cannot effectively stop facilities like this in any legal manner. Both agencies refuse to consider the climate and other impacts from Seneca’s clear-cutting and pesticide poisoning. Even more shocking is that LRAPA is doing only the absolute minimum to comply with the Clean Air Act, saying that successes in citizens, businesses, and local government lowering their emissions and from transportation and other sources is allowing LRAPA to bring onboard Seneca as a new polluter — what a slap in the face to everyone trying to do their part!

The Oregon Department of Energy would also grant **International Paper (IP)**, the largest polluter in Lane County, ‘renewable’ energy credits for its forest biomass burning facility in Springfield, under HB 3674. IP is also known for its forest destruction. The U.S. Department of Agriculture re-released their draft environmental assessment regarding a request by **ArborGen**, a subsidiary of timber giants IP and **MeadWestvaco**, to plant over a quarter of a million genetically engineered (GE) eucalyptus trees in so-called “test plots” across seven southern U.S. states. “If these invasive GE eucalyptus are planted across the South on this large of a scale, it is highly likely that fertile seeds will escape into surrounding forests,” said Dr. Neil Carman, a plant scientist with the Sierra Club. “This is a major problem since eucalyptus is already known for its invasiveness. Once they escape into the forests, there is no way to call them back. It would be an ecological nightmare for southern forests.”

ROSEBURG FOREST PRODUCTS

An even greater threat than Seneca, in terms of the scale of both extraction and burning, is Roseburg Forest Products (RFP), which clearcuts and sprays poisons across a whopping 800,000 acres of land in northern California and Oregon. The Umpcoos Ridge old growth timber sale in the Elliott State Forest, for which 27 forest advocates,



were arrested for a blockading a logging road in 2009, was clearcut by RFP — they now face \$100,000 in restitution. Oregon HB 3674, passed and awaiting Governor Kulongoski’s signature, would give “renewable” energy credits to RFP for its forest biomass burning facility in Dillard, OR, built before 1995, and RFP is seeking to build more facilities. Citizens groups have filed a law suit in December, 2009 against a decision to approve a RFP forest biomass facility in Weed, CA. **Allyn Ford**, President of RFP, is also the Chairman of the Board of **Umpqua Bank**. In 2009, Ford announced Umpqua Bank’s new “eco-banking division.” RFP has also received Forest Stewardship Council

chain-of-custody (“sustainable forestry”) certification at its Mississippi and South Carolina manufacturing facilities, for some products at its Dillard facility, and from its California land holdings. Some of its California holdings have also gained SmartWood (“sustainable forestry”) certification from **The Rainforest Alliance**, and Ford has co-written articles with **The Nature Conservancy** — prime examples of corporate greenwash aided by non-profits; meanwhile, Ford continues to ignore pleas of rural citizens he’s poisoned.

'FIRE FUELS REDUCTION' FRAUD

Congressman Peter DeFazio and Senator Wyden have written and promoted legislation that is increasing logging (called 'thinning') across tens of thousands of acres of native public forest (on both BLM and Forest Service land) in the Northwest, especially Oregon. A one-two punch, this logging is followed by forest biomass extraction, further damaging the understory, soil, and waterways, as well as removing carbon from the forest. Following decades of agency fire suppression, our elected officials, including Governor Ted Kulongoski, are getting away with this timber industry giveaway by calling the projects "restoration" and "fire risk reduction." However, a mounting body of scientific evidence shows the contrary. Moreover, the acreage and steep slopes (removal by helicopter) involved in these operations consume large amounts of fossil fuels, and mature trees are often sacrificed to help pay for these projects. The 'stewardship,' or 'collaborative,' projects often lack key stakeholders or are heavily weighted towards industry, with few jobs created and no revenue for the county governments. Below are among the biggest sales that are closer to Eugene.

Oakridge-Westfir Timber Sale

What: 3000+ Acres of native and naturally regenerated forest

Where: Middle Fork District Willamette N. F., within 3 miles east of Oakridge and 2 miles north of Westfir

D-Bug Timber 'Thinning'

What: A Healthy Forest Restoration Act Project, Alternative 4 includes nearly 9,000 acres of commercial logging and involves construction of 25 miles of new roads (including many in roadless areas)

Where: Diamond Lake District Umpqua N. F., surrounding Lemolo and Diamond Lakes

SENECA TIMBER SALES NEAR EUGENE

Owning a small amount of tree farm land relative to other timber companies, Seneca timber company currently relies on timber sales, from both the Elliott State Forest in the Coast Range and the Willamette National Forest, including in the McKenzie Watershed, the source of Eugene's drinking water. Given the increased cost of logging and hauling, subsidies toward Seneca's forest biomass burning facility help Seneca to enter the electricity market while continuing to destroy old growth that secures our drinking water.



Photo: Old growth trees in the Trapper timber sale

Trapper Timber Sale

What: 150 acres of ancient forest (meaning not previously logged, with some old growth, some naturally regenerated after fire), containing documented red tree voles (prey of spotted owls); contracted to be logged by 2011

Where: McKenzie District of the Willamette N. F., in the headwaters of Blue River (tributary of McKenzie River) up forest road 15, within 1 mile of Wolf Rock, the largest monolith in Oregon

Two Bee Timber Sale

What: Nearly 800 acres of ancient forest, a small portion already logged in 2009

Where: McKenzie District of the Willamette N. F., north of TrailBridge Reservoir and east of Smith Reservoir near the headwaters of the McKenzie River

Jump Up Timber Sale

What: 650 Acres of naturally regenerated forest

Where: Middle Fork District Willamette N. F. Many units are along the North Fork of the Willamette River Trail north road 1910

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- **Contact The Big Environmental Lobby Groups** — Oregon Sierra Club, Oregon Conservation Network, and OSPIRG — Tell them that they are either with us or against us on this — you expect them to fight for you against forest biomass extraction and burning.
- **Urge The Local Groups**, like Cascadia Wildlands Project, Oregon Wild, and Oregon Toxics Alliance to stop compromising on logging of forest biomass and extraction and get onboard with outright opposing the extraction & facilities that threaten our forests.
- **Contact Oregon Attorney General John Kroger** (503) 378-4400 Voice your concerns about LRAPA. Ask him to enforce the Clean Air Act with regard to forest biomass burning facilities, like Seneca's. Tell him that biomass should not receive renewable energy incentives.
- **Contact Candidates for Governor**, John Kitzhaber (503) 217-6222 and Bill Bradbury 503-206-4501, and tell them that you won't vote for a proponent of forest biomass extraction and burning.
- **Boycott EWEB's "Green Power"!** It isn't green anymore, plus it's more expensive. Email EWEB Board members — tell them if you are an EWEB ratepayer that you are boycotting "Green Power," that you expect them to make conservation their number one priority and reject forest biomass as a source of energy and that you expect them to hire a new General Manager whose track record is consistent with this.
- **Boycott Umpqua Bank** for their close ties to Roseburg Forest Products and encourage organizations and businesses to do the same.
- **Contact the Eugene Weekly** (541) 484-0519 and ask them to pull out of Umpqua Bank. **Boycott Market of Choice** for refusing to pull its accounts from Umpqua Bank, despite local pressure from CEA.
- **Contact Eugene City Councilors** and demand punishment of police officers who taser or otherwise injure peaceful, unarmed civilians. The Civil Liberties Defense Center is currently suing the City as the result of Sgt. Solesbee's attack on Josh Schlossberg, who was doing outreach for an Umpqua boycott campaign (Stumpqua), outside the bank in 2009. Solesbee similarly injured another peaceful activist in 2008 and has received no punishment for either incident.
- **Write a letter to the editor** on the subject, and get your friends across Oregon to do the same.

RESOURCES

READINGS:

"Burn Up the Biosphere and Call It Renewable Energy: The New Taxpayer Bailout That Will Make You Sick AND Poor" by Rachel Smolker

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2010/02/10-9>

"Searching For A Miracle: Net Energy Limits and the Fate of Industrial Society" by Richard Heinberg Foreword by Jerry Mander

http://www.postcarbon.org/new-site-files/Reports/Searching_for_a_Miracle_web10nov09.pdf

"Forest Biomass: Forest Use or Forest Abuse?" by Josh Schlossberg

<http://www.truthout.org/forest-biomass-forest-use-or-forest-abuse56935>

PHONE NUMBERS:

Cascadia Wildlands Project - (541) 434-1463

Lane Regional Air Protection Agency - (541) 736-1056

Natural Resource Defense Council - (212) 727-2700

Oregon Wild - (503) 283-6343

Oregon Toxics Alliance - 541-465-8860

Oregon Conservation Network - (503)227-8073

OSPIRG - (503) 231-4181

Oregon Sierra Club - (503) 238-0442

The Nature Conservancy - (503) 230-1221

Western Environmental Law Center - (541) 485-2471

EWEB BOARD MEMBERS:

ron.farmer@eweb.org - bob.cassidy@eweb.org - joann.ernst@eweb.org

rich.cunningham@eweb.org - john.brown@eweb.org

LOCAL GROUPS:

Eugene Rising Tide - Meetings 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7pm in the upstairs of Growers Market - 454 Willamette St. (enter the door between Red Agave and Morning Glory Cafe)

Forest Biomass

www.eco-advocates.org

www.risingtidenorthamerica.org

www.energyjustice.net/biomass

www.nobiomassburning.org

“energyeugene” on youtube.com

www.oregontoxics.org/AQ/Seneca/seneca.html

www.massenvironmentalenergy.org

www.maforests.org



Climate Legislation & Action

www.actforclimatejustice.org

www.beyondtalk.net

www.climatesos.org

www.foe.org