

Forest Biomass Harvesting for Electricity

12,800 + acres... Every Year... Up in Smoke

Key Issues

Burning Forest Biomass Must be Removed from the List of Renewable Sources of Electricity.

Large areas of Nova Scotia's forests are being clearcut, and many 'full-tree clearcut', to produce electricity. The current science clearly demonstrates that burning forest biomass does not produce carbon neutral 'green energy'. Other governments, such as Massachusetts, have revised their green energy policies to reflect current science. Nova Scotia must follow suit.

Forest Biomass Harvesting is Destroying Our Forests and Our Future.

The economics of the forest biomass business dictates the use of clearcutting, which is a destructive harvest method. It reduces biological diversity, critical wildlife habitat, soil fertility, forest productivity and accelerates the decline of aquatic life in our lakes and rivers already severely impacted by acid rain. By destroying all forest types and ages, this archaic forestry practice prevents us from securing the full range of ecological and economic benefits from our diverse forests. It has already contributed to the closing of forest product manufacturers and destroys opportunities to build a new rural economy from the benefits that a biologically diverse forest can provide.

We are Mismanaging Our Forests.

We have allowed international corporations, including Emera, to dominate forest policy. Large industry profits are boosted while Nova Scotians grow poorer and our Acadian forest is destroyed. Meanwhile we are investing minimally in energy conservation and true renewables. The mismanagement of our forests must be addressed. Nova Scotians told the late Hon. Constance Glube "*The status quo is not an option.*" (*A Natural Balance-Report of the Steering Committee on Natural Resources 2010*). That advice was ignored. Today the public is even more convinced that our forests are mismanaged. Recently over 28,000 people have signed a petition asking Premier McNeil to stop the destruction of our forests for biomass power generation.

**Harvesting forests for electricity must end.
We urge Cabinet to act in the public's interests and create a
future for natural resources and rural economies.**