

Anti-Biomass Incineration/Forest Protection Campaign

www.energyjustice.net 1-800-729-1363

BIOMASS INCINERATORS ARE POOR JOB CREATION VEHICLES

I. Biomass incineration provides few jobs

a. The 20 permanent jobs over the 30 year life of a biomass incinerator costs the public \$3.5 million per job (The typical 50 MW plant costs about \$200 million to build and at least 1/3 will be paid for via cash grants under the ARRA 2009 Stimulus Bill or investment tax credits. That's \$70 million in taxpayer dollars for 20 permanent jobs – about \$3.5 million per job).

b. **Low number of permanent jobs must be weighed against health, CO2 and forest impacts. Jobs per plant:**

- Milltown, IN ≤ 40
- Scottsburg, IN ≤ 40
- Lagrange, GA 25-30
- Greenfield, MA 25-30
- Russell, MA 25
- Gainesville, FL ≤ 30
- Post St. Joe, FL ≤ 30
- Fitchburg, MA 25
- Springfield, MA 25

c. **Biomass extraction from forests is highly mechanized, and creates few steady jobs:**

<http://www.albionmonitor.com/0009a/copyright/unenvirojobs.html> “According to a new report released here September 21, 2008 [*Working for the Environment*, Worldwatch Institute], most mining and logging jobs are at risk even in the absence of tougher environmental laws. **Increased mechanization and automation** and companies moving operations overseas have been the real reason for job loss, it says.”

<http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/occguidelogs.htm> “Despite a steady demand for lumber and other wood products, **increased mechanization of logging operations will continue to lessen the demand for workers.** Mechanization will most likely affect Fallers, Buckers, and Choke Setters as safer labor-saving machinery is used.”

http://wc-zope.emergence.com:8080/WildernessCommittee_Org/campaigns/wildlands/vancouver_island/reports/Vol24No05/jobs “What then are the main causes of job loss in the timber industry? **Mechanization, in which workers are replaced with machines, is a primary factor.** This includes technological advances in mills and in logging equipment, and the increasing use of helicopter logging.”

<http://www.qualityinfo.org/olmisj/ArticleReader?itemid=00004977> “**Some of the decline in employment was due to increased mechanization.** A simple way to look at the efficiency created by mechanization is to look at the volume of timber harvested per logging worker. There was an average of 544,000 board feet harvested per logging worker in 1990. In 2006 that figure had risen to 599,000.”

II. Instead, direct “green job” funding to “cash for caulkers”—efficiency & conservation

a. **High Efficiency Scenario**

<http://www.aceee.org/pubs/ed922.htm> “The High Efficiency scenario assumes extensive efficiency improvements in all sectors of the economy--more efficient vehicles, improved appliances, better insulated buildings, more efficient lighting, manufacturing improvements, and the like.

“We estimate that about 293,000 new jobs could be created by 1995, 471,000 new jobs by 2000, and **nearly 1.1 million jobs by 2010** on a net basis. The addition of 1.1 million jobs in 2010 represents approximately a 0.7% increase in the projected employment level that year.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/96197-energy-efficiency-means-more-jobs-rep-peter-welch>

“The Efficiency Vermont program **created more than 430 jobs in 2007 and 2008**, generated more than \$40 million in income and cut energy use by 7 percent over 7 years, reducing costs for homes and businesses by \$31 million annually.”

b. Solar Energy Industries Association Study

“The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) today [May 19, 2010] released an independent study projecting the positive economic impact of the Department of Treasury Grant Program (TGP) and the Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit (MITC). The study found that extending the TGP and MITC by two years would add **200,000 new domestic jobs to the solar workforce and supporting industries** in the United States.”

c. Rep. Peter Welch’s (D-VT) *Home Star Energy Retrofit Act*

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-a-environment/96197-energy-efficiency-means-more-jobs-rep-peter-welch>

Proposed legislation such as the “Home Star Energy Retrofit Act (H.R. 5019), [passed in the House 5/6/10, to be voted on in the Senate] is a common sense idea that would create jobs and provide a boost to local economies, while helping families afford their energy bills. By encouraging homeowners to invest in energy efficiency retrofits, Home Star **would create 170,000 manufacturing and construction jobs** that could not be outsourced to China. It would also help more than 3 million Americans invest in energy-saving technology, saving families close to \$10 billion on their energy bills over 10 years.”

III. There are better ways to create jobs, including implementing needed forest restoration projects

a. Need for logging road removal in National Forests <http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2008/07/removing-roads/>

“At 43,000 miles, it has been called the largest public works program in the history of the world, dwarfing the Panama Canal, Egypt’s pyramids, and the Great Wall of China. Public land roads span nearly 13 times the length of all the interstate highways... These roads cover more than half a million miles alone are laced with enough roads to wrap around the earth more than 18 times at the equator.”

<http://pacificrivers.org/conservation-priorities/land-management/roads/road-repairs-and-removal-create-jobs-and-make-economic-sense>

“A selective program of road removal, accompanied by remediation of roads that remain in place, would promote ecological and economic values, provide good jobs for heavy equipment operators and other forest workers, and can be pursued without compromising national forest access.”

<http://pacificrivers.org/about/press/clips/2008-press-clips/green-jobs-needed-in-rural-areas-too>

“The Forest Service estimates up to a \$10 billion road maintenance backlog... Besides markedly improving habitat and water quality, Legacy Roads would **provide 3,500 direct high-skill jobs per year in rural, resource dependent communities**. Road remediation work requires excavators, bulldozers, on-the-ground inspectors and dedicated engineering skills. These are the very same skills used in road construction.