

BIOENERGY KEY MESSAGES

Overview:

- Bioenergy from woody biomass has the potential of contributing to the nation's energy supply and increasing its energy independence.
- Wood to energy technology can play a significant role in the mixture of "green," renewable energy sources used in the future of America.
- The biomass industry has the potential to produce jobs and economic benefits in small communities across the region.
- The South is already producing an array of wood energy products including: wood pellets, hog fuel for process heat, and wood chips for electricity generation.
- New facilities are under construction to produce ethanol and bio-diesel from wood chips.

SRS Bioenergy Research:

- The Station has conducted bioenergy/biomass research for decades.
- Today, our scientists are working to gain knowledge and develop the tools needed to support this expanding technology.
- Researchers are calculating and estimating biomass production and costs.
- Also, SRS is working to increase economic opportunities for private landowners and industry.
- For example, the Forest Inventory and Analysis program estimates the amount of forest land and volume throughout the region and uses the information to calculate estimates of potential biomass for energy production.
- Other SRS researchers installed a biomass gasification unit to analyze how electrical output varies depending on the type of material (tree species or tissue, even woodwaste) used.
- In addition, Station scientists are working with industry to modify biomass bundler equipment to reduce the cost of biomass collection and transport to make it more profitable for landowners and companies.
- Scientists use innovative field and lab research to advance biofuels feedstock production and to provide forest land and volume information to produce current biomass estimates for energy production.
- RWUs continue to work with partners, including universities and industry, to promote biofuels research and development ventures.