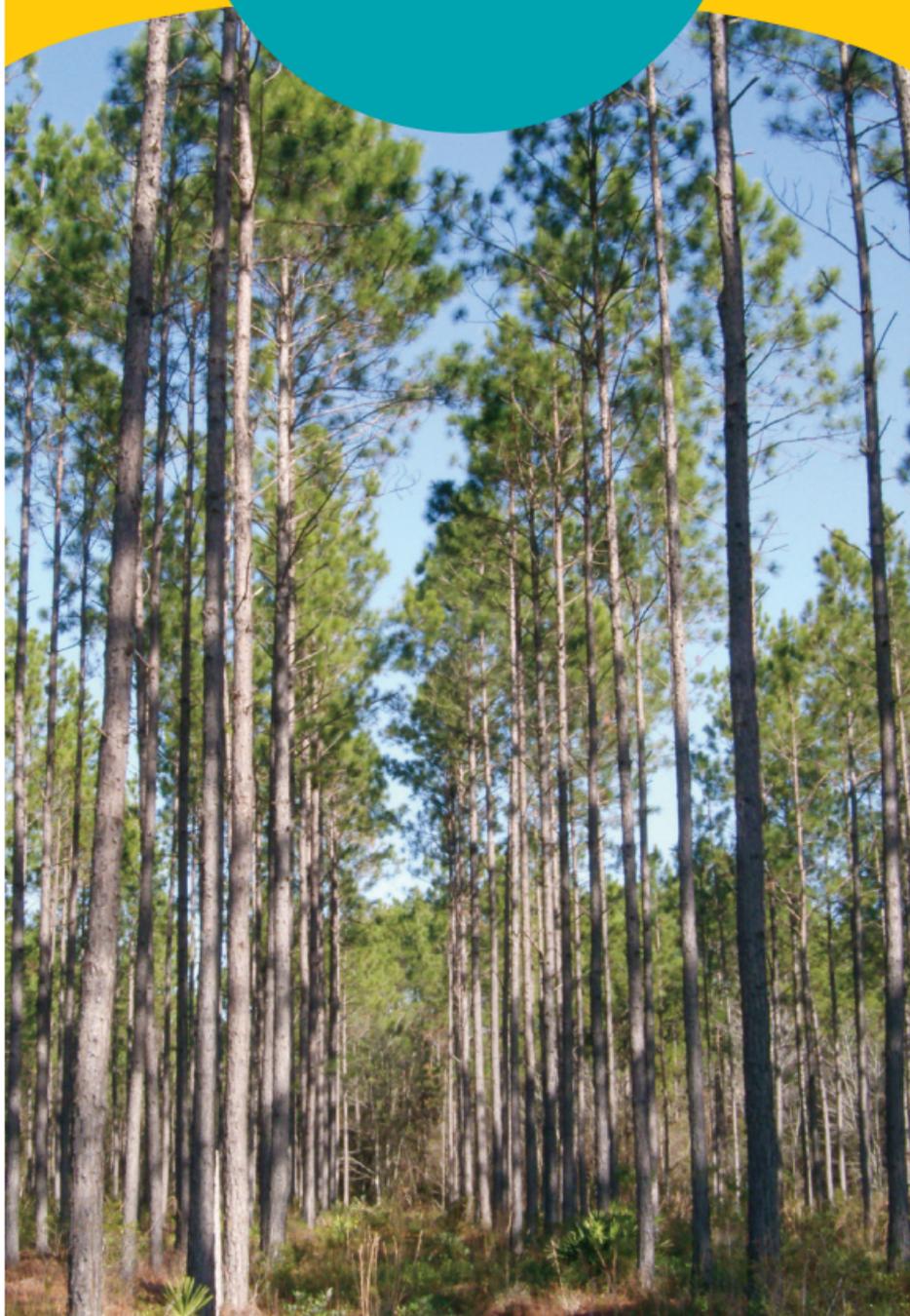




Renewable
Bioenergy!



Science
You Can
Use!

Renewable Bioenergy!

Why Should You Care About Bioenergy?

As energy needs grow in the U.S., people are looking for U.S. sources of renewable energy. The U.S. Department of Energy has indicated that biomass is a source for renewable energy in the South. Biomass is living or recently-living material and often refers to plant materials. We will continue to need energy into the future, and bioenergy is one energy source that is domestic and renewable. Bioenergy harvested and produced in the U.S. helps to ensure the nation's energy security. The domestic bioenergy sector is also a growth sector for new jobs.

Did You Know?

Humans have been using bioenergy since the dawn of time. This use has been called traditional bioenergy. Can you guess what it is? (Hint: You might sit around this energy source outside in the evening and roast marshmallows.)

Bioenergy derived from plant biomass is one of the most rapidly growing renewable energy technologies.

Wood-based energy products include liquid fuels, bioelectricity, and wood pellets.

What Are Scientists Doing to Help?

Scientists are experimenting with fast-growing southern tree species to identify which species will quickly provide biomass for conversion to bioenergy.

Scientists are calculating the difference between the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere from the production and burning of fossil fuels with the amount released in the production and use of bioenergy.

Scientists are calculating how the cost of traditional wood products will change when bioenergy becomes more common. Traditional wood products include, for example, timber, plywood, furniture, and paper.

Take Action!

Plant trees. You may never harvest your tree for its biomass, but planting trees helps address climate change and beautifies the landscape. Be sure to follow proper tree planting techniques.

Reduce the amount of energy that you use every day. Walk, bicycle, or take public transportation when possible. Turn off and unplug electric appliances when not in use.

Choose to use bioenergy when you can.

Read the Bioenergy edition of the *Natural Inquirer*!
www.naturalinquirer.org



August 2013

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