

# Doing Energy Right!

## *Conclusion & Recommendations*



### **WOODY BIOMASS FOR ELECTRICITY IN FLORIDA: BIOECONOMIC IMPACTS UNDER A PROPOSED RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS) MANDATE**

REPORT – MARCH 1, 2010

*The Florida Forestry Association supports sustainable forestry and the practices that provide well-managed, sustainable forests, which meet today's demands for forest products without jeopardizing the needs of the future. We commend the Florida Department of Agriculture and Florida Department of Environmental Protection for their efforts to analyze and recommend a Renewable Portfolio Standard, which could be supported by current and future wood supply with minimal impact on current markets and jobs, while keeping the forests sustainable.*

### **CONCLUSION**

We support the conclusion of the Study that a goal of 7% RPS (2% of which comes from woody biomass) is sustainable as long as Urban Wood Waste and Logging Residues are utilized and there is a vigorous reforestation and afforestation program. Reforestation must at least keep pace with forest harvest removals<sup>1</sup>.

We also support the conclusion that the level of wood demand as provided in the **SUMMARY OF BIOMASS SOURCES TO SUPPORT 7% RPS** (2% of which comes from woody biomass) does not place existing jobs supported by Florida's forests at risk.

#### **SUMMARY OF BIOMASS SOURCES TO SUPPORT 7% RPS (2% of which comes from woody biomass)**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>URBAN WOOD WASTE</b>	<b>LOGGING RESIDUES</b>	<b>MERCHANTABLE TIMBER</b>
<b>2020</b>	38%	46%	15%
<b>2025</b>	30%	36%	33%
<b>2030</b>	27%	31%	41%

Data extracted from Table 4.4 of the Woody Biomass for Electricity Generation in Florida: Bioeconomic Impacts under a Proposed Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Mandate report,

<sup>1</sup> From pg. 2 of the Woody Biomass Economic Study, March 1, 2010 by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation and University of Florida Food & Resource Economics Department.

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Providing abundant and affordable wood fiber for forest products and energy will require increasing the overall supply of fiber to meet demand. Steps to increase fiber supplies should include improving fiber utilization from existing harvests, increasing the available harvest from under-utilized sources and promoting the establishment of new forests.

## ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

1. **Incite the full utilization of Urban Wood Waste and Logging Residues.** Full utilization of Urban Wood Waste and Logging Residues are necessary to achieve a 7% RPS (2% of which comes from woody biomass) while maintaining sustainable forests and retention of existing jobs supported by Florida's forests.
2. **Develop and maintain a more robust incentive program for growing fiber.** Incentives for reforestation and afforestation will be required to ensure sustainable forest yields.
3. **Strongly encourage government actions to promote biomass energy production from publicly owned forestlands.** The forest management practices of the Florida Division of Forestry should serve as a model for biomass utilization on other public lands.
4. **Develop and maintain a 'real time' system to monitor and report the growth and drain of Florida's forests annually.** Ongoing Regions of Florida studies, which include growth/drain impacts from neighboring states are necessary to identify where available biomass is located, to ensure forest sustainability.
5. **Develop and maintain a credible database inventory on under story biomass, and available logging residue and urban wood waste.**