

## BIOMASS CAMPAIGN PLATFORM

Utility companies in the United States and Europe are expanding their use of wood as an energy source despite growing scientific evidence that the large-scale burning of wood for electricity—in particular the burning of whole trees—will accelerate industrial logging, increase carbon emissions compared with fossil fuels, and threaten human health with air pollution similar to burning coal. While the small-scale use of wood waste and residues for energy could play a role in addressing future energy needs, policies in the U.S. and European Union are setting the stage for the large-scale use of wood as a primary fuel source.

At a time when we need more forests to capture carbon, burning forests for energy will destroy one of our best defenses against climate change. A major shift to wood as an energy source could likewise undermine efforts to expand clean, renewable and low-carbon energy sources, such as solar and wind, while also rolling back hard-won victories for forest conservation.

In recent decades, demand for forest products has resulted in intensive industrial logging with unregulated large-scale clearcutting, conversion of natural forests to plantations, and routine use of toxic herbicides and fertilizers. This has been a major driver of habitat and species loss, as well as the degradation of water resources and carbon sinks. Growing awareness of these trends has increased the number of major wood producers and wood product buyers who have adopted meaningful, voluntary commitments to stop the continued conversion of natural forests to plantations, protect endangered forests, and improve forest management practices. Rising demand for wood-generated electricity is proceeding without analogous policies to address carbon emissions, air pollution, ecological impacts and sustainable wood sourcing practices.

We, the undersigned groups, are united in our call for an immediate moratorium on the use of whole trees in pellet manufacturing facilities and utility-scale biomass projects, including co-firing in existing power plants, until adequate policies are in place to verify that such projects:

- Will reduce near-term carbon emissions compared to fossil fuels;
- Will not adversely impact forests, carbon sinks, soil, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and water resources; and
- Will not result in net increases to local air pollution.

It will take strong leadership and collaboration between the utility industry and civil society to solve the climate crisis. Utility companies must do their part to address climate change by investing in energy conservation, efficiency, and truly renewable and low-carbon energy sources, such as solar and wind. Utility-scale biomass energy, as it is being promoted today in the U.S. and E.U. is not a viable solution.

Signed (as of 1/2013),

Dogwood Alliance

Sierra Club

Southwings

Alliance for Appalachia

Natural Resources Defense Council

Partnership for Public Policy Integrity

Canary Coalition

Yadkin Riverkeeper

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League	North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
Rainforest Action Network	SC Environmental Law Project
Environmental Working Group	SC Coastal Conservation League
Gulf Restoration Network	Product Policy Institute
Atchafalaya Basinkeeper	Croatan Earth First!
Louisiana Environmental Action Network	Mountain Justice
Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper	WNCA
Clinch Coalition	NC Herpetological Society
Heartwood Forest Council	Virginia Tech Environmental Coalition
Wild Virginia	Blackwater/Nottoway Riverkeeper
Green Press Initiative	Conservatree
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition	Virginia Sierra Club
NC WARN	North Carolina Sierra Club
West End Revitalization Association	Forest Ethics
Birdlife Europe	Coal River Mountain Watch
Appalachian Voices	SEE Innovation
NCCON Net	Chlorine Free Products Association
Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards	Santee Riverkeeper
Ohio Environmental Council	Friends of Clayoquot Sound
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Kentucky Heartwood
Buckeye Forest Council	Southern Energy Network
GA Forest Watch	Center for Health, Environment, and Justice
NC Environmental Justice Network	Peace Coalition of Southern Illinois
Pamlico-Tar River Foundation	Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light
National Committee for the New River	Texas Campaign for the Environment
Virginia Interfaith Power and Light	Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance

*Endorsers of this platform endorse the concerns, broad principles and call to action as contained herein. Endorsement of this platform does not reflect endorsement of campaign tactics that may be carried out by any of the signatory organizations or any more detailed policy directives related to the call to action being advocated by any signatory organizations.*

Kentucky Resource Council  
EcoPledge of Boston College  
Sustainable Sandhills  
SOCM  
Clean Air Carolina  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Satilla Riverkeeper  
The Cumberland Chapter Sierra Club  
Knob and Valley Audubon Society  
North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light  
Friends of the Siberian Forests  
Forum Ökologie & Papier  
Green America  
Sierra Club, TN  
European Environmental Bureau  
Center for Environmental Research and Education  
in Saxapahaw

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