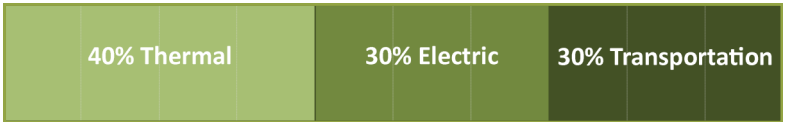




Organized in April 2010, the Coalition has grown rapidly to include a diverse group of state agencies, non-profits, and businesses. The Coalitions mission is to advance the responsible use of Maryland’s vast supply of woody biomass for clean, affordable thermal energy production. The Coalition supports the implementation of small to medium-sized commercial and institutional applications for government, schools, and businesses, as well as residential thermal applications.



Maryland’s Energy Needs

40% of the Maryland energy is for thermal purposes such as heating & cooling, while 30% is used to produce electricity and 30% is used for transportation fuels. Use of woody biomass (woodlands, urban waste, & short rotation woody crops) is renewable and can help meet the thermal energy needs of the state.



Sustainability

Maryland woodlands grow 2.8 times more wood than is harvested and there exist large amounts of underutilized urban wood waste. A study by the Pinchot Institute, **“The Potential for Sustainable Wood-Based Bioenergy in Maryland,”** concluded small to medium-sized decentralized installations are best for Maryland and many opportunities exist. Residential wood heat has grown by 34% in Maryland from 2000-2010 and

can save precious energy dollars, while using underutilized wood resources. The forest community developed the **“Maryland Forest Biomass and Harvesting Retention Guidelines”** to assure the sustainability of the woodland resource.

Wood Heat Opportunities & Challenges

In February 2012, the Coalition released a concise 20-page research-based prospectus with policy recommendations that assessed the present situation and what was needed to accomplish its mission. **“The Prospectus for Advancing Biomass Thermal Energy in Maryland,”** can be found online at www.agresearch.umd.edu. Cost-effective wood heat opportunities exist for schools, hospitals, prisons, public buildings, greenhouses, and other businesses.



Eastern Correctional Institution, Princess Anne, MD

Emissions & Efficiency

New generation EPA wood stoves and biomass boilers have low emissions and compare favorably to fossil fuels. Advanced wood burning technologies that produce thermal energy are also very efficient - about 70-80%.

Getting the Word Out About The Potential for Wood Energy

On November 14, 2012, a conference on *Accelerating Wood Energy in Maryland: A Discussion on Public Policy, the Environment, and Economic Opportunities*, was held in Annapolis and attended by 120 participants

from the biomass industry, forest industry, policymakers, and others. A followup conference on *Sustainable Wood Energy in Maryland* was held October 30, 2014. The audio and/or PowerPoint presentations are available at: www.agresearch.umd.edu. Three wood energy tours were offered in 2013-2015.

Progress Toward the Coalition's Four Priorities

The Coalition has successfully accomplished most of its major priorities, opening the door to educate about project opportunities.

- 1) Updating Maryland Department of Environment air emission regulations for biomass boilers.
 - *New regulations in place April 15, 2014, opening the door for projects.*
- 2) Support changes to the Renewable Energy Portfolio (RPS) standard that will award Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for the utilization of woody biomass in thermal applications.
 - Legislative bill in the 2015 session did not pass but will be reintroduced in 2016 session.
- 3) Provide sustained support for the Maryland Wood Grant Program.
 - The residential wood grant program initiated by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) in 2012 is ongoing, offering grants of \$500 to \$700 for installing clean-burning wood & pellet stoves.
 - The Alliance for Green Heat & University of MD Extension have implemented an education & research program targeted to new and existing residential wood and pellet stove users.
 - More information is available at www.extension.umd.edu/woodland and www.forgreenheat.org
- 4) Encourage public agencies & facilities to lead the way.
 - The Maryland Energy Administration initiated a Commercial Wood Energy grant program in October 2015 to request applications for projects by March 15, 2016. Those chosen will have engineering feasibility studies completed to help get the project implemented. Details available at: <http://energy.maryland.gov/business/Pages/incentives/woodenergygrant.aspx>
 - The Department of Governmental Services has changed their policy to include wood biomass technology as an option in public building projects along with other renewable technologies.

Things to Keep in Mind

- Wood not always the answer – the best project pay for themselves in less than 10 years based on fuel-saving from higher prices fuels such as fuel oil, propane, and electric.
- Do no harm to existing wood industries.
- Where are the experts? Education needed for architects, engineers, HVAC, facility managers.
- Creating mutually beneficial collaborations, not adversaries.

The Maryland Wood Energy Coalition is open to groups that have a similar vision for wood energy in the state and are willing to work cooperatively to accomplish common goals.

If you are interested in more information about the Coalition or would like to become involved contact: Jonathan Kays, Maryland Wood Energy Coalition Chair & Extension Specialist Natural Resources, University of Maryland Extension, jkays@umd.edu.

Maryland Wood Energy Coalition

AFS Energy Systems • Alliance for Green Heat • American Wood Fiber, Inc. • Association of Forest Industries • College of Agriculture & Natural Resources - University of Maryland Extension & MD Agriculture Experiment Station • Courtland Hearth & Hardware • Eastern Shore Forest Products, Inc. • Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology • Maryland/Delaware Society of American Foresters • Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service • Maryland Energy Administration • Maryland Forests Association • Maryland Forestry Board Foundation