

# MINNESOTA'S STATEWIDE WOOD ENERGY TEAM

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Put modern biomass technology to work  
for you!



Minnesota  
Statewide  
**Wood Energy**  
Team

# What is a Wood Energy System?

- The use of woody feedstocks to make thermal energy (hot or cold) including:
  - Space Heating
  - District Heating or Cooling
  - Industrial Process Heat
  - Combined Heat and Power



# Why does Thermal Energy from Biomass Matter?

- Thermal energy comprises 1/3 of total US energy demand
- Thermal energy represents the most efficient use of biomass to make energy
- Tremendous potential to address large US challenges
  - Decreased dependence on imported fossil fuels
  - Provide rural economic development



# Benefits of Wood Energy Systems

- Accomplish multiple goals such as:
  - Increase forest management opportunities
  - Reduce the risk of forest wildfire
  - Provide additional markets for forest products
  - Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
  - Grow MN manufacturing jobs
  - Provide a source of renewable energy that allows rural communities to:
    - Develop jobs locally
    - Retain economic wealth
    - Use a local source of renewable energy at a stable price point

# We're Not Talking about your Grandpa's Wood Stove

Wood burning technology has improved dramatically over the last 25 years making wood safer, more efficient and more convenient to use. Improvements include:

- 24 hours of unattended heating
- New firebox designs that burn wood more completely and efficiently
- Today's EPA-certified wood stoves emit 70% less particle pollution
- 50% more efficient than wood stoves manufactured before 1990.



# What is the Statewide Wood Energy Team?

- 22 member team comprised of Minnesotans from state, federal and non-profit organizations focused on promoting high efficiency wood energy systems
  - \$250,000 from USFS for three years to drive the installation of wood energy systems
  - Targeting facilities without access to natural gas that have a heating load of 1-5mmBTU (nursing homes, schools, community centers, etc.)
  - The grant has three major components:
    - Outreach and education on the benefits of high efficiency wood energy systems
    - On-site assistance for initial high-level evaluation
    - Pass through dollars awarded via a competitive RFP for final feasibility/final design analyses
      - RFP due to come out this spring



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# Statewide Wood Energy Team Grant Eligibility



## Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must be a non-profit, private, tribe, public entity, trade, business, or rental property owner of a facility located in Minnesota that does not have access to natural gas and has:
  - a demonstrated thermal energy need of 1-5 mmBTU;
  - the potential to use commercially-proven biomass technology with fuel sourced in part from sustainable forest resources;
- Can provide a cash match for 25% of the total cost of the awarded feasibility study (total cost of feasibility study not to exceed \$25,000).

# What can the team do for you?

- Interested applicants should schedule a free one-day site visit from the Statewide Wood Energy Team to do a preliminary evaluation of a wood energy system installation



# Need More Information?

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/biomass/swet.html>

Add your name to the list on the above website to receive regular updates!

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QUESTIONS?

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