

**Role of Forestry in Renewable Energy**  
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### **Industry Context**

The American Forest & Paper Association is the national trade association of the forest products industry, representing forest landowners, pulp, paper, paperboard, and wood products manufacturers.

Our companies are in the business of producing products essential for everyday life from renewable & recyclable resources that sustain the environment.

The forest products industry accounts for approximately 6 percent of the total U.S. manufacturing output and employs more than a million people with an estimated annual payroll exceeding \$50 billion.

From the cereal box, newspaper, and magazines that start your morning, to the building products that shelter you in your home at night, forest products are with you every step of your daily routine.

### **We develop energy solutions**

The pulp and paper industry is a leader in producing renewable energy, with practically 60% of our energy generated on site from carbon-neutral biomass.

For the wood products manufacturing industry, that number is even greater — 77%.

The fact is that our industry produces about 89% of all bio-based fuel generated by industrial sectors.

This industry is uniquely positioned to contribute to established national goals, including sustainable forest management, energy efficiency, energy security, diversified energy supply and environmental performance.

We have a rich history of innovation and new product development from our basic raw material – wood fiber – and by capitalizing on an existing infrastructure we are poised to participate in the development of new energy, and chemical products.

### **Production begins with sustainability**

AF&PA members seek to enhance the global competitiveness of forestry and forest products manufacturing operations in the United States. We are

committed to sustainable forestry practices and support these through individual company procurement policies, and land management techniques.

The privately-owned forests that our industry supports provide habitat for animals, help enhance water quality, remove large amounts of carbon dioxide from air we breathe, and afford great recreational opportunities.

We are also committed to sustaining forest ecosystems and abundant supplies of high-quality raw material.

AF&PA calls for global forest stewardship in which forestlands are sustainably managed for multiple purposes, including the growth of commercial timber.

Because forest material is carbon neutral, the bio-energy it produces helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Through more efficient energy conversion, existing facilities could reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an additional 80-90 percent using promising new gasification technologies.

### **Role of government in advancing cellulosic energy research**

AF&PA members believe that market forces should be the primary stimulant for determining the optimum fuel choices for energy generation. Government can play a role in advancing research in cellulosic energy, but any policies should maintain regional agricultural and silvicultural capability and consider impacts on existing markets for wood-based fiber.

Our government also has a tremendous opportunity to contribute to renewable energy production through the utilization of small-diameter wood and forest debris on national forests, which would in turn reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

Governments should focus specifically on advancing renewable energy through investments in research and development for breakthrough technologies. This is the area where collaboration between business and government can have the greatest effect in bringing new technologies to market.

Businesses will invest in those technologies when they are economically viable. The forest products industry, working through a technology consortium called Agenda 2020, is helping to identify the most promising technologies that will enable our industry to co-produce energy products along with our traditional products.