



Where Does Federal Biomass Policy Stand?

An update on thermal legislation and initiatives

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Biomass Thermal Energy Council

About BTEC

The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) is the industry trade association dedicated to advancing the use of biomass for heat and other thermal energy applications.

Why was BTEC established?

1. To **advocate for and promote** the biomass thermal industry in the national energy policy debate
2. To **reach out** to and **educate** the public and decision makers on the benefits and advantages of using biomass for heat and CHP
3. To develop biomass energy **research and analysis** that enables sound investment and policy decisions



Public Policy Basis for Renewable Energy Incentives

	Liquid	Electric	Thermal
Reduce reliance on foreign fossil energy; enhance national & regional energy security	★	★	★
Conserve energy through increased efficiency	★	★	★
Reduce air emissions (e.g. PM, SO ₂ , Hg)	★	★	★
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions	★	★	★
Local <u>sustainable</u> economic development; JOBS	★	★	★
Save people \$\$\$; retain wealth in region	★	★	★

Tax Incentives

- **Biomass Thermal Utilization Act (BTU Act)**
 - Provides tax parity for residential and commercial/industrial high efficiency biomass thermal systems
 - 75% efficiency for residential, 65%/80% for commercial/industrial
 - 25 groups already endorsing

- **Bipartisan Support**
 - Senate: S. 1007 – Sens. King (I-ME), Collins (R-ME), Shaheen (D-NH), Sanders (I-VT), * Franken (D-MN)*
 - House: H.R. 2715 – Reps. Michaud (D-ME2), Welch (D-VT0), Gibson (R-NY19), Owens (D-21NY)
 - VA?

Farm Bill

- 5 Year Bill Through Both Chambers
- Energy Title:
 - Senate—nearly \$1B in mandatory funds
 - **BCAP:** \$38 million mandatory/year, 2014 through 2018.
 - **Biobased Markets Program:** \$2 million to be appropriated + \$3 million mandatory/year
 - **Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance:** \$100 million mandatory in 2014; \$58 million mandatory for 2015 - 2016.
 - **Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels:** \$20 million appropriated/year
 - **REAP:** \$68.2 million mandatory/year
 - **Biomass Research and Development:** \$26 million mandatory/year
 - **Community Wood Energy Program:** \$5 million to be appropriated/year
 - House— No mandatory funding
- Path forward—One Year Extension of Existing Law?

EPA and Biogenic Emissions

- Court Decision
 - July 12, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit vacated the deferral

- NAFO has moved to extend the deadline to file for a rehearing
 - Additional time for project construction

- EPA is expected to release a draft biogenic emissions rule later this fall.
 - The President's Climate Action Plan has put a priority on reducing coal.
 - Workable biomass regs?



Other High Level Developments

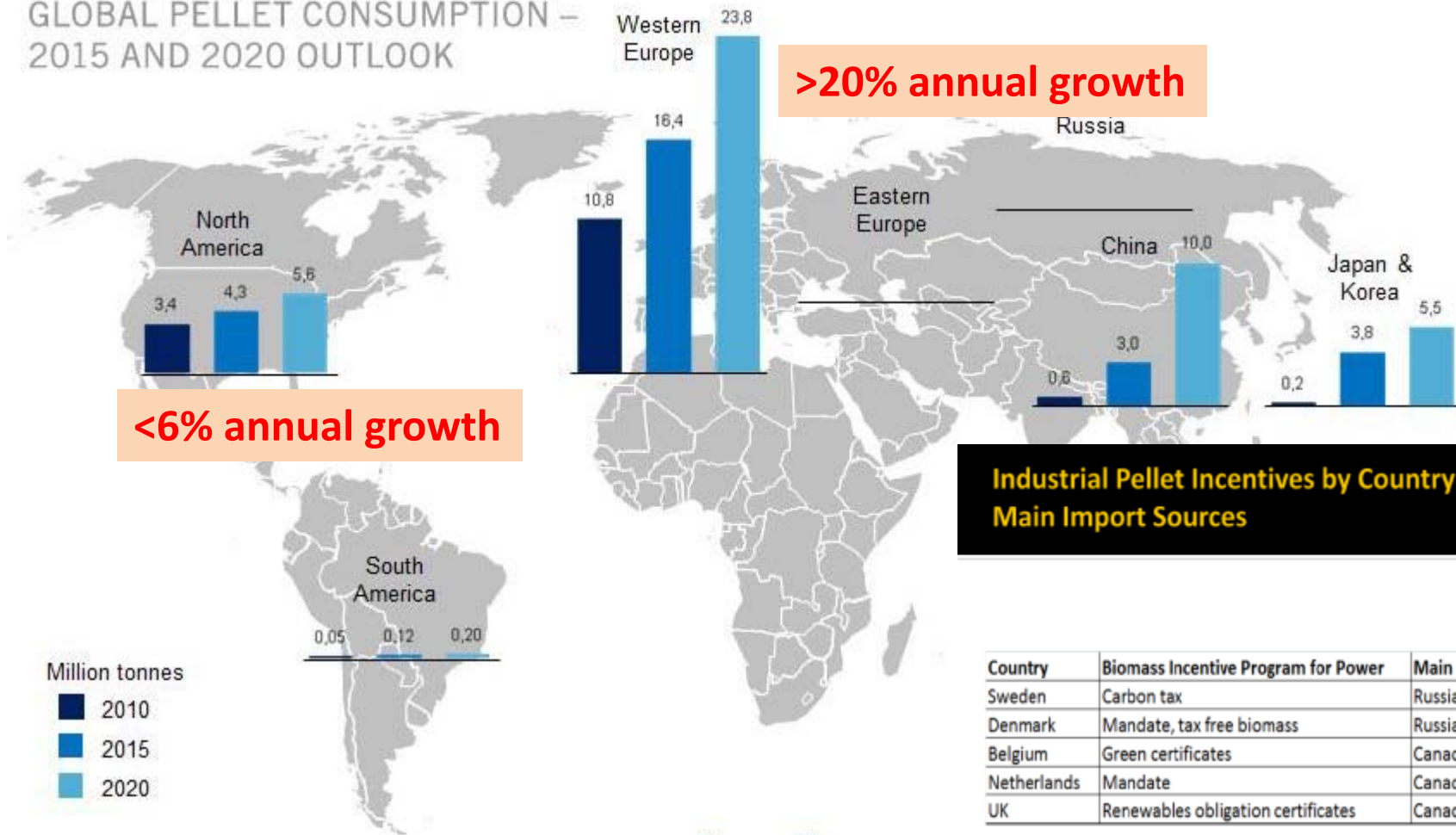
- Administration
 - Thermal RECs for federal energy goal compliance

- USDA
 - Finalizing USDA MOU with bioenergy associations (look for announcement soon)
 - Statewide Wood Energy Teams announcements soon (look for update soon)

- DOE
 - Improving EIA data collection re: wood

Don't Think Policy Makes a Difference?

GLOBAL PELLET CONSUMPTION – 2015 AND 2020 OUTLOOK



Industrial Pellet Incentives by Country and Main Import Sources

Country	Biomass Incentive Program for Power	Main Import Sources
Sweden	Carbon tax	Russia, Baltics, Finland
Denmark	Mandate, tax free biomass	Russia, Baltics, Finland
Belgium	Green certificates	Canada, US
Netherlands	Mandate	Canada, US
UK	Renewables obligation certificates	Canada, US

Source: PÖYRY

New Programs, Resources, Initiatives

- Interaction with regional biomass groups and groups
 - Heating the Midwest
 - Northeast Biomass Thermal Working Group
- Technical and Regulatory Affairs focus
 - Biomass fuel storage safety guidelines
 - Thermal efficiency standards
- Biomass Green Heat Registered Site recognition program
- Annual Thermal Champion
- New webinars, free for members



Additional BTEC Resources

- Publicly available resources on the BTEC website include:
 - Presentations
 - Virtual Facility Tours
 - Case Studies
 - Factsheets
 - Webinars
 - Interviews
 - Reports
 - Resource Library

Upcoming Events

- **Advancing Sustainable Wood Energy in Maryland**
 - October 30, 2013, Annapolis, MD
 - <http://www.agroecol.umd.edu/>
- **Wood Stove Decathlon**
 - Nov. 16-19, 2013, Washington, DC
 - <http://www.forgreenheat.org/stovedesign.html>
- **BTEC Annual Members Meeting**
 - Nov. 19, 2013, Washington, DC
 - Contact joseph.seymour@biomassthermal.org
- **Northeast Biomass Heating Expo***
 - April 9 – 11, 2014, Portland, ME
 - Nebiomassheat.com

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Discount for BTEC members

Become a Member!

- Wealth of members-only benefits
 - Regulatory intelligence
 - Access to special events
 - Networking calls, events
 - Exposure to entire biomass supply chain
 - Industry leadership, committee participation
 - ***And much more!***

- No cost for Gov't & Educational entities
 - Affordable tiers for industry members
 - ***Join in 5-minutes!***
biomassthermal.org/membership/join.asp

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