OFIC
Oregon Forest Industries Council

*Renewable energy*

# Oregon's forests are essential in helping to achieve state renewable energy goals and energy independence

## Overview

Given proper policy alignment, Oregon's forests can play a vital role in meeting state renewable energy goals while supporting sustainable rural economies, reducing carbon emissions, fostering energy independence, improving economics of private forestlands, and supporting forest health restoration on federal forestlands. Key policies should:

**Promote Forestry Infrastructure and Sustainable Rural Economic Development.** Unlike most renewable energy resources, woody biomass energy produces long-term, sustainable jobs and helps maintain a larger overall market infrastructure to sustain mills, suppliers, and vibrant rural communities.

**Promote Private Working Forests.** Renewable energy policies should fully utilize the potential contributions of private working forests and be aligned with the fundamental economics of private forest ownership.

**Promote New Markets**. Renewable energy policies should help establish new and emerging markets for all renewable energy sources. Such policies should provide targeted support for research and development, technology transfer and capital investment to benefit both energy production and the production and delivery of energy feedstocks.

**Support the Use of Federal Lands as a Source of Forest Biomass.** Federal lands should be recognized as a viable source of forest biomass, thereby encouraging forest health restoration and fuel-reduction programs to reduce risks and costs of catastrophic wildfires. Woody biomass energy production can provide a market for residuals from these treatments while reducing future fire emissions.

**Include a Broad Definition of Woody Biomass**. Definitions of qualifying woody biomass should encompass the full range of woody biomass across all ownerships, including manufacturing byproducts and residuals from forest management activities, including forest health restoration treatments.

**Take Full Advantage of the Carbon Mitigation Benefits of Woody Biomass**. Woody biomass provides a feedstock option for renewable energy that can replace carbon intensive energy sources such as fossil fuels. Further, cogeneration provides an added carbon reduction benefit by utilizing thermal energy to replace fossil fuel-based energy. Renewable energy policies should recognize and take full advantage of these benefits.

**Accurately Apply Life Cycle Analysis**. Using analytical methods that are verifiable and meet common standards for accuracy and precision, life cycle analysis is an appropriate means of measuring net carbon impacts of renewable energy feedstocks.

## Position

OFIC supports policies that ensure Oregon's forests are fully able to participate in renewable energy markets in Oregon, whether in the production of electricity, thermal energy, cellulosic bio-fuels, or other forms of renewable energy from forest biomass.

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