



Biomass Power Association Applauds President Obama's Climate Change Initiative

Administration's Objectives Include the Use of Federal Lands in Meeting Renewable Energy Goals, Preserving Forest Health

Washington, DC – June 25, 2013 – Biomass Power Association commended the climate change initiative unveiled today by the Obama Administration. In a speech this afternoon, President Obama outlined an approach to addressing climate change that includes several objectives in which biomass, an essential baseload renewable energy source, can play a key role.

In response to President Obama's climate change plan, Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of Biomass Power Association (BPA), released the following statement:

"Biomass Power Association applauds the President's leadership on addressing climate change. With the Administration's support, the biomass industry can make a lasting contribution to the nation's energy portfolio while helping reduce the harmful emissions that contribute to climate change. As a baseload renewable energy source, biomass can and should play a crucial role in generating reliable electricity from organic materials that would otherwise remain unused.

"One of the Administration's action items is to support the Department of Defense, the nation's single largest consumer of energy, in its goal of deploying 3 gigawatts of renewable energy, including biomass, on military installations by 2025. We are proud that biomass is already making progress toward this goal. A 60 megawatt project in Black River, New York, recently converted from coal to biomass by BPA member ReEnergy Holdings, has the potential to power the Fort Drum U.S. Army installation.

"Another area where biomass will provide crucial support in meeting the Administration's climate change goals is in sustainable forest management. As President Obama points out in his plan, America's forests remove nearly 12 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions each year. Biomass contributes to keeping forests healthy by providing an outlet for brush, forest trimmings and other materials that can inhibit forest growth and contribute to costly wildfires. Without biomass, these materials would end up in landfills, or worse, be burned openly – in both cases, releasing the harmful methane gas that is captured and contained at a biomass facility.

Biomass power is a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states and provides over 14,000 jobs nationwide. Power plants are predominately located in rural communities, creating thousands of jobs and producing millions in revenue for small towns. Biomass power is a clean and abundant source of electricity that will allow states to pursue even more aggressive goals for increasing their use of renewable energy in the future.