

# Technical and Policy Report

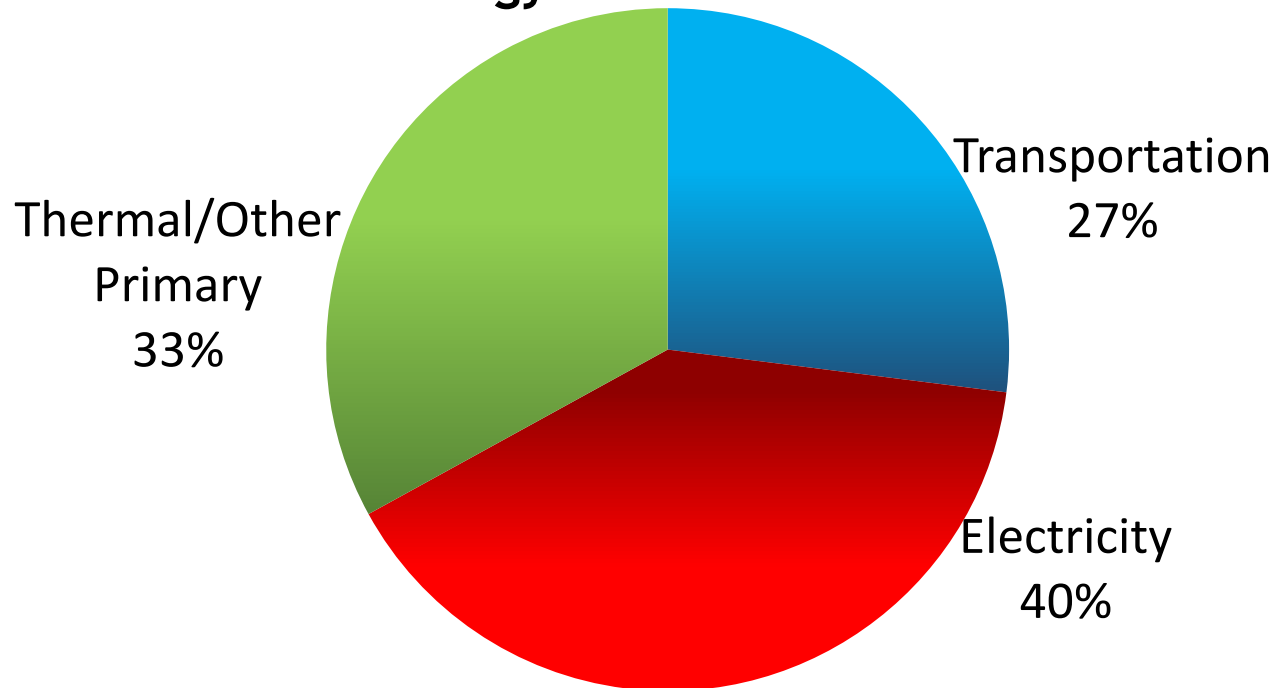
## *Heating the U.S.*

Jeff Serfass, Executive Director  
Biomass Thermal Energy Council  
October 13, 2016

[www.biomassthermal.org](http://www.biomassthermal.org)

- **One-third** of U.S. energy consumption is used for heating

## Energy Use in the U.S.



Adapted from: U.S. Energy Information Administration

- **9 percent** of heating comes from biomass
- In 2008, industry officials convened to give a voice to the biomass heating portion of the energy sector

## Mission

The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) advances the sustainable use of wood and biomass for clean, efficient heat and combined heat and power to meet America's energy needs and strengthen local economies.

## Vision

**By 2025, the use of sustainable wood and agricultural biomass for thermal (heating and cooling) and combined heat and power (CHP) is a mainstream energy choice.**

Residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial customers choose it as an affordable, clean, efficient, and carbon beneficial alternative to fossil fuels. Distributed energy from biomass thermal/CHP provides reliability and resiliency to America's energy infrastructure, and efficient use of biomass resources. Policies at the local, state, regional, and federal levels support thermal/CHP from biomass equally with respect to other renewable sources of energy. Thermal/CHP from biomass enables sustainable land and resource management, and provides improved soil and forest health, improved water and air quality, and reduced wildfire risks. Thermal/CHP from biomass drives local job growth and economic vitality across America's rural and urban communities.

90+ members from the U.S., Canada, and Europe

- Fuel producers
- Manufacturers
- Sellers
- Installers
- Consultants
- Service providers
- State and federal governments
- Universities
- Non-profits and NGOs



## Technical projects

- Thermal Efficiency Protocol for Commercial-Size Boilers
- Wood Energy Financial Calculator Tool
- U.S. Forest Service Technical Cooperative Agreement
- Combined Heat and Power White Paper
- Wood Chip Standard
- Pellet Storage
- Thermal Storage

## Thermal Efficiency Protocol for Commercial Sized Boilers

- **Goal:** Fill standards “gap” for medium-sized biomass boilers
- **Status:** Draft available on BTEC website  
[www.biomassthermal.org/programs/efficiency\\_standard.asp](http://www.biomassthermal.org/programs/efficiency_standard.asp)
- **Upcoming:** Validation in test lab and submission to ANSI standards process (e.g. ASTM, ASHRAE)-by spring 2017



## Wood Energy Financial Calculator Tool

- **Goal:** Develop online prefeasibility tool for buildings switching from fossil fuel to wood heat
- **Status:** Finalization with developer
- **Upcoming:** Release updated user-friendly version, updated state policy database, and biomass community handbooks

<http://woodenergyproject.com>





## Goals of the U.S. Forest Service Technical Cooperative Agreement

- Create ASHRAE Technical Committee on Biomass Combustion
- Work with DOE's Better Buildings Alliance to include biomass systems
- Ensure that green building codes and standards (ASHRAE, LEED) recognize biomass thermal

## Activities:

- Biomass tax and subsidy parity
- Biomass carbon benefits
- Biomass recognition at the state level



## Biomass Tax and Subsidy Parity

Work with House and Senate partners to:

- **Pass BTU Act**
  - **Investment tax credits** for highly efficient biomass systems
  - 11 House and 7 Senate co-sponsors
- **Extend wood and pellet stove tax credits**
- **Promote equitable direct payment under Farm Bill's "Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels"**

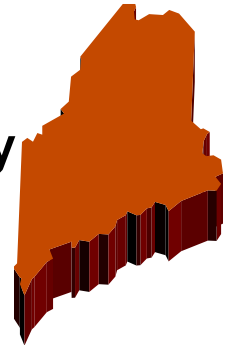
## Biomass Carbon Benefits

- **Success:** Biomass carbon neutrality language supported by BTEC passed in House and Senate energy bills
- **Next Steps:** Working with Energy Bill conference committee to retain and strengthen language
- **Champions of carbon neutrality:**
  - Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)
  - Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR)
  - Sen. Angus King (I-ME)

## State-Level Biomass Recognition

- **Maine**

- Maine Biomass Commission established
- BTEC members promoted thermal renewable energy credits



- **Massachusetts**

BTEC submitted public comments on the state's Alternative Portfolio Standard



**BTEC supports and participates in Statewide Wood Energy Teams**

- **Building relationships** with federal and state agencies
- **Supporting** state and regional networks
  - Heating the Midwest\*
  - Maine Pellet Fuels Association\*
  - Maryland Wood Energy Coalition\*
  - Northeast Biomass Thermal Energy Working Group
  - Pennsylvania Biomass Energy Association\*
- **Educating** the public and government officials on the facts about biomass
- **Offering education help and networking** to members

- Become a BTEC and HTM member!  
[www.biomassthermal.org/membership](http://www.biomassthermal.org/membership)
- Sponsor a BTEC webinar
- Sponsor Biomass Thermal Student Design Contest
- Reach out to state and local officials
- Participate in National Bioenergy Day - Oct. 19!

## **NORTHEAST BIOMASS HEATING CONFERENCE & EXPO 2017**

**BURLINGTON, VT | APRIL 25-27 | NEBIOMASSHEAT.COM**

**BIOMASS THERMAL ENERGY COUNCIL**

- April 25-27, 2017 in Burlington, VT
- Provide Midwest update
- Become an exhibitor or co-host
- For agenda and registration updates, visit <http://nebiomassheat.com/>



**Thank You!**

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