

## Biomass Facility Pursued

8/10/2009

The Town of Vail has offered its support to a private energy contractor, Hayden-Cary & King, of Darien, Conn., in the firm's pursuit of a [federal energy grant](#) submitted Aug. 4, that would heighten Vail's environmental sustainability efforts. If approved, the grant would fund a demonstration project to construct a combined heat and power biomass facility within the town.

The grant is being funded by the U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory. The Energy Department is seeking the development of a large-scale biomass facility that would produce electricity and heat from the same fuel to meet the objectives of a 25 percent reduction in U.S. industrial energy intensity by 2017 and an 18 percent reduction in U.S. carbon intensity by 2012 as established by the administration's "National Goal to Reduce Emissions Intensity."

While the town is not an official applicant for the grant, it has offered its support for the effort, says Town Manager Stan Zemler. "We were approached by Andrew King, the grant's principal investigator, and asked if we would participate in the process by assisting with initial research and grant writing. We're hopeful the grant is successful," he said. In offering its support for the biomass demonstration project, the Town of Vail has been joined by other project partners whose efforts were critical to the process. Holy Cross Energy, Denver Water Commission, U.S. Forest Service, John Deere and Company, Fritzen-Pierce Architects, Vail Resorts and Vail Resorts Development Company also assisted with background engineering, research and investigations.

A combined heat and power facility would address many of the town's energy needs and support adopted goals, according to Zemler. Benefits include: A reduction in carbon emissions of over 17,000 tons per year; the creation of new permanent jobs; and an ability to showcase a model for efficiency and sustainability energy use that can be used by other communities.

As envisioned, a potential biomass plant could be located on town land near the public works facility and would be fueled by millions of acres of beetle-infested lodgepole pines that are readily available. A biomass facility would be used to offset both electrical and natural gas needs for snowmelt systems and domestic hot water. The town has adopted a goal of reducing the community's overall energy use and carbon emissions by 20 percent below 2006 levels by 2020.

For additional details, contact Kristen Bertuglia, the town's environmental sustainability coordinator, at 477-3455 or email [kbertuglia@vailgov.com](mailto:kbertuglia@vailgov.com).

Copyright © 2009 | Town of Vail 75 S. Frontage Road, Vail, CO 81657 | Toll Free: (866) 650-9020 | (970) 479-2100