

BIOMASS TABLE ACTIONS AS DRAFTED IN SCOPE AND QUESTIONS FOR WORK PLANNING

TABLED ACTION	STATUS	SCOPE LANGUAGE OR COMMENT (in italics)	QUESTIONS
Continually test if an action necessary and if it has consensus support			
<p>a. Prohibit the expansion of current, and/or construction of any new, large-scale, industrial electric generation biomass facilities in the State of Vermont. Existing facilities shall:</p>	<p>In Scope</p>	<p>1. Consider the ongoing operation and expansion of existing and/or the development of new electric-led biomass facilities in Vermont based on their role in climate mitigation, their potential co-benefits, and overall impacts.</p>	<p>1. Considering the GHG emissions of Ryegate and McNeil and considering the benefits of those facilities in supporting private forestland stewardship and the maintenance of forest as forest in Vermont, is there consensus support to recommend a) opposition to future state subsidies to operate either plant, b) opposition to any future expansion of either plant, c) opposition to any future expansion of electric generation of either plant, excluding expansion necessary to increase efficiency through new thermal applications, c) remain silent on existing facilities and focus any recommendations on the development of new facilities?</p> <p>2. Is there a consensus on a broad policy statement around other impacts? Specifically consider health, cultural, and overall impacts.</p>
<p>b. Utilize existing research (<i>such as Buchholz, T., Gunn, J.S. and Saah, D.S., 2017. Greenhouse gas emissions of local wood pellet heat from northeastern US forests. Energy, 141, pp.483-491</i>) to inform if and under what conditions biomass in</p>	<p>In Scope</p>	<p>2. Utilize existing research to further consider the following components of biomass procurement to determine appropriate recommendations and whether biomass sourcing criteria are necessary for:</p> <p>a. Pellet production</p>	<p>1. Is there consensus on best management practices in this space?</p> <p>2. What are the existing regulatory tools that we could recommend changes to?</p> <p>3. Are new tools needed to influence procurement?</p>

<p>institutional or residential applications for thermal or combined heat/power applications could provide for a transition away from fossil fuel use, reduce GHG emissions, and have not net impact on Vermont's forests for storage and sequestration.</p> <p>d. The following considerations should be accounted for if permitting any new pellet producing facility(s) in the state:</p> <p>e. Regulate, including preventing, if necessary, flow of wood pellets or similar commercial scale wood-derived energy products based on research in "b" above to ensure sustainable harvesting of "net GHG-reducing" pellets (i.e., composition, source wood, etc.).</p>		<p>b. Harvest levels that maintain ecosystem integrity, optimize carbon sequestration and storage, and maintain landowners' ability to keep forest as forest and avoid conversion to other uses.</p>	
<p>f. In addition, develop a program of education and outreach, as well as technical assistance, to encourage appropriate methods and practices when using wood heat, while also ensuring oversight and regulation of those appropriate methods and practices.</p>	<p>In Scope</p>	<p>3. Consider the components of an educational program which would include outreach materials, as well as technical assistance, to encourage appropriate methods and practices when using wood heat.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the existing technical assistance and educational programs that influence forest management? 2. How can those programs speak to the harvesting of trees for biomass applications in a way that is informed by current science? 3. What are the key messages we would want to include?