

BIOMASS WG TABLE ACTIONS AND STATUS

TABLED ACTION	STATUS	SCOPE LANGUAGE OR COMMENT (in italics)
<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>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 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>VCC Clean Heat Standard Recommendation</p>	<p><i>The VCC took up and decided on recommending the clean heat standard. Subsequently the Legislature took up, passed the standard, the standard was vetoed by the Governor and the Legislature did not override the veto. Thus, what, if anything to do next r/g the VCC, rests with the VCC at this point in time.</i></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 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>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Pellet production b. Harvest levels that maintain ecosystem integrity and optimize carbon sequestration and storage

<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>c. The following GHG impacts should be accounted for when developing policy and/or associated regulations for biomass</p>	<p>Life Cycle Analysis Group</p>	<p><i>Separate LCA group is meeting to draft RFP scope and to engage with contractor once selected</i></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>