Key considerations

- GHG results for heat applications are ‘better’ than for electricity-only; CHP can be attractive
- Existing biomass power plants might have ‘paid back’ carbon debt
- Baseline and future scenario assumptions drive results
  - Volume of biomass (does current market support demand?)
  - Supply/Demand study to determine ‘risk’ for additional harvests
- Biomass markets rarely drive harvest decisions but can intensify harvests (Buchholz et al. 2019)
- Forest C stock trajectories are uncertain, some harvest activities can stabilize carbon (e.g., beetle risk; Gunn et al. 2020)
How do we maximize the benefits of wood bioenergy?

“How do we maximize the benefits of wood bioenergy?”

“If we burn wood for energy, we can’t have our cake and eat it

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“Getting this right is vital, because we have a window of only the next few decades to stabilise atmospheric greenhouse gases, beyond which some scientists believe climate disruption will be irreversible.”

• Favor thermal or combined heat and power over electricity generation only
• Favor small scale, high efficiency applications
• Practice excellent forestry that maintains high carbon stocking and retains key elements of stand structure
• Ensure that wood biomass production meets the four tests

https://theconversation.com/if-we-burn-wood-for-energy-we-cant-have-our-cake-and-eat-it-15634