

Biomass Energy Project

www.we-energies.com/biomass



Partners

Domtar and We Energies are partnering to build a 50-MW biomass-fueled cogeneration facility on the Domtar property in Rothschild, Wis.

Domtar is an international paper manufacturer with facilities across the U.S. and Canada. In November 2010, the Domtar mill in Rothschild, Wis. celebrated its 100th anniversary of making paper at this location.

We Energies is a Milwaukee-based electricity, natural gas and steam service provider to residents in southeast Wisconsin, the Fox Valley and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Biomass Project Key Points

- **Biomass use:** Domtar currently burns 130,000 tons of clean woody biomass each year to generate steam for their paper-making process. Domtar produces 50,000 tons of biomass through their paper-making process and purchases an additional 80,000 tons annually. The new project will use an additional 370,000 tons of biomass annually.
- **Air quality:** With the combination of the biomass facility's air quality technology and the retirement of Domtar's existing boilers, we anticipate that the new facility will reduce the overall emissions from the mill site by approximately 30 percent. Ambient air quality will improve as shown by analysis that includes the effects of truck traffic.
- **Jobs:** The project is expected to create 400+ construction jobs over the 2.5-year building process and approximately 150 permanent jobs in fields supporting the operation of the biomass facility (forest management, logging, transportation). The project will enable Domtar to be better positioned in the competitive global market. Domtar's Rothschild pulp and paper mill and the associated Lignotech chemical facility directly employ 460 men and women at family supporting wages. Roughly 800 external jobs rely on the economic impact of the mill.

Biomass: For this project, the term biomass means forest residue and clean wood waste. Simply put – it is the tree tops and branches left after logging takes place and clean, untreated left over material from wood manufacturing such as bark or shavings.

Biomass Energy: Energy in the form of electricity or steam that is generated using biomass materials.



- **Shared revenue:** Once the plant is in service, both the Village of Rothschild and Marathon County will receive an annual payment based on the megawatt capacity of the facility. We estimate the Village will receive up to \$146,650 per year and Marathon County up to \$113,350 per year.
- **Efficiency:** Combined heat and power cogeneration is a more efficient use of biomass fuel than producing steam and electricity separately. In addition to a smart use of a natural resource, the new plant will use the existing brownfield site on the Domtar paper mill property and share the mill's infrastructure and resources. The project also will allow Domtar to retire all existing aging boilers and nearly eliminate the use of natural gas for steam generation.
- **Healthy forests:** Use of biomass material for energy generation promotes active management for sustaining forest growth and decreasing disease, infestation and fire risks.
- **Biomass and Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Biomass energy can be considered carbon neutral, meaning that carbon released from combustion of biomass is presumed to be absorbed or captured by other biomass as it grows.

Questions?

Call: 877-380-0522

E-mail: Biomass@we-energies.com

J O B C R E A T I O N



Sustainable forestry



Fuel from logging, paper mills and saw mills



Draft concept of biomass generating facility in Rothschild, Wis.



**Steam for
Domtar mill**



**Renewable energy
for Wisconsin**