



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

WOODY BIOMASS WORKSHOP

Santa Fe, N.M. —Although the temperature is still hovering in the 90s, the Forest Guild and its partners are already thinking about next winter's heating costs, and more importantly, about how to lower future heating costs through the use of woody biomass as a sustainable, renewable, local energy resource. They will hold the Woody Biomass Thermal Energy Workshop in Santa Fe on Monday, August 3 and Tuesday, August 4 at the Santa Fe Community College.



“It will provide participants real world information about using woody biomass to heat schools, hospitals, and government and commercial buildings in New Mexico,” says Mike DeBonis, Interim Director of the Forest Guild.

“We know that many of the forests near New Mexico towns are unnaturally crowded with smaller trees that present a fire risk,” adds Dr. Zander Evans, Forest Guild Research Director. “This workshop presents an opportunity to think about the other side; that is, how can we use the trees we cut to heat our communities in a climate-friendly way?”

The workshop will provide useful information and answers about four important questions when considering woody biomass heating systems: Where is the wood and is it available? What combustion technology options are available? How much do systems cost and are there financial incentives available for installing woody biomass heating systems? And finally, what are the air quality concerns and are permits required?

Workshop participants will have opportunities to network with community leaders, facility managers, and workshop presenters. At the end of the workshop, participants will leave with the information and resources needed to make informed decisions about how to heat their buildings with woody biomass.

The low-cost, high-value workshop is open to facilities managers of government and commercial buildings, schools, and hospitals; green builders, contractors, and architects; local and state policymakers; and the general public.

WHAT: 2-DAY WORKSHOP ON HOW TO HEAT WITH WOODY BIOMASS

WHEN: Monday, August 3 and Tuesday, August 4, 2009

**WHERE: Santa Fe Community College, Jemez Room, 6401 S. Richards Ave.,
Santa Fe, NM**

COST: \$40; \$50 after July 27

INFO/REGISTRATION: <http://www.forestguild.org/ThermalWorkshop.html>

This workshop is being developed by the Forest Guild in partnership with the US Forest Service, Region 3, Biophilia Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Energy, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, New Mexico State Forestry, and the New Mexico Forest Industry Association.

The Forest Guild, headquartered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is a national organization of more than 700 foresters, allied professionals, and supporters who manage forestlands in the United States and Canada and advocate for ecologically sound forest practices. The mission of the Forest Guild is to practice and promote ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry—“excellent forestry”—as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. The Guild maintains a presence nationwide with staff and volunteer coordinators in 12 states and nearly all major forest regions of the country.

www.forestguild.org

INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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