

Interested in green heating solutions using biomass?

Karyn Sutherland

Are you a small- to medium-sized energy user in British Columbia considering the switch to biomass heating? Biomass heating systems have received a lot of attention lately as an avenue to offset carbon emissions and gain cost savings. Two new educational tools from the **Green Heat Initiative** (<http://www.greenheatinitiative.com>) may be what you've been looking for.

Pre-feasibility biomass calculator

While some institutions are busy engaging in feasibility studies, many people just want to know whether the simple numbers make sense before they invest time to learn more. With information about the estimated annual heating cost, fuel type, and the heat output of your current system, this pre-feasibility calculator (among other things) estimates your annual cost savings, simple payback period, and potential carbon offset savings. This tool is a good first step to finding out whether a green heating solution is worth more investigation. For more information, go to http://www.greenheatinitiative.com/Biomass_Calculator.aspx.

Step-by-step guide to biomass heating systems and local renewable fuels

After you've completed the pre-feasibility phase, you may be wondering what questions you should ask to further your investigation of a possible biomass heating

system. This guide helps you to evaluate and implement a wood chip or pellet heating system for your building or community. It walks you through the decision-making process needed to create a strong business case and helps you to determine the best solution for your business or community. To support the planning of your project, the guide includes sections on the initial assessment and the detailed analysis. Subsequent sections contain important tips on heating system procurement, implementation, operation, and maintenance. Download this guide at http://www.greenheatinitiative.com/userfiles/file/Final_Step_by_Step_Biomass_guide_web_1MB.pdf.

These two tools will “empower” you to make an informed choice about biomass heating alternatives. For more information, visit the Green Heat Initiative at <http://www.greenheatinitiative.com>.

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Citation –

Sutherland, K. 2011. LINK News: Interested in green heating solutions using biomass? *BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management* 12(1):xx. <http://jem.forrex.org/index.php/jem/article/view/122/71>