

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council Biomass Fuel Study Overview

The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (FSC) represents stakeholders that are interested in the potential for siting new commercial scale biomass power generation facilities within El Dorado County. Primary drivers include:

- Creating a market driven solution to support forest fuels reduction and forest restoration/remediation activities within El Dorado County.
- Improvement of air quality impacts by finding alternative uses for woody biomass material that would normally be burned in the open thus impacting air quality and contributing to regional haze.
- Reducing the amount of woody material now being deposited in local landfills thus extending the service life of the landfills.
- Supporting renewable energy development thus diversifying local power generation and providing opportunities to efficiently utilize waste material (wood waste) for co-generation of both power and heat.
- Provide employment opportunities in the form of sustainable living wage jobs.

This is a preliminary feasibility study and will be conducted by TSS Consultants, a renewable energy consulting firm retained by the El Dorado Fire Safe Council. For info on TSS go to their website (www.tssconsultants.com). The primary objective of this study is to provide a preliminary review of woody biomass fuel resources available and the potential feasibility of siting appropriately scaled commercial and non-commercial biomass power and/or heat generation facilities within El Dorado County.

The study will assess the feasibility of a biomass project that is environmentally compatible, acceptable to the community, capable of receiving the necessary regulatory permits, and utilizes locally and regionally available fuels that are otherwise considered wasted resources. Specifically, the study will define and examine the local and regional conditions and assumptions necessary for creating a successful biomass utilization facility within El Dorado County. Input from FSC members/stakeholders, and others will be solicited to help select potential candidate sites that have support from local communities.