



Biomass Power Association Welcomes Commitment to Regulatory Certainty from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt

Washington, DC – February 14, 2018 – Biomass Power Association today expressed gratitude to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt for the commitment to regulatory certainty for biomass he articulated in a [letter](#) to New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu.

“The biomass industry greatly appreciates Administrator Pruitt’s strong commitment to create regulatory certainty for biomass power producers and all contributors to the wood supply chain,” said Bob Cleaves, president and CEO of Biomass Power Association. “We enjoyed a productive meeting in New Hampshire with Administrator Pruitt and his team yesterday, and we are eager to work with them to implement sensible guidelines to determine the carbon impact from biogenic sources.”

In 2017, [Biomass Power Association released a study](#) measuring the carbon impact of organic residues for electricity generation. Working with two professors, the association examined the carbon intensity of a 50-megawatt capacity biomass power facility in New Hampshire with a 43-megawatt net output on the electric grid, comparing it to that of a typical combined cycle natural gas facility. The professors found that the use of organic residues as fuel in a biomass power plant instead of natural gas in a combined cycle facility results in immediate carbon savings of 115%, with 98% carbon savings over 100 years.

“As the Administrator noted in his letter, America’s forests are a valuable resource – and biomass is a critical part of the supply chain,” Cleaves continued. “Biomass power producers deserve full recognition for the sustainable, clean energy they provide to the power grid as well as for the value they add to the larger forest products industry.”

The EPA’s Scientific Advisory Board panel convened in 2011 to study carbon from biogenic sources. Despite widespread agreement that forest residues and agriculture byproducts are a carbon neutral source of fuel, the panel has yet to issue a final framework of recommendations to the administrator. In 2014, then-Acting Assistant Administrator Janet McCabe issued a [memorandum](#) for how biomass would be treated under the Clean Power Plan, stating that the Agency “expects to recognize the biogenic CO₂ emissions and climate policy benefits of waste-derived and certain forest-derived industrial byproduct feedstocks.”

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The [Biomass Power Association \(BPA\)](#) is a non-profit trade association, dedicated to the promotion and advocacy of energy from organic material. Our 40 members operate in 22 states, supplying more than 1 GW of renewable power and representing well over half the operating biomass power plant fleet across the country. Based in Portland, Maine with offices in Washington, DC, we represent the industry before Congress, various federal agencies, and before state legislatures, agencies and non-governmental organizations. BPA provides science and market-based analyses of a wide range of issues, from federal and state renewable policies to carbon emission accounting.