

ET-014
Biomass Co-Fired Electricity Generation

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Abstract

Locally grown biomass can be used to co-fire coal-powered electricity generating units, thereby increasing the percentage of electricity generated by sustainable sources. However, contradictory policies currently encourage co-firing (production tax credits and renewable energy production incentives) and discourage its use (exclusion of agricultural waste from credits and renewable portfolio legislation definitions which exclude co-firing). This project will examine the benefits and costs to Pennsylvania of biomass co-firing, examining the environmental and sustainability benefits, the economics of biomass co-firing, the infrastructure required and the size and structure of a future biomass production industry in Pennsylvania.