



ENVIVA EXPANSION THREATENS FORESTS, CLIMATE, & COMMUNITIES

Major Buildout Proposed

Enviva, the world's largest producer of wood pellets, is attempting to expand production across the Southern US.

Enviva hopes to increase production at their Southampton Virginia plant by 246,000 tons per year - from 535,000 tpy to 781,000 tpy. That's 5,904 more acres of forests logged each year - **more clearcuts, more carbon in the atmosphere, more dangerous logging trucks on the road, less habitat for wildlife, and less protection from natural disasters.**

The wood pellet industry has been allowed to grow unchecked across the Southern US, with no proper analysis of this industry's impact on our forests, climate, or communities.

Impacts on Forests

The wood pellet industry is driving the **destruction and degradation of tens of thousands of acres of forests**, which are cut down, turned into wood pellets, and shipped overseas to Europe and Asia to be burned for energy.

Despite their claims to only source waste wood and wood not suitable for other industries, Enviva has been documented sourcing from bottomland and coastal hardwood forests, areas identified as global biodiversity hotspots.^[1]

Enviva will have you believe our forests are growing. In truth, we've lost 35 million acres of natural forests, and gained 40 million acres of monoculture pine plantations.



Climate Impacts

Numerous scientific studies have confirmed that **burning trees releases more greenhouse gas emissions per unit of electricity compared to coal and is worse for the climate than burning coal** - particularly over the crucial years ahead.^[2] Increased carbon dioxide concentrations from burning wood persist in the atmosphere for decades or more.

The urgency of the climate crisis demands that we dramatically scale up forest protection. Forests draw carbon out of the atmosphere and store it in trees and soil. Now, more than ever, we need standing, diverse, healthy forests and wetlands to store carbon, protect us from flooding and storms, and provide us with clean air and water.

Community & Economic Impacts

Enviva facilities impact surrounding communities with **increased truck traffic on small roads, dangerous air pollution, dust, constant noise, and a degraded landscape.**

The production of wood pellets creates harmful particulate matter, volatile organic compounds that create smog, and other hazardous pollutants.

A recent report by Environmental Integrity Project shows a shocking pattern of air quality violations or noncompliance at **all** of Enviva's wood pellet facilities.^[3] Enviva has been the subject of lawsuits regarding their unlawful air pollution, and their Franklin, VA plant is suspected of violating the clean air act. ^[4,5]

Environmental Justice communities - those with incomes below the state median and more than 25% people of color - **are twice as likely to have a wood biomass pellet production facility** than other communities.^[6] These communities face pollution and destruction of their forests, and do not benefit economically.

Enviva has not improved the local economies where it has plants. In Northampton County, NC, Enviva opened a plant in 2013. Since that time, the poverty rate has actually increased from 26.3 percent to 28.5 percent.^[7]



TAKE ACTION: STAND FOR FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES

Tell Virginia DEQ: NO Expansion

Time and again, Enviva has misled the public, government, and investors on their emissions and sourcing practices -- repeatedly putting profit over people.

Expanding production at Enviva's Southampton facility will not benefit the community. This expansion will not bring new jobs to Enviva's facility. But it will increase pollution, carbon emissions, dangerous track traffic, and the destruction of the landscape.

Tell Virginia DEQ to protect our forests and protect our health. Attend the Southampton County Public Hearing to stand for forests and communities.

WHEN: 6:00 PM Thursday, September 12th, 2019

WHERE: Paul D. Camp Community College, Workforce Development Center, Conference Hall A
100 North College Drive, Franklin, Virginia.

Or email your public comment to: james.white@deq.virginia.gov (cc:ralph.northam@governor.virginia.gov)
Contact emily@dogwoodalliance.org with for more information.



References

1. <https://bit.ly/2XcS2tN>
2. <https://on.nrdc.org/1Uc74qh>
3. <https://bit.ly/2jXemBR>
4. <https://bit.ly/2XbCW7Z>
5. <https://bit.ly/2ZtsusX>
6. <https://bit.ly/2D5vGOO>
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