

Biomass & Economy



Biomass, or bioenergy, creates energy by burning living materials like plants and trees. The wood pellet industry uses trees to make wood pellets. It then ships them to Europe and Asia and burns them in power plants to create electricity. **Wood pellet plants are as dirty and problematic as coal plants.**

Many rural communities hope that the biomass industry will help the local economy and lower poverty. **As a result, county and state governments provide millions of taxpayer dollars in incentives to attract new businesses.** These include things like tax breaks, use of land, and support with water and road systems.

Yet extractive, polluting industries like the wood pellet industry have been locating in rural communities for decades, and **these communities continue to struggle with poverty and unemployment, while industry executives who live outside the community prosper.** Both property values and livability decline in areas near wood pellet factories.



In some places with wood pellet plants, tax rates have increased. Northampton County has the third highest county tax rate in North Carolina after raising taxes to pay for subsidies it gave to Enviva. Northampton County still has high unemployment and poverty rates.

If you're living near a wood pellet plant, you deserve to know the risks. Learn more about what you can do to prevent further damage to your community at the link below.



Find out more at dogwoodalliance.org/biomass-economy