Forests, Wood & Energy

Policy Developments
Cooperation between the Timber and Sustainable Energy Committees

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- 21 November 2008, Geneva -
Overview

1. Wood energy
2. Wood, energy and climate change
3. Relevant Timber Section activities
4. Cooperation with Sustainable Energy Committee
1. Wood energy

- Most important renewable energy source: worldwide & within UNECE region
- Expected to further increase its significance in Europe and North America, in light of renewable energy targets (EU-27: 20% by 2020)
- EU-27: 9% renewable energy of final energy consumption, 58% of which wood (2008 EuroStat data)
- Wood energy in EU-27: > 5% of total energy supply
1. Wood energy

Wood most important source of renewable energy now

Source: EurObserv'ER
1. Wood energy: sources

Direct:
Logging residues, thinnings, clearings, short rotation coppice etc.

Indirect:
Co-products, enhanced/densified processed wood fuels (pellets, charcoal, biofuels), etc.

Recovered:
Post consumer recycled wood products (often contaminated), construction, demolition, waste etc.
1. Wood energy: Fibre qualities are important

Share of wood used for energy and material use in the EU 27/EFTA region

Wood removals 2005 from forest and woody biomass outside forests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For energy use</th>
<th>For material use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29%</td>
<td>71%</td>
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Wood co-products, residues & recovered wood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For energy use</th>
<th>For material use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>62%</td>
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Total supply

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For energy use</th>
<th>For material use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>58%</td>
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Source: UNECE / Hamburg University (2007)
2. Wood, energy and climate change

Important questions facing the forest sector:

- **Harvest and substitute** (wood energy or raw materials) or **sequester carbon in standing forests**?
- Which combination of the different options, to most effectively mitigate climate change?
- What is the amount of **potential sustainable wood supply**?
  - 332 million m³ wood used for energy in Europe in 2005
  - Additional 353 million m³ required, to meet 20% EU renewable energy target
- Which amount is **sustainable**? How to balance energy and industry demands with biodiversity conservation?
- Development of **sustainability criteria for biomass**
- Impact of **international trade** (pellets, chips, wood-based fuels)?
3. UNECE Timber Section activities

- Improving quality of information & analysis:
  - Studies on wood availability, demand and potential wood supply

- Stimulating Policy Dialogue:
  - Addressing “Forests, energy and climate change” at the European Forest Week, 20-24.10.2008
  - Side event at UNFCCC COP 14 in Poznan: Carbon storage in Harvested Wood Products: Why bother?

- Capacity Building:
  - [Wood energy workshop in Serbia](#), December 2008;
4. Cooperation with the SE Committee

- Mutual information on developments in the field of renewable energy
- Information on access to funding opportunities
- “The role of wood in green building” workshop at the European Forest Week, Rome, 20 October 2008
- Energy Efficiency 21 (EE 21) project: Regional study in 12 countries for project “Financing energy efficiency investments for climate change mitigation”
Thank you for your attention!

For more information, please visit our website [www.unece.org/timber](http://www.unece.org/timber),
our wood energy page: [http://www.unece.org/timber/mis/energy/welcome.htm](http://www.unece.org/timber/mis/energy/welcome.htm)

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