



Seeing the
FOREST
for the Trees
FUTURE POTENTIAL FOR
BIOMASS ENERGY IN MARYLAND

ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK -
SUPPORTING FOREST CONSERVATION
WITH WOODY BIOMASS ENERGY

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

WEBINAR SERIES: SESSION 2

For more information visit
MDCLEANENERGY.ORG/BIOMASS

BIOMASS WEBINAR SERIES OVERVIEW

Forest management is necessary to ensure carbon sequestration for air quality and to protect the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Management of forests produces woody biomass materials, which are also available in excess from storm debris removal and tree maintenance. This resource is marketable as a good source for thermal energy generation.

This webinar series will highlight available technologies, economic competitiveness, ease of installing and operating biomass energy systems to examine how Maryland commercial and institutional consumers can benefit from the adoption of thermal biomass energy solutions.

Speakers will share case study examples of successful projects and discussions will cover a range of economic, operational, environmental, policy, and regulatory considerations.

SESSION 2

Using woody biomass for energy has positive impacts on forest health, when the right policy framework is in place. It is important for educated stakeholders to work together to create sound policies for sustainable forest management using woody biomass for energy.

By the end of this webinar, participants will:

- Know how much woody biomass could be sustainably harvested from Maryland forested lands and existing urban tree maintenance- and for how long; and how experts arrive at these projections
- Understand how enabling markets for low value wood to be used for biomass energy can improve forest health, create jobs, and keep forests working to sequester carbon
- Identify potential opportunities for local job development, wage creation, tax revenue, and business retention from deploying woody biomass energy solutions in Maryland
- Understand how policy, regulatory, and economic frameworks can prevent unsustainable harvest and negative impacts on wildlife habitat and water quality

PANELISTS



Wade Haerle

Agriculture and Energy
Program Manager
MD Dept. of Commerce



Brian Kittler

Senior Director of
Forest Restoration
American Forests



Kelly Schulz

Secretary
MD Dept. of Commerce



Dr. David Wear

Nonresident Senior Fellow
Resources for the Future

Session Moderator: **Donnelle Keech** Resilient Forests Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

This program is offered in association with the Spurring Fossil Free- Biomass initiative, brought to you by the [Maryland Forestry Foundation](#) and [Maryland Clean Energy Center](#) in partnership with the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) and the [Sustainable Forestry Council](#), with funding from the [Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund](#).



SESSION 2 SPEAKER BIOS

Donnelle Keech Resilient Forests Program Director, The Nature Conservancy

Donnelle Keech has represented The Nature Conservancy in western Maryland since 2001. As Resilient Forests Program Director for the MD/DC Chapter, she leads the Conservancy's work to conserve public and private forests in Maryland's Appalachian region. She has a degree in Anthropology from New York University, and a Master's in applied ecology from Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Donnelle grew up in Frederick, MD and today lives in Cumberland where she and her husband enjoy juggling two environmental careers while trying to keep up with two teenage sons and one Australian cattle dog.

Kelly Schulz Secretary, MD Dept. of Commerce

Kelly M. Schulz brings a wealth of knowledge to the Maryland Department of Commerce from her years of experience working in the government, in the private sector and as a small business owner. She had previously served as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) since her confirmation in February 2015 and is also a former member of the Maryland House of Delegates.

A former member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing Frederick County, she served on the Economic Matters Committee from 2011- 2015. In addition to local issues, then Delegate Schulz took special interest in legislation relating to banks and other financial institutions, business, occupations and professions, economic development, labor and employment, unemployment insurance and workers' compensation.

Prior to embarking on a career of public service, Secretary Schulz sold real estate, worked as a program manager for a defense contractor and was a part-owner of a cyber security firm.

Secretary Schulz obtained her Associates degree from Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York and later obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.

Wade Haerle Agriculture and Energy Program Manager, MD Dept. of Commerce

Wade has extensive experience in the development of energy projects at the local, state, and national levels with an emphasis in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Wade has worked on over 200 NEPA permits in the 18 western United States plus projects in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Georgia. Additionally, Wade has worked on forest health issues in Colorado for over 25 years.

Wade works for the Maryland Department of Commerce as the Program Manager for Agriculture and Energy. He lives in Wye Mills Maryland.

Brian Kittler Senior Director of Forest Restoration, American Forests

Brian leads American Forests' policy and landscape scale initiatives in the Western US. Prior to joining American Forests, he led forest teams at Sustainable Northwest and the Pinchot Institute for Conservation focused on federal forest management, collaborative conservation, community forests, and forest carbon markets and incentives. Brian's work has also focused on forest bioenergy sustainability analysis. This has included studies for the University of Maryland Hughes Center for Agro-ecology, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, and the European Commission, as well as collaborations with the International Energy Agency Bioenergy. This research pertains to wood sourcing programs and certifications, international trade, sustainability criteria, and carbon analysis. Brian is also currently a member of the technical advisory committee for the California Biopower Impacts Project and a consultant to the Washington State Carbon Sequestration Advisory Group. Brian has a BA from Colby College in Environmental Policy and an MS in Environmental Science and Policy from the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. David Wear Nonresident Senior Fellow, Resources for the Future

David Wear joined RFF after more than thirty years with US Forest Service Research and Development, most recently as a senior research scientist and leader of national and regional resource assessments.

Wear's research focuses on integrating economic choice and biophysical elements of natural resource systems to project forest conditions and illuminate policy options. His work has addressed forest carbon dynamics at broad scales, the potential adoption of genetically modified trees, federal timber policies, the effects of climate and financial risk on forest investments, and dynamics of regional timber supplies. Interdisciplinary studies have addressed the ecological implications of land use change and forest management and the interactions of land use, forest conditions, climate change, and water supply.

To support national assessments of forest conditions, Wear led the development of modeling approaches to project the nation's forest inventory in response to forest management, climate conditions, and disturbances, allowing for integrated analysis of multiple ecosystem services and tradeoffs.