



## PENNSYLVANIA FUELS FOR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

Promoting the use of local, sustainable biomass for heat and power projects

### Summary of 2014 Activities

#### Overview

This reports the 2014 accomplishments and activities of the PA Fuels for Schools and Communities Program. The committee meets the second Wednesday of every other month.

PA FFSC program sponsored two Boiler Operator's meeting during 2014.

A set of wood fuel standards were prepared to provide guidance to fuel users and manufacturers as they establish and operate wood energy projects. These specifications were developed by manufacturers and end users of commercial wood heat systems, and is suitable for most facilities. Look for the release of these fully-vetted guidelines early 2015.

We are very excited about West Branch School District's (Clearfield County) wood-fueled boiler project to heat their elementary & high school complex. The PA FFSC participated briefly with the energy service company McClure Company for their successful DEP PEDA Grant award to help pay for that boiler installation.

Finally, we are all hopeful for a successful Statewide Wood Energy Team grant award, announcements this coming March 2015. If awarded, this grant will help our statewide team promote wood boiler installations in Pennsylvania over the next three years.

#### Boiler Operators' Group Meeting February 2014

- About 13 attended at Penn's Valley School District
- Results of the FFS Biomass Operators' Survey
- Issues as identified by the operators
  - Savings enjoyed
  - Ease of operation of their boilers
  - 2 largest concerns identified
  - Solicited interest and participation in a forum
  - Toured boiler room afterward

#### Boiler Operators' Group Meeting November 2014

- 24 attended the meeting at Evangelical Community Hospital followed by boiler facility tour
- Guest Speaker Dave Shimmel presented on Permitting and Compliance Regulations for boiler operators
- Distributed to the operators the survey of biomass boilers operating in Pennsylvania.
- These are boilers operating at non-forest-products industry facilities.

### **Fuel Standards & Specifications Guidelines**

- Prepared the voluntary, recommended standards and specifications
- Defining sustainable biomass supply
- Purpose of this specification is to provide guidance to fuel users and manufacturers as they establish and operate wood energy projects
- Specifications were developed by manufacturers and end users of commercial wood heat systems, and is suitable for most facilities
- Specifying three Categories...Medium Clean Chip, SWRC Chip, and Medium Variable Chip
- Sent to manufacturers, chip suppliers, and others for their input/feedback
- Sent October 2014 for Public Comment
- Anticipating release of the Standards this January 2015

### **Participated in DEP's recent PEDA grant solicitation offering**

- 27 awards out of 284 proposals
- West Branch School District awarded a grant for their woodchip boiler project

### **Co-hosted Bio-Energy Celebration at Crawford Central High School.**

- Presented to 24 interested individuals
- Followed by a tour of the boiler plant

### **Submitted a proposal to the USFS to establish a Statewide Wood Energy Team**

- Purpose of the grant to increase the number of wood energy installations in Pennsylvania
- This is a three year grant for \$250,000...to establish a team to identify, educate, provide pre-feasibility analyses and help to fund and install wood-fueled boilers at Pennsylvania schools, hospitals, prisons, & businesses
- Results to be announced in March 2015