

# Michigan's Energy Future: Is There a Role for Wood Biomass?

## Glossary of Terms

**Bioeconomy:** Currently our economy is heavily reliant on nonrenewable sources of energy such as coal. The 'bioeconomy' is the push to supply energy and other products from renewable, organic materials such as plants and agricultural waste.

**Renewable Energy:** Electricity produced using renewable resources.

**Renewable Energy Resource:** As defined by the Michigan Law, renewable resources replenish over the course of human, not geological time, and come from the sun, wind, water or the earth's natural heat.

**Bioenergy:** Energy, such as heat, liquid fuel or electricity, which has been produced using renewable resources.

**Biofuels:** Fuels, such as ethanol or wood pellets, made from renewable sources derived from forests and agricultural products.

**Biomass:** Organic matter not derived from fossil fuels, such as agricultural residues, municipal wastes and wood, which can be used for making heat, electricity or biofuel.

**Carbon neutral:** The balanced give and take of carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere.

**Cellulosic ethanol:** Liquid fuel derived from cellulose, the carbohydrate in plants which gives stems, leaves and cell walls their rigidity.

**Ethanol:** A renewable liquid fuel fermented from plants such as corn and used to supplement fossil fuel derived petroleum.

**Greenhouse Gas:** Gases, such as Carbon Dioxide and Methane that trap the sun's heat in the earth's atmosphere.

**Sequestered:** In regards to greenhouse gasses, sequestered gasses are kept separate from earth's atmosphere, either underground or inside living organisms.

**Woody biomass:** Biomass derived from forests such as low economic value standing whole trees, logging residue, mill waste and fast growing perennial grasses and trees.

