



Renewable • Reliable • Resourceful  
**Biomass Energy Resource Center**

## AIR QUALITY: BERC'S COMMITMENT

Biomass energy is an increasingly attractive option to achieve renewable energy goals, to provide for energy security and climate change mitigation, and to locally reduce high prices for consumers, businesses, schools, and institutions to meet their electricity and heating needs. Control of emissions of fine particulate matter and air toxics from biomass units are of particular concern to ensure potential impact on sensitive populations are minimized.

Because of its commitment to achieve the best air quality performance and public health outcomes with the use of biomass energy, BERC supports only the deployment of high-quality biomass energy projects that implement efficient combustion technologies and best management practices for emission control technologies, fuel quality, and operating conditions. BERC recognizes that, with the use of best technologies, biomass energy projects can minimize emissions of pollutants that adversely impact air quality and public health.

**Efficient combustion technologies** are advanced combustion systems that have been proven to efficiently convert and utilize the energy value of the biomass used, to ensure maximum conversion of the useful energy in the fuel, and which help advance the goals of ensuring sustainable fuel supply over the long term. This

includes proper boiler technology, sizing, location, and stack height to ensure optimal efficiency and dispersion of pollutants remaining after appropriate emission control technologies are applied.

**Emission-control technologies** are available in the marketplace that can effectively control emissions of particulate matter and air toxics. Control technologies vary depending on the scale of biomass application, ranging from large electric generating units to biomass combined heat and power (CHP) systems to pellet stoves and boilers sized for residential and commercial heating use. BERC supports the use of best available emissions-control technology for each type of biomass application.

Using **high-quality fuel** for biomass energy projects is important because high-quality fuel can result in substantially reduced emissions of air pollutants of concern. BERC supports the development of industry standards for fuel quality and consistency as well as ensuring the sustainability of this high-quality fuel.

Ensuring **sound operation** of biomass energy projects will maintain lower emission levels and related environmental impacts achieved with the use of the best technologies. BERC supports training and industry standards for operational aspects of biomass

combustion, and increased use of automated controls where feasible.

In addition to promoting these best practices, BERC is committed to a variety of other actions and measures to support and promote the deployment of high-quality biomass energy projects:

- A commitment to continually analyze and identify best practices for biomass energy projects as combustion and control technologies, fuels, siting, and operational approaches evolve over time to promote continuous improvement in these areas.
- Advocacy for public policies and program changes (e.g., appliance codes, UI certification) that establishes clear standards for environmental performance improvements that advance the appropriate use of biomass energy applications and drive market innovation.
- Promotion of public and private advocacy and funding support for innovative clean biomass technologies to assist their penetration into the market.

*Adopted by the BERC board of directors on December 12, 2008*