



Statewide Grass Energy Initiative

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Some Numbers for Grass Heat

- The average home will use 4 to 6 tons of pellets for heat
- It takes 20 years to grow a tree and about 70 days to grow a field of grass
- Wood pellets have 1% ash; grass pellets have 4+% ash
- Wood pellets have about 8500 btu / lb; grass pellets have about 8000 btu / lb
- Grass pellets are CO₂ neutral
- Grass pellet conversion efficiency for energy-out/ energy-in is estimated at 14:1



Overview: Grass Energy & the PNERCD

- History
- Mobile Pelletizer





On-Farm Pellet Production Workshop

- Ten (10) different sites across the 10-county region
- Sponsored by a USDA Rural Energy Development Assistance grant
- Format: classroom and demonstration
- Very good results



Proposed Statewide Grass Energy Project

- Would cover six RCD regions, all but Philadelphia and Pittsburgh regions
- Increased public awareness of grass energy
- Education and awareness for farmers in the six regions



Multi-Function Buffers

- Secretaries of DA and DCNR very interested
- Use of grasses for heat as part of buffer design could provide more economic incentive to farmers



Primary Purpose of Grass Heat Project

- To promote and develop the use of grass as a form of renewable energy



Considerations

- Farmers can make their own heat
- Market still has to be developed in US
- Attractive to environmental people and farmers



Other Considerations

- Activities of AWSGP will increase demand for grasses in Pennsylvania
- Outside support can be obtained for development of a grass market
- Impact can be larger than Pennsylvania