

# Springfield Area *Interfaith* Climate Action Network

Department of Energy Resources public hearing on rule change regarding biomass incinerators proposed rule changes that would provide clean-energy subsidies for wood boilers and other thermal technologies that emit more pollution than fossil fuel plants per unit of energy generated.

10:00 AM, Holyoke Community College, Kittredge Center, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke

This rule change would put forest carbon in the atmosphere contributing to climate change.

Burning any carbon-containing substance, whether biomass or fossil fuels, releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Burning forest biomass to make electricity releases **substantially more carbon dioxide** per unit of electricity than does coal.

Removing the carbon dioxide released from burning wood through new tree growth requires many decades to a century, and not all trees reach maturity because of drought, fire, insects or land use conversion. All the while the added carbon dioxide is in the atmosphere trapping heat. Right now, large areas of American forests including old growth trees are being cleared for pellets that are shipped to Europe and burned to produce electricity that is counted there as zero carbon.

This rule change would significantly undermine Massachusetts' landmark protections established in 2012 as part of the State's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard for electricity producers.

SAICAN urges your to reject the incorrect idea that wood-burning can produce carbon-neutral electricity.

Joelle Million  
Springfield Area Interfaith Climate Action Network  
23 E. Primrose Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106  
41-754-3550; [jmillion46@gmail.com](mailto:jmillion46@gmail.com)