



NATIONAL WOOD STOVE COMPETITION

We All Win with Clean, Efficient Technology!

The 2015/16 Pellet Stove Design Challenge was held by the [Alliance for Green Heat](#) in April. This event promotes innovation in wood and pellet heating and advances technical innovations that help ensure wood stoves burn cleaner in the hands of consumers and targets reductions of stoves that use fossil heating fuels. During the competition, there was also a 3-day workshop with a series of roundtable discussions, presentations and testing workshops.

A German-designed Wittus pellet stove, distributed by a New York company, and a stove made by Seraph Industries, the smallest U.S. pellet stove manufacturer, won first and second place in this year's Stove Design Challenge. The Wittus Pellwood stove is an innovative prototype that can burn both pellets and cordwood, bringing advanced technology from basement furnaces up into the living room. The second place stove, Seraph's Phoenix F25, designed to fit in a fireplace, has innovative features that help users to keep the stove operating efficiently. Both stoves achieved high efficiency and very low emissions.

The challenge is a partnership between various organizations and agencies that are interested in exploring the potential of wood based stove technology to meet a growing demand for renewable energy. Partners include New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, Renewable Heat New York, the USDA Forest Service, and state agencies from Massachusetts and Washington. Leading experts from Clarkson University, the Masonry Heater Association and the Osprey Foundation also participated.

Forest Products Marketing Unit's Mark Knaebe represented the USDA Forest Service at the annual competition as a speaker and a judge. Mark enjoys sharing his expertise, pertaining to highly efficient stoves, with innovators interested in promoting this technology. He noted that wood stove combustion technology has "come a long way, but there's still a long way to go."

The Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Lab hosted the event. Extensive testing of the stoves is conducted at the lab.



Wittus Pellwood Stove

The competition brings new ideas from the competing teams together in a spirit of collaboration.



Seraph Phoenix F25 Stove

The Forest Service's emphasis on biomass utilization, wood products, and wood energy encourages market development for woody biomass and provides high quality data to inform business, management, and policy decisions. Forest Service activities reduce investor risk, provide for sustainable feedstocks, and develop new products and efficient fuels. These activities significantly contribute to U.S. energy security, environmental quality, economic opportunity, while firmly supporting the bioeconomy.

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MTE Partners Cut Ribbon on Biomass District Energy System

BIOMASS HEATS and POWERS TRIBAL SAWMILL OPERATION

A new biomass district energy system opened on April 20 at the Menominee Tribal Enterprises (MTE) sawmill facility in Neopit, Wisconsin. The combined heat and power (CHP) system will use 8,500 tons of woody debris annually, and generate roughly 85,000 million Btu of heat and 1 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year. MTE manages more than 219,000 acres of forest on tribal lands, creating an important connection between forest management and their sawmill operations. This project significantly improves the emission profile and increases efficiency for their operations, which support over 175 jobs. The \$3.8 million project is projected to save \$500,000 per year in energy and operation/maintenance costs. Participating agencies and organizations included the USDA Forest Service, USDA Rural Development, U.S. Department of Energy, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Focus on Energy, U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities, and the Indian Land Capital Company.

State Wood Energy Teams Making an Impact!

With funding support from the USDA Forest Service, 21 state wood energy teams (SWETs) have been formed since 2013. These public-private partnerships support efforts to increase the use of woody biomass for energy. Information for each team is available through the USDA Forest Service's [Wood Education Resource Center](#).

The SWET program has successfully:

- Promoted commercially proven wood energy systems that are using woody biomass from National Forest System and other lands.
- Expanded markets that convert woody biomass into energy to support wildfire mitigation, forest restoration, and other forest management goals.
- Developed systematic approaches to installing wood energy systems that support clusters of projects or larger projects that improve the viability of businesses that harvest, process, and deliver wood fuels.
- Supported the development or expansion of statewide wood energy teams that provide technical, financial, and environmental information required for developing wood energy projects to reduce the use of fossil fuels.
- Resulted in significant public and private investment in wood energy systems, often replacing traditional fossil fuels like fuel oil and propane.

Upcoming Classes, Events, Workshops

Dates	Title	Link
May 13	Back to Basics Training Series: Engineered Wood Products	apawood.org
May 11	Mass Timber Building Systems: Understanding the Options	woodworks.org
June 27-29	Forest Products Society International Conference, Portland, OR	forestprod.org

Monthly UPDATE Links

HOUSING STATS: Virginia Tech, Forest Service Housing Commentary

[February 2016 Main Report and 2016 Part B, Economics](#)

In the NEWS:

[US Green Building Council's New LEED Change a Boon for Forest Industry and Landowners](#)

REPORTS:

[Wood Bio Energy and Soil Productivity Research](#)

[The Effects of Drought on Forests and Rangelands in the United States](#)

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