

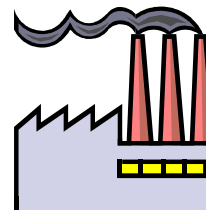
BURNING BIOMASS IS NOT GREEN!

Hogs, turkeys and chickens are big business in North Carolina and they can create major environmental problems when the wastes are not properly handled. Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) concentrate the wastes too, putting water quality at risk from spills and runoff. Neighbors downwind from these facilities suffer from the odors and toxic air emissions from the waste.

Making Matters Worse

Burning animal waste, such as poultry litter, is not the solution. Concern is being raised over proposals put forth in 2005 calling for the NC GreenPower program to begin purchasing power from animal waste incinerators. A bill filed in the North Carolina General Assembly would :

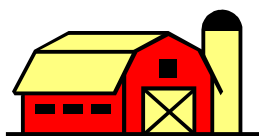
- ① Require NC GreenPower to “Actively promote the production of biomass energy”;
- ② Define “Biomass energy” as “electricity generated from burning biomass”;
- ③ Define “Biomass” from animals as “Livestock or poultry excreta or a mixture of excreta with feed, bedding, litter, or other materials from an agricultural activity.”



Poultry Litter Is Not Clean Wood

The North Carolina Division of Air Quality acknowledges that poultry litter is not “clean” wood waste and puts limits on how much can be burned in waste-to-energy facilities. The non-profit Energy Justice Network describes emissions from poultry litter as “roughly as polluting as coal” emitting NO_x, SO₂, CO, PM (soot), hydrochloric acid, antimony, manganese, and mercury. Arsenic, when used in poultry feed, is a particular risk.

Why Burn Fertilizer?



When properly applied, poultry litter is an excellent fertilizer. Burning poultry litter eliminates this valuable resource for local farmers. Where volumes are too high for local land application, composting and pelletizing are more sustainable alternatives. Fertilizer can be analyzed and managed *before* application; but smokestack emissions are dispersed by the wind.

What You Can Do

- 1 Oppose efforts by agri-business and energy companies to subsidize biomass.
- 2 Send a letter to NC GreenPower supporting clean energy and opposing biomass burning.
- 3 Sign-on to our letter at: www.bredl.org/energy/NCGreenPower-poultrywaste.htm
- 4 Check out our website at www.BREDL.org and other resources on the web:

The Institute for Local Self Reliance: www.ilsr.org

Energy Justice Network: www.energyjustice.net

Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives: www.no-burn.org

March 2006

BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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FIBROWATT FACTS

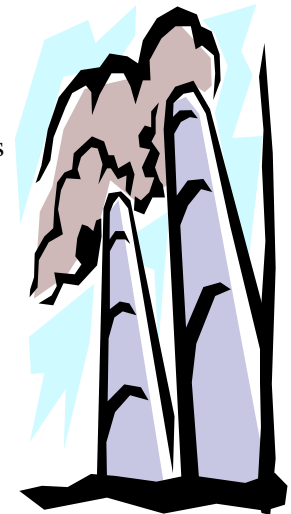
Fibrowatt LLC is a partnership created by Rupert Fraser, co-founder of the British Fibrowatt Group. The U. S. company is 70 percent owned by the Boston investment firm, Homeland Renewable Energy LLC and Fibrowatt Ltd, the developer of three poultry litter-powered plants in the United Kingdom. Rupert Fraser serves as chief executive officer of both Fibrowatt and Homeland Renewable Energy. **Fibrowatt is targeting Wilkes, Surry and Alexander Counties for their first site in North Carolina.**

What is Fibrowatt Doing Here?

Fibrowatt is building its first project in the United States, **Fibrominn**, a 50-megawatt plant under construction in Benson, Minnesota. The primary fuel (75%) will be turkey litter with some chicken litter. The balance of the fuel mix ranges from agricultural wastes to wood chips. The volume of litter burned at the Minnesota plant is expected to total 700,000 tons per year. Steam generated from burning poultry litter will be used to run a turbine and produce electricity. The electricity will be sold to Xcel Energy to satisfy that company's legislative requirement to use renewable energy.

What About Pollution?

Fibrowatt's plans include a 350-foot smokestack. Based on calculations from the Minnesota plant, **hundreds of tons of air pollution would be emitted each year from their facility's smokestack in North Carolina.** Actual emissions are unknown because similar poultry waste facilities are not operating in the United States and regulators must rely on information supplied by other countries. As with any system that burns fuel to produce heat, the characteristics of the fuel will determine the amount, and content, of the emissions to the air and the chemical residues in the ash.



What Are the Alternatives?

Fibrowatt promises to solve the problem of poultry waste disposal by burning litter from industrial chicken farms. The current practice allows farmers to spread this litter on local farm and forestland. Typically a ton of litter contains 27 pounds of nitrogen and 30 pounds of phosphorus. Other options include composting and pelletization, which reduces the volume and makes it economically feasible to transport fertilizer longer distances. A University of Maryland 2002 study, "Economic Value of Poultry Litter Supplies In Alternative Uses", concluded that application to farmland provided the **highest economic value to local farmers** while proposals to burn litter to generate electricity represented a negative value. Without taxpayer subsidies, such as Section 45 of the 2005 Energy Policy Act or programs like NC GreenPower—a non-profit that receives tax deductible donations from consumers and buys "renewable" energy from sources in North Carolina, poultry litter electricity generation could not compete with conventional power sources. **Unless we act now, taxpayers in North Carolina can expect to pay a premium in subsidies and incentives to burn poultry litter.**

PULL THE PLUG ON BIOMASS BURNING!

for more information contact

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