

# National Fire Plan

Biomass Utilization ~ Colorado 2003



A unique partnership took the spotlight at a local school on Thursday, May 22, in Walden, Colorado. North Park High School is hosting a modular biopower system that converts forest thinnings into electricity. They call it BioMax 15.

The school is one of only seven places in the U.S. to pilot and demonstrate the modular biopower system sponsored by the National Fire Plan. The U.S. Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, and the U.S. Department of Energy through the Natural Renewable Energy Laboratory and one of their subcontractors, Community Power Corporation, formed a team to demonstrate the use of small-scale biopower units to produce electricity using wood chips.

BioMax 15 is a cutting-edge, transportable, fully automated, and environmentally friendly biopower system that uses forest residues to produce electricity and heat suitable for small enterprises, rural homes, and schools.

The system will be first used to provide electricity for a greenhouse at the high school where students propagate native plants. It will eventually provide electricity for the entire school.



Recent forest fires in the West have highlighted the issue that forests need to be thinned to reduce hazardous fuel loadings. Safety-conscious homeowners in forested areas are stepping up their efforts to create defensible space around their homes. What to do with the thinned material, when removed, is a real problem. BioMax can utilize this material.

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[www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr)**

For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit [www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov)