

Fields of Fuel: Environmental and Economic
Considerations of Transitioning Boardman to Biomass
Using Corn and Wheat Residue in a Three State Area

Final report of the Spring 2014 Environmental Studies Junior Seminar (ES300) at
Reed College

Executive Summary

List of Figures

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1 Introduction

1.1 Boardman: Predicament and Possibility

Figure 1

1.2 Brief History of Boardman and its relationship to Utilities

1.3 Utilities in the Pacific Northwest



1.4 Oregon's Renewable Energy Structure

Figure 2

2 Policy Brief: Emissions policy relevant to Boardman's transition to biomass

2.1 Clean Air Act compliance regulations

2.1.1 Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permitting

2.1.2 Regional Haze Rule: Current BART specifications and considerations for future PSD regulations

2.1.3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) regulation under Title V of the CAA



2.3 Biomass Energy Tax Credit

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2.4 Emissions Calculations for different fuel sources

2.4.1 Units

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2.4.2 Calculation Notes

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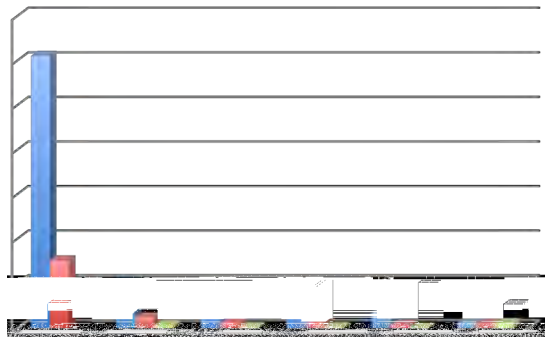


Figure 3.

Figure 4.

2.4.4 Carbon Emissions from Biomass⁴⁷

$$E_{CO_2} = \frac{C_{biomass} \cdot \eta_{biomass}}{C_{CO_2}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\eta_{biomass}} - 1 \right)$$

Combined corn and wheat biomass:

$$E_{CO_2} = \left(\frac{C_{biomass}}{C_{CO_2}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\eta_{biomass}} - 1 \right) \right)$$

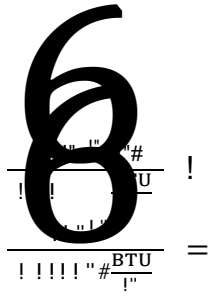
Figure 5.

Figure 6.

3 Transportation and Acquiring Biomass: Costs and Carbon Implications

3.1 Biomass requirements

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3.2 Crop residues

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Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

3.3 Crop distance from Boardman

3.4 Transportation Costs of moving biomass to Boardman

Figure 10

3.5 Purchasing costs of crop residues

3.6 Meeting Demand

3.7 Carbon Emissions Associated with Biomass Transport

Figure 11

4 Torrefaction: Scenarios and Development

4.1 Current Torrefaction Technology

4.2 Future Torrefaction Technology

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6 GIS Table Appendix

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7 Bibliography
