

## Northwest Russia Renewable Energy Forum

### Working Group on Bioenergy

**Within the framework of the Northwest Russia Renewable Energy Forum, which was held on October 21-22 in Murmansk, a working group on bioenergy was formed.**

The bioenergy working group discussed existing obstacles and possible solutions and as a result formulated several priority directions. These suggestions are addressed to regional and federal authorities, businesses, experts within the community and others interested in the development of bioenergy resources in Northwest Russia.

In the opinion of the participants of the working group, the greatest potential for utilisation of bioenergy in Northwest Russia is from the following resources:

- wastes from the woodworking industry, and
- wastes from dairy and poultry farming.

The prospective energy consumers of bioenergy waste in Northwest Russia are primarily:

- small decentralized villages, which are supplied with electricity from local diesel stations and with heat from boilers; and
- large and medium-size farms and agricultural complexes either based on dairy production or poultry farming.

For both groups of potential consumers, bioenergy resources are an “economically advantageous” local source of energy. As a rule, the biomass raw material is available for free and it enables energy independence, and a stable, reliable energy supply.

Participants of the working group uncovered a few obstacles to development of bioenergy in Northwest Russia:

- lack of a legislative base and governmental support;
- insufficient development of energy infrastructure (production and transport);
- lack of functioning / certified equipment of national production; and
- the high cost of imported equipment and the complexity of its import, assembly and maintenance service.

Participants of the working group suggested ways of overcoming these obstacles to development of bioenergy in Northwest Russia:

- preparation /development of a model law for enactment at the regional level, which would encourage the development of bioenergy in the region, as one of the basic sources of energy supply; and
- organisation of home-made briquettes and pellets from sawdust at woodworking enterprises.

Participants of the working group recognise the importance of developing international cooperation for exchange of knowledge, experience and technological applications of bioenergy between all interested parties: decision-makers, business, experts and the community.

The energy of biomass is a renewable and ecologically clean source of energy, which does not produce CO<sub>2</sub> or hazardous waste. Bioenergy can contribute to regional energy safety, provide a stable and reliable energy supply to isolated regions and protect the energy consumer from cut-offs. Bioenergy can be a profitable sector, capable of creating jobs and generating revenue.

October 21, 2008

Murmansk