CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE

MEDIA RELEASE

Development Services Department
1100 Patricia Boulevard, Prince George, BC V2L 3V9

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City to Partner with Canfor for City's Management of Beetle Tree Debris

The City of Prince George and Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership have developed an agreement to use what is traditionally forest waste to create heat and power, the principle behind renewable bioenergy from cogeneration. Cogeneration is green energy, as it is renewable, uses wood waste, reduces the use of fossil fuels, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The program will see the beetle tree debris (tree limbs and tops) removed and chipped by City forestry programs used in the Prince George Pulp mill cogeneration facility. Canfor currently utilizes this technology, and the City is working on plans for a future cogeneration facility to benefit City residents.

The City's beetle tree removal and forest fire interface fuel reduction programs currently dispose of trees through the sale of merchantable trees to sawmills, and the debris is either chipped and spread on sites where viable, or chipped and trucked to the Regional District landfill for composting. The Regional District Composting Operation at the landfill site is working at capacity and is unable to handle the City's current production of tree debris; excess tree debris would be diverted to the landfill for burial. Burying the excess debris is not a desirable option since the decomposition would release methane, a far more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Methane is formed when material containing carbon decomposes in the absence of oxygen. When released to the air, methane traps 21 times more heat than carbon dioxide.

Disposal of tree debris through composting, burial and burning causes the release of Greenhouse Gases (methane when tree debris is buried, and carbon dioxide when tree debris is burned). Particulate emissions, which are harmful to human health are also released by burning the tree debris.

Burning the tree debris in the cogeneration facility with its pollution controls and high burning temperature, results in 30 times less particulate emissions than burning the same volume of wood in open fires or residential fireplaces.

Utilizing the tree debris in a cogeneration facility not only results in significantly lower emissions of both particulate and Greenhouse Gases, the energy released can be used to generate thermal and electrical energy, thereby replacing the need for heat and power that would otherwise be generated by burning fossil fuels.

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