

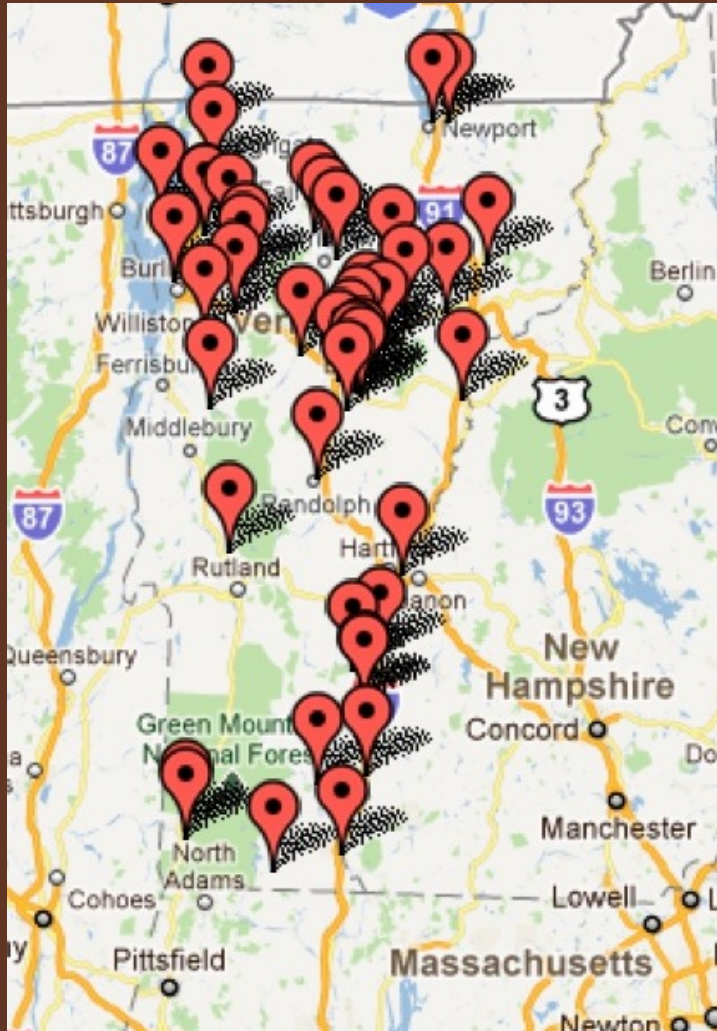


The Harwood Union Forest Project

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Renewable Energy in the MRV November 15, 2011

Growing Interest in Biomass



- Many communities look to the forest for sustainable, local energy solutions
- In VT alone, 45 schools now heat with wood (BERC)

Map made by Biomass Energy Resource Center (BERC) using Google Maps



Harwood Union High School

- Located in South Duxbury, VT
- Educates 7th-12th grade students from 6 towns
- Fuels for Schools Program facilitated switch to wood chips
- Connected with UVM via The Community Biomass Project

Harwood Union High School

- BERC Report: Developing Wood Fuel Procurement Strategies for Harwood Union High School
 - Templates, recommendations
 - Meeting with school officials
- Own a school forest ~180 ac
 - Supply own chips?
 - Other opportunities?
- Formed a partnership with UVM, the Harwood Union Forest Project



“Harwood Union Forest Project”

Goals:

- Write forest stewardship plan
- Develop forest-based education opportunities for Harwood Union students





Accomplishments as of Nov. 2011

- Established project goals and objectives
- Gathered stakeholder feedback
 - Teacher interest
 - Management plan objectives
- Workshop for teachers
 - Google Earth and Google Maps in the classroom
 - Project Learning Tree



Accomplishments as of Nov. 2011

- Partnerships between UVM and Harwood classes
 - Pre-tech Outreach Class
 - 7th grade science
 - 12th grade science
- 2 Master's theses underway
- 3 UVM faculty/staff ...12+ Harwood teachers/staff
... county forester ...BERC
- Established action plan
- Writing of stewardship plan is underway



Project Example: Service-Learning Partnership

- Groups involved:
 - 7th grade class from Harwood Union
 - Students from a UVM course in sustainability education
 - Friends of the Mad River
- What did the project do?
 - Taught 7th graders about watershed science
 - Provided future environmental educators with practical experience
 - Allowed both groups of students to participate in direct service
 - Delivered outreach material on behalf of Friends of the Mad River

Project Example: Service-Learning Partnership





Next Steps

- Complete collaborative stewardship plan
 - Gather more feedback on goals and objectives
 - Circulate draft for comment
- Engage more students in service-learning partnerships (UVM and Harwood)
 - Map and label forest trail system
 - Others?
- Provide additional workshops and resources for teachers interested in forest-based education
 - Project Learning Tree
 - KMZ/KML library
 - Example projects and lesson plans



“Take-aways”

- Many schools in VT now heat with wood
- Wood heat in schools provides opportunities to
 - Engage students and school community in thinking about where energy comes from
 - Introduce students and school community to concepts around sustainable forestry and woody biomass use
 - Expose students to potential college majors and career options in natural resources and forestry
 - Teach students hard skills and knowledge



Thanks!

- Ray Daigle, Grahm Leitner, and the rest of the Harwood Union Forest Project
- Cecilia Danks and other UVM faculty who have taken interest in this project
- National Life

Questions?

www.uvm.edu/forestcarbon