

# ENERGY GREENWASH: WOODY BIOMASS

Burning trees is subsidized as renewable energy, just like wind and solar. In the US and Europe, around half of all renewable energy is bioenergy including burning wood pellets as a substitute for coal.

## Impacts on forests and climate

Unsustainable demand for wood and wood products is already a key driver of the destruction of forests worldwide.

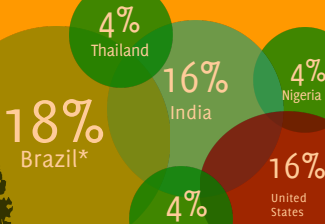
The creation of a large new global market for wood, this time for bioenergy, can be expected to greatly increase overall pressures on forests as well as on other ecosystems, such as grasslands, which are increasingly being converted to new monoculture tree plantations.

Energy companies are building many new wood pellet mills, especially in the southeast, and exporting massive amounts to Europe to burn as "renewable energy"

USA N°1 Wood Pellets Exporter in the World:  
4+ Billion KGs in 2014

U.S. exports expected to average  
24 billion kg annually by 2017

## % of Energy Production from Biomass



These percentages will rise significantly if woody biomass continues to be classified as carbon-neutral

\*sugar cane & woody biomass

## COMPLETE BIODIVERSITY LOSS!

Before planting their superseedlings, the companies clearcut and bulldoze the site to get rid of all native trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, mosses, fungi, grasses, sedges, and wildflowers. Woody debris is burned off.

## MONOCULTURE TREE PLANTATIONS

a single species - like cornfield but trees - to be mowed down after short rotation and if bio and agri-business get their way they will be GMO/GE learn more here: [inearth.org/s/topgetrees](http://inearth.org/s/topgetrees).

Natural Forests will be replaced with tree plantations to meet market demands!

Native trees that return from roots or seeds are cut or killed with herbicides.

## HUMAN RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE IMPACTS

### Decreased Food Production

As more farm land is converted for energy production

### WATER ISSUES

Increased use and pollution from chemical runoff

### Land Grabs

Indigenous peoples in the Global South forcibly removed

### Wildlife Habitat

Loss of natural forests = Extinction

Woody Biomass is NOT Carbon-Neutral

If CO2 emissions from biomass were accounted for in the same way as coal then burning trees for energy would not be considered low-carbon but in fact more carbon intensive.

Stack emissions from biomass combustion are around 50% higher than those from coal burning for the same amount of electricity produced.

LEARN MORE - GET INVOLVED!  
[saveourroots.org](http://saveourroots.org)

### SOURCES

-[http://trade.gov/topmarkets/pdf/Renewable\\_Fuels\\_Biomass\\_Wood\\_Pellets.pdf](http://trade.gov/topmarkets/pdf/Renewable_Fuels_Biomass_Wood_Pellets.pdf)  
-<http://www.biofuelwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Biomass-myth-report-unillustrated1.pdf>  
-<http://biomassmagazine.com/articles/9444/iea-task40-biomass-provides-10-percent-of-global-energy-use>

Indigenous Environmental Network - PO Box 485 - Bemidji, MN 56619