

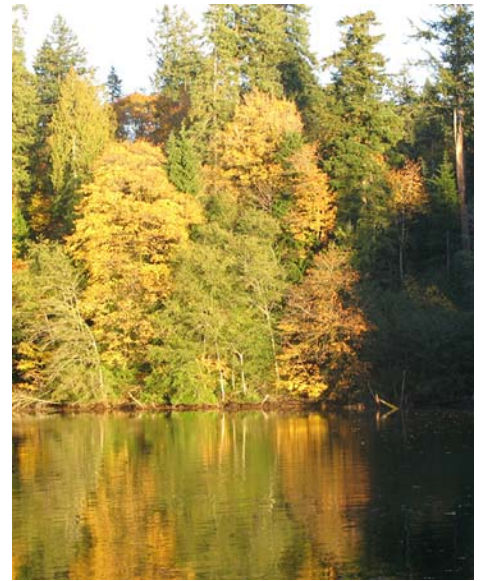


## Forest Guild Awarded 2010 Conservation Innovation Grant

***NE Multi-state project promotes sustainable  
forestry for wood bioenergy use***

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, August 24, 2010**

*Sutton, MA*—The Forest Guild is the recipient of a 2010 Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) to promote adoption of innovative practices for sustainable forest biomass harvesting in nine Northeast states. CIG is a program of the Natural Resource Conservation Service that invests in innovative, on-the-ground conservation technologies and approaches, with the eventual goal of wide-scale adoption to address energy conservation, water quality and quantity, and environmental markets, among other natural resource issues.



Forest Guild Executive Director, Michael DeBonis states, “To meet woody biomass’ potential as a renewable energy resource and to assure long-term ecological sustainability, we must understand and be able to apply biomass harvesting guidelines on the ground.”

The U.S. Congress is considering policy options that may require landowners to implement sustainable forest biomass guidelines in order to participate in incentive programs or supply bioenergy facilities. DeBonis adds, “Guidelines for the sustainable harvesting and retention of biomass also present an innovative way to protect water quality and wildlife habitat while providing additional income to landowners.”

The Forest Guild is one of only 18 multi-state CIG grant awardees. The Guild and its team members from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, the University of Maine, the University of Vermont, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, and The Nature Conservancy-Pennsylvania will combine their experience in the area of sustainable biomass harvesting guidelines and state-based best management practices in the Northeast to lead this project.

The team will promote the adoption of new, innovative on-the-ground biomass harvesting and retention guidelines for the production, harvest, and handling of sustainable forest biomass for renewable energy in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. The Forest Guild has developed [\*Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Northeast\*](#) for use in those states that have not drafted forest biomass harvesting guidelines.

Moreover, this Conservation Innovation Grant will have a significant impact on the development of sustainable biomass guidelines for other parts of the U.S. including the Southeast, Sierra Nevadas, Pacific Northwest, and Intermountain West regions.

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