



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **PA Biomass Energy Association Announces Grant Agreement Reached Between PBEA and West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund**

MEADVILLE, PA – The PA Biomass Energy Association (PBEA), an industry-driven association working to advance the environmentally responsible use of biomass for thermal and combined heat and power (CHP) applications, has received a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF).

The grant will be used to fund workshops and events that educate the public and industry professionals on the use of biomass as a renewable and sustainable energy source. The grant will also help to strengthen the role PBEA can play to grow the PA biomass energy industry through increased membership.

Biomass is organic material made by living organisms that contains stored energy from the sun. Biomass energy comes in many forms—electricity, fuels and heat—and in Pennsylvania biomass resources are renewable and abundant. The PA market supports locally produced wood chips, wood pellets, native grasses, agricultural residues, biogas from landfills and anaerobic digestion of organic materials like food waste and wastewater biosolids. Biomass is an earth-friendly source of energy that can help replace fossil fuels and change our energy future.

With a third of all energy used for thermal applications in the US, biomass thermal will play a key role in reducing greenhouse gas emission and achieving climate change goals. Biomass heat and CHP projects with state of the art equipment are clean and efficient making use of local resources and keeping energy dollars in the local communities. Pennsylvania has a robust biomass energy economy with equipment manufacturers, service providers, land resources, farmers, foresters and end users.

The biomass heat and power industry in Pennsylvania is poised for growth.

### ***About the Pennsylvania Biomass Energy Association***

The PA Biomass Energy Association (PBEA) is a non-profit, industry-driven organization working to advance the use of biomass for clean heat and for combined heat & power (CHP) applications. The association is focused on the use of biomass in the residential, small business, commercial, institutional, agricultural, and industrial sectors. Find us on the web at

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***About the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund***

The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:

- Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;
- Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and
- Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.

Visit <http://www.wppsef.org> for further information.

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