



A PROVEN TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS CLEAN, RENEWABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND AFFORDABLE

What is Community Wood Energy?

SEE HOW IT CAN WORK FOR YOU

The kind of energy that saves money, provides local jobs, and improves our air, water, forests and wildlife.

Communities throughout the US are enjoying significant cost savings from their conversion to wood energy. It's an attractive alternative to heating with fuel oil, propane or electricity in rural areas where natural gas is not available. **Wood energy prices over time have consistently been about half the price of fuel oil with exceptionally low volatility since 1970.** Heating with wood fuels keeps energy dollars in the local economy and provides long-term budget stability.

Modern wood energy systems are clean, efficient and can be fully automated. The wood fuel is delivered by truck into a storage bin and then transferred directly into a [boiler](#) to create [thermal energy for space](#) and domestic hot water heating. Smaller-scale systems can provide institutions with lower cost, hassle-free heat with little or no change in labor requirements. High

efficiency systems are air emissions compliant and forest friendly as they use materials that would typically be discarded. Wood energy use supports healthy forest management and rural economies by creating additional value in the forest products industry.

An ideal time to convert to wood energy is when capital improvements are being considered or when new buildings are planned. Entities looking to stabilize expenditures on fuel costs should consider wood energy due to its price stability.

Biomass fuel includes woodchips, bark, sawdust,

other wood-product industry wastes, urban and forestry tree thinnings, and energy crops (grasses or fast-growing trees)." – from *Heating Communities with Renewable Fuels*, Tim Maker and Janet Penny



Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center (BCRC)

Sam McCracken (right), Executive Director of the [BCRC](#) at the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center, happily discussing the savings his new multi-fuel boiler is offering their facility. They house up to 425 guests and heat over 200,000 square feet and a swimming pool at a cost savings of \$100,000 per year!



Blackstone Conference Center A Success Story

TWO MILLION BTU UNICONFORT EOS 50 BOILER INSTALLED WITH A 750 GALLON INSULATED HOLDING TANK FOR THERMAL STORAGE AT 140 °F.

- ➔ Produces hot water for radiator space heat, hot water for commercial kitchen and guest accommodations, and a 40,000 gallon indoor swimming pool.
- ➔ Easily permitted as new system has lower emissions than the old oil boiler.

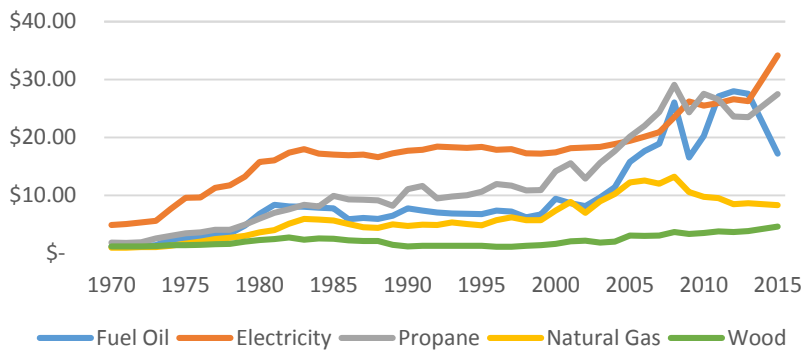


Blackstone Conference and Retreat Center, Blackstone, VA

- ➔ Financed with USDA Rural Development and the USDA Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program at rate of 3.5%, 28 year term with no payment the first year. These loans are available to local governments and non-profits.*
- ➔ \$100,000 in fuel cost savings in first year alone. Payback on boiler investment of \$750,000 in 8.8 years.

*USDA Rural Energy for America Program, REAP, is available for private-sector projects.

Virginia Wood Energy Prices Low and Stable for 45 years



FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY WOOD ENERGY

Virginia spends \$1 Billion annually on fuel oil, propane and kerosene for heating. This fuel is not produced in Virginia which means the majority of this money is leaving the state's economy. Community Wood Energy dollars stay in the local economy and create permanent jobs. Wood Energy's low cost and price stability is an important factor to consider even in periods when heating oil prices are low. This is especially true when old boilers need replacing. Savings range anywhere from 25-75% in comparison to fuel oil or electricity.

Wood energy is affordable and stable (average energy price in \$/MMBTU).

US Energy Information Agency, State Energy Data System, (October 20, 2015).

Virginia Community Wood Energy

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Free Community Wood Energy Screening

Please [contact us](#) to learn more about how you can use [Community Wood Energy](#) for your facility or community. We will provide you with the information you will need to consider if wood energy is right for your location. The program provides free initial feasibility screenings and advanced engineering support is also available. This service is provided at no cost to you and requires no obligation. Please contact us to learn how!



Center for
Natural Capital
Economic Development through Healthy Ecosystems

