1. Thermal Energy
2. SWET Activities
Everybody needs heating, cooling, and hot water.
“Renewable Energy?”
Bottom line . . .

. . . wood often costs less now and is likely to cost much less in the future.
Technology is readily available.
No need for a research program.
Sustainable communities
Build on what exists
Enhance environ. values
Increase forest quality
Budget stability
Gotta pay someone, why not the guys down the road?
Barriers?

Awareness
Initial capital cost
HVAC vacuum
Low FF prices
Something new
2. SWET Activities

“Statewide Wood Energy Team” USFS Grants – 20+ projects
1. Resource Assessments
2. Outreach
3. Engage stakeholders
4. One project on the ground
Resource Assessments

- Boilers
- Households
- Mills
- Suppliers
- Wood Inventories
- Social Readiness

An estimated 378,137 households heat with LP or oil, which are more expensive than pellets (depending on the price source). This represents the potential that could be converted to wood-based thermal systems. If households heated with electricity were added, the number would 695,806.
Outreach

• Website
• Bulletins
• Case Studies
• Presentations
• Media Articles
• The Usual

https://www.canr.msu.edu/wood_energy
Engage Consumer Groups
Decision-Makers
Appliance Makers
Producers
HVAC
Project

• Several Alternatives
• Bulk Pellet Network
• Running Out of Time
Large Demand – wood chips
Small Demand – pellets
Cheapest Home – cordwood
275,000 CORDS OF WOOD
(million cum, ~300,000 dry tons)
Michigan adds ~31 of these piles each year

Heat for 55,000 homes
54 Pinecrest DE facilities
(over 9 million square feet)
23% of Verso mill consumption
87% of Potlatch mill in Gwinn
~32 million gallons ethanol
Wood Thermal Questions?

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