

Cooper Tamayo

From: Pike Porter <pikeporter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2023 10:26 AM
To: Info
Subject: Public Comment: Carbon from wood combustion plants must be counted

With global tipping points only 7 and 27 years away, we must drastically reduce the greenhouse gases we emit into our atmosphere. You know this. You also know that, while theoretically burning wood for electricity may be carbon-neutral over a 100 or so year timeframe, in practice, burning wood is contributing to a net addition of greenhouse gases into our atmosphere over the short term. Moreover, given the continued loss of forests in the northeast, our forest sector will be net emitters of greenhouse gases in only a few decades. One often cited paper, (Dugan, et al, 2021) concludes that Vermont will be a net emitter of GHGs by 2050. IPCC guidelines do not allow emitters of GHGs to offset the carbon storage and sequestration of forest land if that storage and sequestration would happen regardless of the emissions. The RGGI must establish the same policy. Owners of biomass plants must demonstrate that the owners themselves are responsible for the sequestration of carbon in order to offset the plants' emissions. If they cannot do this, you must include the biomass plants' emissions in your accounting.

We no longer have time to pretend burning wood is carbon neutral. We no longer have time for fuzzy accounting schemes. Do the right thing and include CO2 from wood-burning electric plants.

Pike Porter

Burlington, VT