

Biomass Energy: A Natural and Renewable Source of Clean Energy

Biomass energy is a renewable energy source that is produced by converting organic materials that come from plants and animals into energy such as electricity. We've been making good use of this source of energy ever since man discovered fire and used it to burn wood to heat his home and cook his meals.

Wood is still the most common form of biomass materials used today, although other examples include crops such as corn and sugar cane, manure, garbage, forestry residues like sawdust and wood chips, and many other types of plantlife. Even algae can be used as a biomass material to produce biomass energy¹!



How Biomass Energy Is Produced

Biomass materials, during their lifetime, absorb energy from the sun and carbon dioxide gases from the atmosphere in the process of photosynthesis. When it's time for us to harness this power and create biomass energy, we release the solar energy that has been harvested by various methods including burning. The energy released is given off in the form of thermal energy and can be used to heat water and produce steam, which in turn can power a steam turbine to generate electricity.

For more... contact FireFly Writing.

¹ US Department of Energy. Biomass FAQs.
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/biomass/biomass_basics_faqs.html