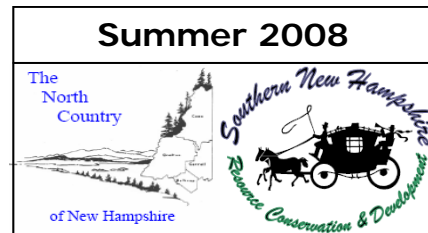


# NEW HAMPSHIRE RC&D CATALYST



## Resource Conservation and Development “Bringing Ideas, People and Resources Together to Help Make Things Happen”

### The Potential For District Heating in New Hampshire

Dr. Morris Pierce of The University of Rochester, Rochester, NY was the keynote speaker at the North Country Resource Conservation & Development's (RC&D) 2008 Annual Meeting. His presentation was titled "Heating Whole Communities with Renewable Fuels-the Potential for District Energy in New Hampshire." Dr. Pierce is assisting the North Country RC&D conduct a District Heating Feasibility Study for the Village of Groveton. He is also promoting District Heating throughout the entire New England area.

District heating refers to a system in which heat is generated in a centralized location, then distributed for residential and commercial uses. The heat can be captured from surplus heat energy given off at power plants

or stand alone boilers, making them more efficient. A power station that generates electricity only, can convert less than approximately 50% of the fuel input into electricity. The majority of the energy dissipates into the environment as heat. A cogeneration plant recovers that heat and can reach an energy efficiency level exceeding 90%. These systems become even more attractive when a renewable fuel such as biomass is used.

The recently completed feasibility study in Groveton, NH was funded by the US Dept of Commerce through the Coos County Sudden and Severe Impact Program. The North Country RC&D Area and the North Country Council commissioned Horizons Engineering P.L.L.C. and Ramboll Denmark



Dr. Morris Pierce is speaking to a captive audience on District Heating during the North Country RC&D 2008 Annual meeting.

A/S to carry out the feasibility study. Horizon Engineering has extensive experience working with the Village of Groveton, while Ramboll has designed over 400 district heating systems in Europe as well as in other regions.

### North Country RC&D Annual Meeting - Elected Officers

North Country RC&D, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, held its 2008 Annual Meeting at Cannon Mountain on April 17, 2008. In annual meeting business, the Board members of the North Country RC&D Council approved its 2008 Annual Plan of



Russ Dowd presenting award to Thad Gulbrandsen, Director of the PSU Center for Rural Partnerships

Work, a 2008 Organizational Operating Budget, and elected new Officers.

Elected were: Russell Dowd of Madison, NH for a third term as Chairman; Daniel McLaughlin of Alexandria as Vice Chairman; Lisa Rixen of Bristol as Secretary / Treasurer. Adam Tatem of Holderness will continue to perform Treasurer duties for the remainder of 2008. In addition, an Award of Excellence was presented to the Plymouth State University, Center for Rural Partnerships for its work aimed at improving rural viability in NH and Joan Turley of Rumney was presented a certificate of appreciation and a gift for her service to the RC&D council.

If you have an interest in the work of North Country Resource

Conservation and Development, please get in touch with our office. A visit to our website at [www.nhrccd.net](http://www.nhrccd.net) may help you better understand the purpose, mission and activities of the North Country RC&D.



Pictured are Lisa Rixen (left) newly elected secretary/treasurer and Russ Dowd (right) chairman.

## Community Scale Wood Biomass Heating Project

The North Country Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council is spearheading the New Hampshire Wood Biomass Heating Project. The project, which is a partnership of federal, state, and private agencies, works to

promote the use of biomass heating systems in municipal, county, and school buildings throughout the state.

The project is being funded as part of the U.S. Forest Service's Biomass Energy Jump Start Program. The funds have been used to organize

workshops on the use of biomass heating systems, create tours of existing systems in the state, and to finance the completion of feasibility studies for public schools and other local government facility owners who are considering the use of biomass heating systems.

Right: A tour group at Hanover High School is standing outside the wood chip storage garage. Hanover employs a wood chip heating system. The large entrances allow easy access for delivery trucks.



Below: The New Hampshire Audubon Society was one site for the walking tours. The Audubon Society has recently upgraded their whole facility to make it more energy efficient, including implementing a new wood pellet heating system.



### Biomass Heating Workshops & Tours



Above: Merrimack Valley High School and Middle School have installed a brand new wood chip heating system. Pictured above is the conveyer belt that feeds the boiler at a set rate. Merrimack Valley was also the site of one of the workshops, where presentations were made on the use of biomass heating



Left: The Lyme Town Garage has employed a pellet system using two Tarm boilers to meet their heat requirements.

### Approved Biomass Heating Feasibility Studies:

- NH Division of Forest & Lands Warehouse at Bear Brook State Park
- Plymouth State University
- SAU #23 in North Haverhill
- Grafton County Complex
- Charlestown Middle School
- Walpole Elementary School
- Boscawen Elementary School
- Loudon Elementary School
- Penacook Elementary School

**Division of Forest & Lands have completed their study, which found that use of a wood pellet stove over a 30-year period would save close to \$80,000.**

## Carbon Credits Coming Soon to a Farm or Forest Near You

Carbon trading is a strategy for mitigating the emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and other Greenhouse Gases (GHG) through a “Cap-and-Trade” system. Cap-and-Trade systems are regulatory programs that control harmful emissions by allowing stakeholders to produce a limited amount of CO<sub>2</sub> (or its equivalence). These rights are called permits or credits. Stakeholders can then buy or sell the rights to these

credits after the initial distribution.

The goal of the cap is to prevent increases in **net** emissions. So a given polluter may find it more economical to reduce emissions well below their cap and sell the resulting ‘carbon credits’ to a polluter who can not easily modify their operations to meet the cap limit.

Offsets are GHG emission reductions achieved by non-regulated

parties, like farms and forests. Agricultural offsets can be achieved by three main mechanisms: carbon sequestration (storing carbon in forests/soils), fossil fuel displacement (alternative energy or energy efficiency), and GHG destruction (combusting methane). GHG mitigation by farms can be purchased as offsets by regulated stakeholders to help meet a small fraction of their required cap.

## Recipe for Success, So Far a Success

The New Hampshire Food Bank was successful in establishing a quarter-acre garden on the grounds of the Youth Development Center (YDC) on River Road in Manchester. Though many partners were involved, it was the hard work of the New Hampshire Food Bank and its volunteers that really made it happen. The vegetables harvested are going to be used in the meals made at the NH food banks new commercial kitchen

The Southern New Hampshire Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council and UNH Cooperative Extension played

a supportive role in this project, assisting the NH Food Bank whenever they needed it. The main role of the Southern New Hampshire RC&D was providing technical advice and also coordinating the tillage of the quarter acre. The Southern New Hampshire RC&D also helped secure a grant through Home Depot, which allowed the NH Food Bank to purchase the necessary tools to plant the garden.

Other contributions came from the YDC, who not only supplied the land, but also the water and a shed to hold all of the tools. River Stone Resources

LLC also contributed money that allowed the Food Bank to hire on a part-time gardener to keep up with all of the weeding and maintenance. There were also some generous private donations.

In the future, the Food Bank hopes to expand from a quarter acre to an acre or more. They would also like to work with the YDC to include garden and culinary education programs for the youth at the center.

**This is part of a larger project we have going at the Food Bank to create a longer-term solution that will address the problem of hunger.”**

**- Helen Costello**

## Celebrate RC&D Week in New Hampshire September 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

Join us in celebrating National RC&D Week. This is part of our national marketing campaign to raise greater public awareness of the 375 Resource Conservation & Development Councils across the country and their activities in local communities. National RC&D week coincides with the anniversary of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 which established the RC&D program.

The North Country RC&D was authorized in 1968 and is one of the oldest RC&D area’s in the nation. The Southern New Hampshire RC&D was authorized more recently in 1998 with the help of the North Country.

Both Councils are planning a joint celebration that will highlight their achievements in their communities through out the years. Check our website for more information as the date approaches. [www.nhrccd.net](http://www.nhrccd.net)



Volunteers plant tomatoes on the site of the Food Bank’s production garden. They are covered by plastic to reduce weeds and increase the soil temperature, which enhances yields.

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North Country RC&D  
719 North Main Street—Room 220  
Laconia, NH 03246-2772

## RC&D is Looking for New Members



Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a national program put into action to address local concerns by local people. The North Country and Southern NH RC&D Areas are part of a national network of volunteer-directed, independent, not-for-profit councils organized by the people who live in their area. RC&D Councils are supported in part by the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service under the authority of Public Law 107-171.

RC&D Councils are always looking for new partnerships and individuals who share their vision. If you have an interest in the work of Resource Conservation and Development Councils, please contact either of our two offices in New Hampshire. Also please visit our website: [www.nhrcd.net](http://www.nhrcd.net).

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