



# Positive Energy

Russell, Massachusetts

**S**o what's in it for Russell? If you live in town, that's probably one of your biggest questions regarding Russell Biomass. It's a fair question, too. After all, we've talked a lot about what our wood-fired power plant will do for the nation and the region, including reducing oil consumption by 480,000 barrels a year, replacing fossil fuels with a clean, renewable energy source, and reducing regional greenhouse gases. That's all important stuff. But if you're a resident of Russell, a town that has thrived on industry for more than a century, you also have a right to wonder what this new industry is going to do specifically for your town.

Let's start with a guaranteed minimum of \$300,000 a year in new tax revenues for the Town of Russell. That's a big chunk of money for a town with an annual budget of about \$2 million. It will be up to Town Meeting to decide what to do with that money, whether to invest it in equipment, buildings or infrastructure, set it aside for a rainy day, or give residential taxpayers a break (which would amount to more than \$500 a year for the average household). There's also the opportunity for Russell residents to get a break on their electricity costs amounting to more than \$200 a year.

Then there are the jobs. Construction, which will last two years, will create 50 full-time jobs. Then there will be 22 permanent operating jobs at the plant, with hiring preference given to qualified Russell residents. There will also be a new revenue source for local businesses providing supplies and offering services and goods to plant employees.

And then there's the matter of quality of life. We've already proposed a plan for construction of an alternate truck route around Turtle Bend Mountain. This new road would eliminate all truck traffic (not just truck traffic related to the plant) from Main Street, returning to Russell the quiet, small-town ambience everyone wants and boosting Main Street real estate values. There will be support for an annual college scholarship in the fields of forestry and renewable energy. We'll also host an summer maintenance internship for a deserving high school student from Russell.

We're offering all this in exchange for a new use of a 100-year-old industrial site, a plant that will be the safest and cleanest biomass plant in the history of New England. And, as always, we're not asking you to take anything we're saying at face value. Look into it. Verify what we're saying. Then decide whether you think there's enough in it for your town to make Russell Biomass worthy of your support.

**RussellBioMass**

*Bringing new energy to the Valley.*