



Westfield River Wildwater Races A Success

Not that we ever had any doubts about it, but, wow, did we make the right decision when we signed on as sponsor of the 54th annual Westfield River Wildwater Races. Not only did getting involved with the oldest continuously running canoe race in America give us a chance to preserve a regional tradition and demonstrate our commitment to helping preserve access to the outdoors, but it gave us an excuse to get out to the banks of the river on a beautiful spring weekend (April 21 and 22) and watch as hundreds of amateur and professional racers enjoyed a day out on a fast-running river. We can't wait 'til next year.



POSITIVE energy

**YOUR QUICK-LOOK SOURCE FOR THE LATEST
ON RUSSELL BIOMASS**

Independent Review Under Way

The Town of Russell has just commissioned an independent review and assessment of air, water and traffic health and environmental impact studies completed by Russell Biomass. The purpose of the independent review is to ascertain the accuracy and validity of the Russell Biomass studies. Next up are the hearings by the state Department of Telecommunications and Energy which will determine the company's zoning exemption and the completion of the permitting process by the Department of Environmental Protection.



Tax Revenue Agreement

We have guaranteed an annual minimum of \$300,000 in property tax payments to the town and an average of \$600,000 per year or \$6 million over the next 10 years. This amounts to \$1,000 per household and will lift the town out of its deficit situation. Selectmen have already committed \$300,000 per year to lowering residential tax rates and can now use the additional revenues for infrastructure maintenance and improvements. We will prepare a detailed town economic benefits and impact study this summer.

RussellBioMass

Bringing new energy to the Valley.

Russell Biomass is a 50-megawatt green energy power plant project. The plant is being built on the site of the former Westfield River Paper Company mill in Russell. It will generate electricity for homes and businesses throughout Western Massachusetts, while helping to reduce America's dependence on fossil fuels and to address the issue of global warming.