



**THERE'S A LOT OF TALK ABOUT  
RENEWABLE ENERGY,**

## **IT'S TIME SOMEBODY *Grabbed the Stick***

Renewable energy is a hot topic these days. It's a topic on which environmentalists are on the same page as President Bush and Governor Romney. Everyone wants to see increased development of renewable energy sources. And there's no secret as to the reasons why: the worldwide petroleum supply crisis isn't getting any less severe; the cost of fossil fuels is increasing across the board; and the environmental toll of fossil fuel consumption has been well documented. There's an immediate need to explore and develop alternatives to fossil fuel that are cleaner, safer and, most important, sustainable.

Russell Biomass is an effort to take renewable energy beyond the discussion stage in Massachusetts. We are in the preparation stage on construction of a 50-megawatt wood-fired renewable energy power plant on the site of the old Westfield River Paper Company mill. The plant will be fueled by wood chips, a byproduct of the forest management and lumber industries. It will be the first wood-fired power plant in the state. It will be the safest plant in the history of New England with air emissions that exceed federal and state safety standards. It will bring 50 full-time construction jobs and 22 permanent full-time jobs to Russell, and will provide at least \$300,000 a year in tax revenues to the town (an amount equal to about \$500 per household). Most important in terms of meeting the goals of renewable energy development, however, Russell Biomass will reduce oil consumption by 480,000 barrels a year. That alone won't end America's dependence on foreign oil, of course, but it will help. Plus, someone has to blaze a trail for renewable energy initiatives in New England. Why shouldn't it be us? Where else would you expect such a progressive movement to take hold but in Western Massachusetts?

We're not asking you to take what we're saying at face value, of course. In fact, we don't want you to. We hope you'll look into renewable energy for yourself. Find out what projects like Russell Biomass mean to our region and our nation. Then decide whether you want Russell to play a key role in the development of alternative energy and gain a foothold in an industry of the future.

**Russell(Bio)Mass**

*Bringing some new energy to town.*