



Moving Beyond Incineration by the Numbers

Sierra Club California's *Moving Beyond Incineration* report disproves dangerous industry talking points that there are no viable uses for biomass beyond incineration and that biomass incinerators help promote community safety. These claims were used to convince policymakers to create the BioRAM program, which propped up seven, antiquated incinerators, and the BioMAT program, which hopes to spur a small-scale biomass industry.

Moving Beyond Incineration displays the high costs of biomass incineration to ratepayers, human health and the environment. It also highlights low-impact, sustainable uses for biomass.

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Percentage of total biomass in California removed to create fuel breaks (ostensibly for public safety): **1.3**

Estimated tons of traditionally nonmerchantable biomass generated in California by state-funded forest projects per year: **279,261**

Estimated tons of traditionally nonmerchantable biomass generated in California by commercial logging annually: **1,199,939**

Annual existing tons of demand for horse bedding (wood chips) in the United States: **380,000**

Estimated tons of biomass removed annually that is suitable for post and pole manufacturing: **91,000**

Board feet of lumber a single cross laminated timber manufacturer in Montana will need to meet demand: **50,000,000**

Global market, in dollars, for oriented strand board in 2017: **11,300,000,000**

Annual tons of biomass that could be diverted from BioRAM facilities to create wood products: **1,150,720**

Estimated number of current jobs in Wood Product Manufacturing in California: **40,600**

Average price, in dollars, of a megawatt/hour of power in California: **49**

Average price, in dollars, per megawatt/hour of a biomass incinerator with a BioRAM contract:
115

Anticipated price, in dollars, per megawatt/hour of a biomass incinerator with a BioMAT contact: **199**

Millions of ratepayer dollars propping up seven biomass incinerators under the BioRAM program: **133.7**

Millions of ratepayer dollars that will be spent on the BioMAT if fully implemented: **52.5**

Pounds of CO₂ released in the generation of solar or wind energy: **0**

Pounds of CO₂ released per Bone Dry Ton of biomass incinerated: **3510**

Tons of CO₂ saved per ton of biomass converted into wood products rather than incinerated: **1**

Once the BioRAM and BioMAT programs run their courses, Californians will have spent almost \$200 million dollars on polluting incinerators. Worse, most of that money will go to the logging industry for tree removal that does not protect communities nor benefit the environment.

Policymakers must be prudent and honest about how they spend Californian's money. No more hiding logging industry handouts and dirty biomass incinerator bailouts in utility bills. It is time to transparently invest in uses for biomass that provide a public good without poisoning the air or exacerbating climate change. It is time for California to *Move Beyond Incineration*.