



# NYS Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

## *Biomass Resources Eligibility*

The Role of Biomass in the NYS RPS

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State of New York  
Department of Public Service



# Categorization of Source Generation Type



Category	Source	Other Requirements
Biogas	Landfill Gas (Methane)	
	Sewage Gas (Methane)	
	Manure Digestion (Methane)	If required to have a SPDES permit by NYSDEC regulations, a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) providing the manure must have and be in compliance with its current Agricultural Waste Management Plan (AWMP) developed by a duly qualified Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Planner and must be operating in compliance with any applicable SPDES permit. If not required to have a SPDES permit, the CAFO must be operating in compliance with the best management practices for a facility of its size set forth in the <i>Principles and Water Quality Protection Standards</i> specified in the <i>Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Framework &amp; Resource Guide</i> developed by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee.
	Anaerobic Digestion (other biogas digestion using agricultural or food processing residues and by-products)	
	Biomass* Thermochemical Gasification (syngas)	<p><b>Facilities utilizing adulterated biomass must demonstrate that all feedstocks that are not source separated in fact come from NYSDEC-permitted solid waste facilities that pay for NYSDEC-provided monitors to ensure that their biomass processing is consistently within their facility permits and conditions.</b></p>
	Biogas (from eligible sources of biomass* feedstock) Combined Heat & Power	
	Biogas (from eligible sources of biomass* feedstock) Co-fired with existing fossil-fuel Combustion	
	Only the electricity generated from the biomass portion of the fuel is eligible.	
Biomass *	Biomass Direct Combustion	
	Biomass Combined Heat & Power	
	Biomass Co-fired with existing fossil-fuel Combustion	Only the electricity generated from the biomass portion of the fuel is eligible.





# *Categorization of Source Generation Type (cont'd)*

Category	Source	Other Requirements
<b>Liquid Biofuel</b>	Biomass* Liquefaction through acid or enzymatic hydrolysis (Ethanol)	<p><b>Facilities utilizing adulterated biomass must demonstrate that all feedstocks that are not source separated in fact come from NYSDEC-permitted solid waste facilities that pay for NYSDEC-provided monitors to ensure that their biomass processing is consistently within their facility permits and conditions.</b></p>
	Biomass* Esterification (Biodiesel, Methanol)	
	Biomass* Thermochemical Pyrolysis (Bio-oil)	
	Biomass* Hydrothermal Liquefaction	
	Liquid Biofuel (from eligible sources of biomass* feedstock) Combined Heat & Power	
	Liquid Biofuel (from eligible sources of biomass* feedstock) Co-fired with existing fossil-fuel Combustion	Only the electricity generated from the biomass portion of the fuel is eligible.

*\*See Definition of Eligible Sources in Biomass (next slide)*





# *Definition of Eligible Sources of Biomass*

- Agricultural Residue - Woody or herbaceous matter remaining after the harvesting of crops or the thinning or pruning of orchard trees on agricultural lands. Agricultural by-products such as leather and offal and food processing residues that are converted into a biogas or liquid biofuel.
- **Harvested Wood - Wood harvested during commercial harvesting. The biomass facility owner must have and be in compliance with a current Forest Management Plan prepared by a professional forester that includes standards and guidelines for sustainable forest management and require adherence to management practices which conserve biological diversity, productive forest capacity and promotes forest ecosystem health. A fuel supplier of a biomass facility must be in compliance with a biomass facility's forest management plan and also prepare a harvest plan that includes landowner objectives; a map of the area to be harvested; skid road layout; locations of all streams. Wetlands and water bodies; forest type designation, anticipated volume of wood to be harvested; silvicultural techniques and best management practices to be implemented; and provisions for the monitoring of harvest operations by a professional forester. Periodic inspections of harvesting operations by state authorities or approved non-governmental forest certification bodies will be performed to ensure that harvest operations conform to the standards.**
- Mill Residue Wood - Hogged bark, trim slabs, planer shavings, sawdust, sander dust and pulverized scraps from sawmills, millworks and secondary wood products industries.
- Pallet Waste - Unadulterated wood collected from portable platforms used for storing or moving cargo or freight.
- Refuse Derived Fuel - The source-separated, combustible, untreated and unadulterated wood portion of municipal solid waste or construction and demolition debris generally prepared by a densification process resulting in a uniformly sized, easy to handle fuel pellet or briquette.
- Site Conversion Waste Wood - Wood harvested when forestland is cleared for the development of buildings, roads or other improvements.





# *Definition of Eligible Sources of Biomass*

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- **Silvicultural Waste Wood** - Wood harvested during timber stand improvement and other forest management activities conducted to improve the health and productivity of the forest. The biomass facility owner must have and be in compliance with a current Forest Management Plan prepared by a professional forester that includes standards and guidelines for sustainable forest management and require adherence to management practices which conserve biological diversity, productive forest capacity and promotes forest ecosystem health. A fuel supplier of a biomass facility must be in compliance with a biomass facility's forest management plan and also prepare a harvest plan that includes landowner objectives; a map of the area to be harvested; skid road layout; locations of all streams. Wetlands and water bodies; forest type designation, anticipated volume of wood to be harvested; silvicultural techniques and best management practices to be implemented; and provisions for the monitoring of harvest operations by a professional forester. Periodic inspections of harvesting operations by state authorities or approved non-governmental forest certification bodies will be performed to ensure that harvest operations conform to the standards.
- **Sustainable Yield Wood** (woody or herbaceous) - Woody or herbaceous crops grown specifically for the purpose of being consumed as an energy feedstock\_(energy crops).
- **Urban Wood Waste** - The source-separated, combustible untreated and uncontaminated wood portion of municipal solid waste or construction and demolition debris. Adulterated forms of biomass such as non-recyclable wood (e.g., plywood and particle board), paper, paperboard boxes, textiles, food, leather, yard waste and leaves may be used as a feedstock for biogas or liquid biofuel conversion technologies, if it can be demonstrated that the technology employed would produce power with emissions less than or equal to emissions produced while using only unadulterated feedstock.

