

Bioenergy Plantation Project

Using biomass from fast-growing willow and poplar to create green fuels and bioproducts to lessen impacts on a warming climate

The Bioenergy Plantation Project in northern Ontario involves establishing four woody crop plantations on underutilized agricultural land by using multiple strains of fast-growing willow and poplar. The trees will be harvested every few years for bioenergy and bioproducts.

Why are Willow and Poplar Used?

These species are easily propagated from un-rooted cuttings and grow very quickly. After harvest, these trees re-sprout rapidly. This biomass can be converted to:

- Heat and electricity by direct combustion and gasification
- Biodegradable plastics and other polymers
- Biofuels
- Bio-chemicals having medicinal and nutraceutical properties

Bioenergy plantations will help reduce global warming by reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. Conversion of underused agricultural lands to short rotation bioenergy plantations can also improve environmental quality of the landscape by reducing erosion, improving soil quality, decreasing runoff, improving groundwater quality and providing better wildlife habitat.

Good for Ontario

Economically, bioenergy plantations will generate income for landowners and create green jobs within communities. This project will help meet provincial targets for renewable energy production.

Partners in Collaboration

The Bioenergy Plantation Project is being coordinated by ULERN (Upper Lakes Environmental Research Network) in collaboration with Natural Resources Canada, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Tembec Inc., Villeneuve Construction, La Maison Verte, St. Marys Paper Corporation, Thunder Bay Ventures, Bowater Ltd., and the communities of Hearst and Sault Ste. Marie.

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For Further Information Contact:

ULERN, 1219 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2E5
Fax : 705-253-9986