

Seminar focuses on biomass

The Hotel Fantasia meeting room in Haskovo, Bulgaria, was packed with about 200 forestry administrators and municipal representatives on March 19 for a technical seminar titled "Utilization of Wood Biomass." The seminar was organized by The Energy Utilization Biomass Association (EUBA), the Bulgarian State Forestry Agency, Erato Holding AD, and the Kurdjali Regional Forestry Administration.

The attendees were not disappointed. They heard lively and informative presentations on such subjects as the technology and equipment involved in biomass utilization, and financing alternatives for projects. Then, a site visit was arranged on the outskirts of Haskovo in which two biomass applications were observed first-hand.

The first application entailed the burning of wood chips for heat, which was distributed to local businesses, including a Fiat auto showroom. Total energy generated in this application is 1,300 kW.

The second was a vertical-integration application at Erato AD. In this application, wood chips are burned, and the hot air generated is used to dry raw wood material, which in turn is used in the production of wood pellets. Total energy: 1,100 kW. This application replaced a dryer that used approximately 70 liters of heating oil per hour.

It was clear from the enthusiasm of those attending the seminar, as well as those making the presentations, that the use of biomass in Bulgaria is gaining a head of steam that is unlikely to stop any time soon.