

## Biomass Rider Social Media Toolkit

December 8th Day of Action

### ACTION:

- Urge Congress to reject the biomass carbon neutrality rider in the federal budget
- Promote letter signed by 50+ enviro groups: <https://bit.ly/3mE6kfl>

### SUGGESTED TWEETS

Burning wood for power = more carbon emissions than coal plants! Urge @HouseDemocrats to #Stand4Forests and reject the Senate's #biomass budget rider. #NoPoisonPills  
#BudgetForThePeople

Retweet to join the 50+ groups urging #Congress to #Stand4Forests and remove the #Biomass rider from the final FY2021 Interior appropriations bill. #NotCarbonNeutral #StopTheChop  
#BudgetForThePeople <https://bit.ly/3mE6kfl>

Don't give #biomass power plants a free pass to pollute! [@TARGET], we're counting on you to support a #BudgetForThePeople that protects our forests, our climate, and our health. Burning trees is #NotCarbonNeutral. <https://bit.ly/3mE6kfl>

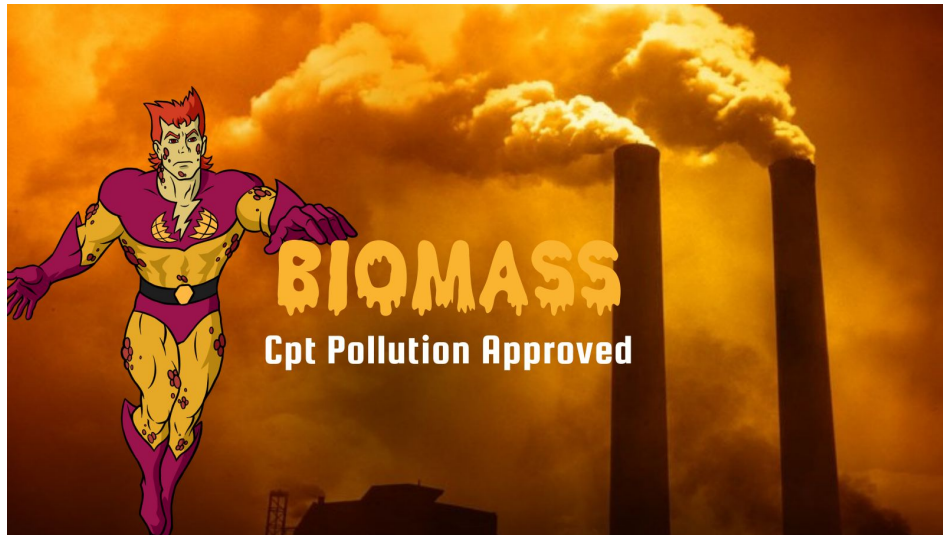
Enviro groups urge #Congress to axe the #biomass rider. Climate change is real, calling wood-burning power plants "carbon neutral" is fake. <https://bit.ly/3mE6kfl> #NoPoisonPills  
#BudgetForThePeople

Congress must get serious about the #ClimateCrisis and stop promoting #falsesolutions like #biomass energy. We need to grow our forests, not burn them. Urge [@TARGET] to eliminate the #biomass #poisonpill rider and pass a #BudgetForThePeople!

### HASHTAGS

- #Biomass
- #NotCarbonNeutral
- #Stand4Forests
- #CleanBudget
- #NoPoisonPills
- #BudgetForThePeople

## GRAPHICS



## TARGETED CONGRESSIONAL SM HANDLES

- This list below targets leadership, committee and subcommittee chairs and ranking members

Representative	Twitter	Facebook
House Democrats	<a href="#">@HouseDemocrats</a>	<a href="#">@HouseDemocrats</a>
Senate Democrats	<a href="#">@SenateDems</a>	<a href="#">@USSenateDemocrats</a>
Speaker Pelosi	<a href="#">@speakerpelosi</a>	<a href="#">Nancy Pelosi</a>
Sen Leahy (Approps RM)	<a href="#">@senatorleahy</a>	<a href="#">Sen Leahy</a>
Sen Shelby (Approps Chair)	<a href="#">@sensshelby</a>	<a href="#">Sen Shelby</a>
Sen Udall (Interior Approps RM)	<a href="#">@senatortomudall</a>	<a href="#">Sen Udall</a>
Sen Murkowski (Int. Approps Chair)	<a href="#">@lisamurkowski</a>	<a href="#">Sen Murkowski</a>
Sen McConnell	<a href="#">@senatemajldr</a>	<a href="#">Sen McConnell</a>
Sen Schumer	<a href="#">@senschumer</a>	<a href="#">Sen Schumer</a>
Sen Approp Dems	<a href="#">@SenateApprops</a>	
House Approp Dems	<a href="#">@AppropsDems</a>	
House Approps GOP	<a href="#">@HouseAppropsGOP</a>	
Rep McCollum (Int. Approps Chair)	<a href="#">@bettymccollum04</a>	<a href="#">Rep McCollum</a>

## BACKGROUND

For several years, Congress has approved an annual budget rider requiring federal agencies to establish policies that treat forest biomass energy as “carbon neutral” and “renewable.” (The full text of the rider is below) In 2018, former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt issued a policy statement applying this directive to agency decision-making, and the EPA developed draft rules that are currently pending in OMB. One of our top priorities for the incoming Biden Administration will be to block these regulations from moving forward. Passing this legacy rider once again in the federal budget could undermine this effort and provide added confidence to the biomass industry that “business as usual” will prevail in federal policy decision-making and financing.

Last week, more than 50 organizations sent a [letter](#) urging Congressional leaders to reject the anti-environmental biomass budget rider, noting that EPA's own Science Advisory Board has recognized that biomass energy is not categorically carbon neutral.

## **TALKING POINTS**

- Burning wood for power generates more carbon emissions per unit of energy than coal-fired power plants. A typical 50MW biomass power plant emits a ton of CO<sub>2</sub> per minute.
- Even when net lifecycle emissions are considered, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from woody biomass energy can exceed those from fossil fuels for decades to over a century - well past the time that climate scientists agree we need to sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Far from being instantaneously renewable, it can take decades to over a century for forest regrowth to recover the carbon emitted from harvesting, transporting, processing, and burning woody biomass. Meanwhile, forests in the US - our most valuable tool for capturing and storing carbon from the atmosphere - are being liquidated at an alarming rate to meet the steep demand for wood pellets in the EU, where biomass energy is treated as carbon neutral.
- It is scientifically indefensible to characterize forest biomass energy as "carbon neutral" and inappropriate for Congress to legislate the science of biomass and climate change.

## **2021 Senate Interior & Environment Appropriations Bill Language:**

POLICIES RELATING TO BIOMASS ENERGY SEC. 434. To support the key role that forests in the United States can play in addressing the energy needs of the United States, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, consistent with their missions, jointly—

(1) ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy— (A) is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies; and (B) recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management; and

(2) establish clear and simple policies for the use of forest biomass as an energy solution, including policies that— (A) reflect the carbon-neutrality of forest bioenergy and recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use; (B) encourage private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain, including in— (i) working forests; (ii) harvesting operations; (iii) forest improvement operations; (iv) forest bioenergy production; (v) wood products manufacturing; or (vi) paper manufacturing; (C) encourage forest management to improve forest health; and (D) recognize State initiatives to produce and use forest biomass.

Thank you for participating in the Biomass Social Media Day of Action!