

FUELWOOD POTENTIALS

Summary

The National Energy Policy (2009 – 2030) has established renewable energy targets of 12.5 % by 2015 and 20% by 2030. In addition to the National Energy Policy, the MEM has also disseminated the draft “National Renewable Energy Policy 2009 – 2030...Creating a sustainable Future”. Both policies are designed to work towards the overall goal of Jamaica’s attaining developed country status by 2030 and are available on the Ministry’s website at www.mem.gov.jm.

The Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ), the implementing arm of the Ministry of Energy and Mining (MEM), has embarked on updating its biomass studies to support renewable energy developments and the strengthening of institutional arrangements for biomass monitoring, regulation and legislation.

Biomass accounts for 55% of Jamaica’s renewable energy solutions in use. It may be found in the forms of bagasse, fuelwood, charcoal and biomass in municipal solid waste for energy. Fuelwood in the form of charcoal and firewood are among the top fuel sources for household cooking. Regular (daily and weekly) users are estimated to consume 215 million kilograms of charcoal valued at \$3.4 billion over a one year period. There has also been a significant increase in the commercial use of fuelwood for “jerking”. Estimates suggest that 20- 30 percent of charcoal demand is for commercial use.

Highlights – Fuelwood Potentials

- 49% of households use charcoal for cooking.
- 42% of households use firewood for home cooking.
- Fuelwood potentials represent 1million barrels of oil equivalent.



On May 17, 2004 a woodchip combustion trial was initiated at the Frome Sugar Factory on *Leucaena* woodchips provided by the PCJ from its Font Hill property. From the trials it was concluded that woodchips have: a higher calorific value, lower moisture content and higher heating value than bagasse, thereby confirming that woodchips are a valuable source of fuel for sugar cane processing and power generation.

PCJ’s Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy (CERE) was established in November, 2006. The mandate is to ensure the diversification of Jamaica’s energy mix, by securing renewable energy investments.