

# Biomass, Environmental Justice, & Racism



Biomass, or bioenergy, creates energy by burning living materials like plants and trees. The wood pellet industry uses trees to make wood pellets. It then ships them to Europe and Asia and burns them in power plants to create electricity. **Wood pellet plants are as dirty and problematic as coal plants.**

Extractive, polluting industries like the wood pellet industry have been locating in rural communities for decades, and **these communities continue to struggle with poverty and unemployment, while industry executives who live outside the community prosper.** Both property values and livability decline in areas near wood pellet factories.

The wood pellet industry is twice as likely to put their dirty plants in Black or minority neighborhoods than in white ones, treating these communities as dumping grounds and exposing residents to noise, dust, odors, and air pollution. This is an environmental injustice.



**Environmental justice communities often live with more than one type of polluting industry - meaning residents face cumulative, or collective, impacts resulting from the total amount of pollution and other negative impacts from all the industries combined. When a wood pellet industry locates in an EJ community, they are adding increased pollution to everything that already exists.**

If you're living near a wood pellet plant, you deserve to know the risks. Learn more about what you can do to prevent further damage to your community at the link below.



Find out more at [dogwoodalliance.org/biomass-racism](https://dogwoodalliance.org/biomass-racism)