

SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP

This is a long article. It just hit my inbox today—May 2022---Regards, Rich

[https://www.canadianbiomassmagazine.ca/bc-bioenergy-the-case-controversy-and-considerations-from-a-sustainability-expert/?custnum=&CUSTNUM;&title=&\\*URLENCODE\(&TITLE;\)&utm\\_source=&PUB\\_CODE;&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=&\\*URLENCODE\({{\\*|obID}}\)&oly\\_enc\\_id=9463F0063134D0T](https://www.canadianbiomassmagazine.ca/bc-bioenergy-the-case-controversy-and-considerations-from-a-sustainability-expert/?custnum=&CUSTNUM;&title=&*URLENCODE(&TITLE;)&utm_source=&PUB_CODE;&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&*URLENCODE({{*|obID}})&oly_enc_id=9463F0063134D0T)

## **BC bioenergy: The case, controversy and considerations from a sustainability expert**

Italy-based forester and sustainability expert Shauna Matkovich shares observations from her recent trip to B.C. to explore the opportunities and challenges for bioenergy in the province.

May 20, 2022 By Shauna Matkovich



Fire managed landscape in Interior British Columbia, where some harvesting residues have been removed for bioenergy production after the higher value logs have gone on to other end uses. Photo by Shauna Matkovich.

I was recently on an advisory visit, reviewing the challenges and opportunities around the bioenergy sector in British Columbia. The study explored the complicated issues pertaining to the B.C. forest



14 February 2023



**SENT TO LSU AGCENTER/LOUISIANA FOREST PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT CENTER - FOREST SECTOR / FORESTY PRODUCTS INTEREST GROUP**

industry, such as Indigenous reconciliation, biodiversity and old-growth management, fire management and climate change, high-value versus low-value wood products, jobs, and moving from a sustainable forest management regime of timber management to forest ecosystem management.

The case and controversy for bioenergy

There has been an upswing in bioenergy use in recent years as a decarbonization strategy for the highly emitting fossil energy sector. The issue, however, is not so clearcut and is causing a lot of debate. The IPCC in their latest report explain that bioenergy has an important role to play in decarbonizing the energy sector. This was recognized back in 2012, when an IPCC special report on renewable energy sources and climate change mitigation stated that the use of biomass residues and wastes and advanced conversion systems are able to deliver 80 to 90 per cent emission reductions compared to the fossil energy baseline ([IPCC, 2012](#)). Though certainly the science has become more sophisticated in the past 10 years, likewise the risks are becoming much better understood. The IPCC 2022 report draws attention to the risks of poor land management that doesn't balance the need for various resources ([IPCC, 2022](#)). The report notes that bioenergy may increase or decrease emissions depending on the scale at which it is implemented, the technology used, the fuel displaced, and how and where the biomass is produced.

-----  
Richard P. Vlosky, Ph.D.  
*Crosby Land & Resources Endowed Professor of Forest Sector Business Development*  
*Director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center*  
Room 227, School of Renewable Natural Resources  
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803  
Phone (office): (225) 578-4527; Mobile Phone: (225) 223-1931  
[rvlosky@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:rvlosky@agcenter.lsu.edu)

-----  
Chair, Agricultural Faculty Council, LSU AgCenter/College of Agriculture

Scientific Board Member (<https://www.forest-journal.com/>)

