

## Woodville Renewable Power Project



Elected Officials and Electric Cooperative Representatives Break Ground for the Woodville Renewable Power Project

A large gathering of area electric cooperatives, along with elected officials and forestry association representatives, celebrated the Woodville Renewable Power Project's official groundbreaking on June 26, 2012 in Woodville, Texas. Upon completion, expected in the Fall 2014, the 49.9-megawatt plant will generate enough power for as many as 25,000 area homes.

The Woodville Renewable Power Project will use timber waste from east Texas logging operations as fuel to generate electric power. The plant will need over 60 truckloads of wood chips a day from sources within a 50 mile radius. From the landowner's perspective, harvesting timber waste will clear the forests of logging debris and large underbrush, which can remove potential wildfire ammunition as well as create open areas for wildlife.

Over a half-million tons of timber waste per year will be burned in fire boilers to create steam to turn the turbines. Consistent with the project's environment-friendly approach, the city of Woodville's effluent water will be used to cool the steam, converting it back to water for reuse. At the groundbreaking, Texas Agriculture commissioner Todd Staples said, "The Woodville Renewable Power Project is a great example of industry and agriculture coming together to create jobs and renewable energy."

The biomass plant is expected to contribute \$25 million to the local economy, as well as providing 250 construction and 25 full-time jobs. If you assume that most of the wood placed into the boiler will come from wood chipping of previously unharvested timber debris, the crews required could potentially produce another 60 jobs as well.

The electricity generated by the Woodville Renewable Power Project will help meet the growing power needs of East Texas Electric Cooperative's (ETEC) member owners located throughout 46 counties in East Texas and will ensure fewer power outages for members when severe weather strikes. ETEC is comprised of 10 not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives: Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative, Cherokee County Electric Cooperative, Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative, Houston County Electric Cooperative, Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Sam Houston Electric Cooperative, Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative and Wood County Electric Cooperative.