



Envirothon NB 2007 – Alternate / Renewable Energy



Forestville, New Brunswick

Background

The town of Forestville, New Brunswick, is situated at the confluence of the Forestville and North Rivers (see Map 1).

Although the town of Forestville has a population of only 2000 people, it has an economic influence over approximately 8,000 people in the surrounding communities.

The town of Holmesville, population of 10,000, is 50 kilometers to the East while the city of Deersville, population 45,000 is 65 kilometers to the West. The Two Rivers First Nation, population 350, is adjacent to Forestville's property line to the west.

Forestville has the best of both worlds - access to the facilities of larger urban centers with the comfort of country living. The area surrounding the town is comprised of public and private forests (see Map 1 and Appendix 1), as well as, agricultural lands. The topography of the area is rolling to undulating hillsides.

The town has a municipal government with a mayor and council. Among other things, Forestville has a high school, middle, and elementary school, health centre, sports complex, a shopping centre, industrial park, fire department, and residential area with a large park, marina, and several places of worship (see Map 2). Currently, the town and its businesses rely primarily on electricity supplied by the Provincial Power Company which operates several coal and oil-powered plants.

The main employer is Forestville Pulp and Paper (FP&P) and its subsidiary company, Forestville Sawmill Inc. The mills employ 450 people directly and another 300 supplying the raw material. Because of the mills, numerous spin-off businesses have evolved, ranging from forest related or industrial jobs to the service sector. These spin-off ventures employ an additional 400 workers. With a large number of the town's and surrounding areas' population employed by the mills, many of the residents are highly skilled tradesmen and women.

The Challenge

The town is facing a major challenge as its principle employers, Forestville Pulp and Paper and the Forestville Sawmill, are experiencing financial difficulties. The current low markets for forest products, the low Canadian dollar, competition from other countries, and the rising costs of energy are forcing the company to cut costs which may have implications on employment and ultimately the future of Forestville.

Your Task

Your consulting firm has been contracted by the town council, the town's Economic Development Office, and FP&P to develop a plan to address not only the energy costs of the two mills, but also to help reduce the energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions of Forestville. Your team will present your plan at the town hall on Saturday, May 12.

Considerations

You must take into account the economic, social, cultural, and ecological impacts of your recommendations.

Appendix 1

Forest Description Summary for Map #1

Forest Type	Percent of Area
Softwood Mature	30
Hardwood Mature	8
Mixed Wood Mature	16
Softwood Young	10
Hardwood Young	4
Mixed Wood Young	13
Non Commercial	9
Other (fields)	10

Note: Forest stands old enough to have merchantable size wood are considered mature (average diameter of trees in the stand greater than 10 cm). Anything with a diameter less than 10 cm in diameter is considered young. This will include recently cut stands to stands with average stem diameters up to 10 cm.