

***Can the transmission system support the new generation from the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant as well as other recently proposed projects?***

Currently there is significant effort under way to find the most equitable approach to funding the upgrade of the transmission system in order to accommodate legislatively mandated new renewable generation requirements. We believe this effort will pave the way for a number of new biomass, wind and other renewable projects in the North Country and help establish the region as a national leader in the development of clean, renewable energy.



***Will the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant have any adverse impact on New Hampshire's forests? Is there enough fuel for such a plant?***

The experience in NH has been that the forests that surround and supply the existing biomass facilities are the best managed and most productive, and that axiom will hold true for the timberlands that will be supplying the Laidlaw facility. In addition, only wood that has been harvested in a sustainable manner will be accepted for use in the biomass plant. For many years, the mills in Groveton and Berlin were supplied by the extensive and abundant "wood basket" of Northern NH which will serve as the fuel source for the biomass plant, however, the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant will use only about half the amount consumed by the former mills.



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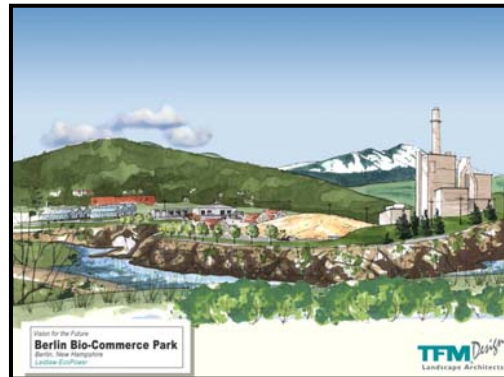
Questions and Answers

about the

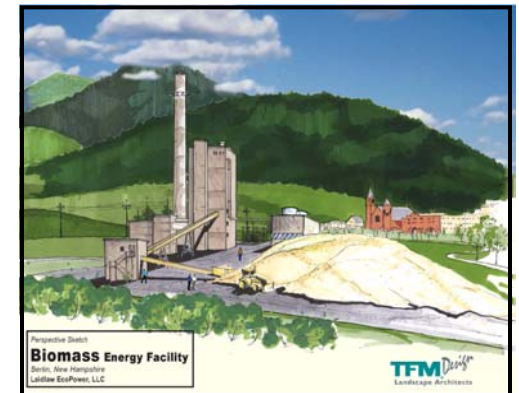
**Laidlaw Biomass Power Plant**

proposed for the mill site in

Berlin, NH



Artist's Rendering of the Proposed Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant Coupled with Potential New Businesses



## The Laidlaw Biomass-Energy Plant

Berlin, NH

In May of 2006 the Fraser Paper Mill, located on the Androscoggin River in Berlin, NH, was permanently closed. The 130-acre site had been occupied by a paper mill, originally the Brown Company, for over 100 years. The closure of the mill meant the loss of hundreds of direct and thousands of indirect jobs in an area that is in dire need of employment for skilled workers.

Laidlaw Berlin, LLC is purchasing the boiler system and certain related equipment presently on the site, along with approximately 50-acres of the total 130-acre site. The plan is to convert the existing boiler to operate using locally sourced wood chips as a fuel source and to install a steam turbine generator in order to produce clean, "green" electricity and thermal energy.

Laidlaw intends to be a good neighbor and a community asset. To share the most factual information with our neighbors, we have compiled this list of frequently asked questions, which candidly address some key questions about the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant.

### *Will the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant have a positive economic impact on the community?*

The Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant aims to employ 40 workers with a projected annual payroll of about \$2,000,000. These are good jobs that will pay well and last as long as the Northeast United States uses electricity. In other words, these jobs can never be "outsourced".

Hundreds of new related jobs will be created by the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant as loggers respond to the opportunity to provide wood biomass fuel to the plant. The plant will consume approximately 750,000 tons of wood-chips per year at a cost of about \$20,000,000. This income will be first paid to regional land-owners, truckers and loggers supplying fuel to the plant, however, this wealth creation will ultimately be multiplied throughout the Berlin and Androscoggin Valley community in local restaurants, shops, stores and small and large businesses.

Finally, the initial plant construction will infuse millions of dollars into the region for wages, associated equipment and material, and once up and operating the plant will join the City of Berlin's tax rolls as a significant tax-payer.



### *Will the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant have the same environmental impact on the community as the pulp mill?*

Operation of a renewable energy biomass power plant that utilizes clean wood chips as fuel is nothing at all like a mill that produces pulp and paper. The Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant has nothing in common with the former mill, other than occupying a small portion of the former mill site and using wood chips for fuel. The Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-



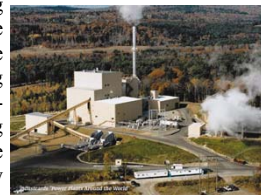
Energy Plant will operate in a much more ecologically friendly fashion. The offensive odors, noise, and dust that are hallmarks of a pulp mill are completely absent in a modern biomass plant. Like the mill, however, the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy plant will play a vital role in Androscoggin Valley economic vitality.

Compared to the pulp mill, the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant will reduce overall annual air emissions by over 1,400-tons per year. Laidlaw takes great pride in the fact that this facility will be equipped with advanced technology that will make it among the cleanest biomass power plants in North America, and significantly cleaner and more environmentally friendly than any coal or other fossil fuel power plant.

Additionally, Laidlaw is acquiring only about 50-acres of the total 130-acre former mill site and the Laidlaw Bio-Energy Plant will use just 15-acres. There will also be plenty of land left over that can possibly be used for future business development, leveraging off the green electricity and low cost thermal energy available from the plant, which will multiply the positive economic impact of the project by creating more jobs and injecting more dollars into the local economy. In terms of community investment, we plan to construct and landscape a walking path along the Androscoggin River for community use and enjoyment.

### *Does New Hampshire really need another wood fired power plant?*

New Hampshire has taken a very wise and thoughtful step toward meeting the growing global demand for renewable energy and combating global warming with the enactment of a Renewable Portfolio Standard calling for 25% of all New Hampshire energy needs being produced using renewable feedstocks and sources by 2025.



If we do not create new local resources, however, local utilities will be required to find other sources of renewable energy. This means potentially buying power from the wholesale marketplace and importing it from elsewhere in the region, thus running a risk of higher energy costs. Moreover, if we do not create local resources of renewable energy, the economic vitality that would have been created locally will instead go to communities in other states where renewable plants will be built to serve the needs of New Hampshire's citizens. This "Mill to Megawatts" project is a vital component of the New Hampshire Renewable Portfolio Standard. When the Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant is up and operating, the plant's electrical output will match and indeed surpass the entire output of every hydro-electric facility on the Androscoggin River in New Hampshire and Maine!

The closing of the pulp mill is a major transition for "the city that trees built". Blessed with abundant natural resources, along with a skilled and hard working labor force, Berlin is positioned to lead the way as New Hampshire becomes a national leader in producing clean, renewable energy that does not contribute to global warming.

### *Wouldn't it be better for the community to build a park or recreation facility at the former mill site?*

Building a biomass plant that creates clean energy from wood chips and building a park, a recreation facility or even a hotel are not mutually exclusive ideas. Laidlaw is acquiring less than half of the 130 acre site for the Bio-Energy Plant, so there is ample space. The question is, however, who will pay for the park or build the hotel?

If we are going to be able to create these kind of resources in Berlin, we must first reestablish the manufacturing base in order to provide the tax revenue to support such projects and the jobs so people can afford to enjoy them.

The Laidlaw Berlin Biomass-Energy Plant, as a source of clean electricity and low cost thermal energy, can be a catalyst for attracting other manufacturing businesses to the area, which will in turn bring more jobs, tax revenue and support for local businesses which will help revitalize the community and create the tax base to support projects that benefit the community.