

NEWS

From GEORGIA TECH'S ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

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GEORGIA TECH STUDIES

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WOOD FUEL FOR INDUSTRY

For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, GA.....Teaching Georgia's industry how to use wood waste for fuel is the object of a new project at Georgia Tech's Engineering Experiment Station.

Carol Aton of EES says DOE has provided almost one million dollars for this effort to push wood as an alternate energy source for industry in the state. Tech received this funding through the Georgia Office of Energy Resources.

"We are trying to stimulate the use of wood waste because of the current energy situation," says Aton. "Many forest-related industries are already using their wastes for fuel."

In this project EES engineers are looking at industries that have little or no experience with wood fuel. They have chosen the textile, food, carpet, and mineral processing industries as meeting this criteria.

"These are industries that not only have little experience with wood as a fuel, they do not have a readily available supply of wood," says Aton. "These types of industries are really the ones that need educating on wood wastes for fuel."

Beginning this summer, engineers, economists and forestry experts from Tech and other agencies will gear up for a highly-intensive educational

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program. Through seminars and plant visits, they will explain the how-to's of converting from conventional boilers to wood-fired boilers.

In addition, they'll have information on how much wood waste is available, where to get it, how much it costs, how cost-effective it is, and what the long-term benefits are. They will also provide information on the suitability of different types of wood fuel for different types of facilities. The three basic wood fuels are green wood chips, dry chips and dry wood pellets.

As part of this project, engineers will eventually install wood-fueled systems in three manufacturing plants. Industry representatives will be invited to see how the operations work.