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Bio-energy grant helps turn waste to wealth

Edmonton... A new wood waste gasification facility, featuring cutting-edge German technology, has been approved for \$5 million in government funding under the province's bio-energy strategy. The \$70-million project will divert forestry and municipal wood waste from landfills in the Edmonton region to create a new value-added opportunity from forestry biomass.

"Bio-energy, particularly from forestry waste, is a textbook example of a value-added opportunity," said Mel Knight, Minister of Energy. "These grants will increase investment in the bio-energy marketplace and help unlock other ways that Alberta can get more out of all its resources."

The facility, a project of Expander Energy, will develop a commercial scale prototype of the Choren Carbo-V technology outside of Edmonton. A thermo-chemical process using heat and pressure will provide the capability to produce a synthetic bio-diesel fuel from wood waste materials. Carbon capture and sequestration are also key components of this proposal.

"These types of projects provide Alberta's forest industry with a unique opportunity to diversify by harnessing the potential of bio-energy," added Sustainable Resource Development Minister Ted Morton.

The funding was allocated through the Biorefining Commercialization and Market Development Program and the Bio-energy Infrastructure Development Program. Both grant programs are part of the Alberta government's \$239-million Nine-Point Bio-energy Plan designed to encourage the growth of a clean, renewable fuel industry in Alberta.

The grants also support product development, market research, and feasibility studies to assist bio-refiners in adopting new technologies and meeting market requirements.

More information on Alberta's bio-energy industry and the grant programs is available on the Alberta Energy website at www.energy.gov.ab.ca under the *Our Business* section.

Developing Alberta's bio-energy portfolio is part of Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to secure Alberta's future by building communities, greening our growth and creating opportunity.

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