

Governor Jeanne Shaheen 
Media Releases

Governor Stresses Need to Develop Alternative Fuels at Bio-Oil Conference

Highlights the Importance to New Hampshire's Economy, Environment

CONCORD - Gov. Jeanne Shaheen stressed the urgent need to develop alternative fuels to help reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, provide a boost to New Hampshire's economy and reduce pollution at a regional conference on bio-oil today at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

"High levels of ozone and haze forced New Hampshire to declare air quality action alerts six consecutive days this week, including today - an unprecedented number. This week, we are seeing concrete proof that it is time to change the way we do business," Gov. Shaheen said.

"We need a smart and forward-looking national energy policy that promotes energy efficiency, invests in developing alternative, cleaner energy sources and reduces our dependence on foreign oil," Gov. Shaheen. "That is the smart way to move our country forward. It also presents a great economic opportunity for our state."

Bio-oil is a potentially cleaner-burning power source made from the leftover scrap wood of New Hampshire's timber and forest products industries.

"Not only does bio-oil hold the potential for an alternative fuel that can heat our homes and businesses and power our cars, it means new timber and forest products jobs in the North Country," Gov. Shaheen said.

More than a year ago, the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services began pulling together a team to initiate a bio-oil feasibility study. Working with the Department of Resources and Economic Development, economic development officials, researchers, and the forest products industry, Energy and Community Services won a \$100,000 U.S. Department of Energy grant to study bio-oil production using low-grade wood chips from the Granite State. DRED will also contribute \$50,000 to this project.

Today's conference, which was sponsored by the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services and the Coalition of Northeastern Governors, attracted representatives from across New England and Canada.