B.C.'s wood pellet industry is playing a major role in developing renewable bioenergy sources locally and internationally with growing production and export markets.

There are currently 11 wood pellet plants operating in B.C. They are located in the communities of Armstrong, Burns Lake, Houston, Kelowna, Prince George, Princeton, Quesnel, Strathnaver, Vanderhoof (two facilities), and Williams Lake.

The combined production capacity of these 11 facilities is about 1.7 million tonnes per year.

B.C. is home to seven wood pellet companies: Pinnacle Pellet (which operates five plants), Pacific BioEnergy, Northwest Wood Preservers, Houston Pellet, Princeton Co-Generation, Premium Pellet, and Okanagan Pellets (also known as Viridis Energy).

Europe is the world's largest market for pellet products. Green energy policies in Europe – where power companies earn carbon credits by replacing coal with renewable wood fuel – have resulted in increased pellet demand. Emerging energy policies in Asian countries are also expected to drive increased pellet demand.

Practically non-existent a decade ago, this fast-growing industry now contributes about $185 million annually to the provincial economy.

British Columbia exported 94 per cent of its wood pellet production in 2009. B.C.'s leading markets for wood pellets are Europe (84 per cent of total exports), the United States (eight per cent) and Asia (eight per cent).

British Columbia represents about 66 per cent of Canada's wood pellet production capacity, far ahead of the Atlantic provinces at a combined 18 per cent, Quebec at 11 per cent, Alberta at five per cent, and Ontario at one per cent.

In B.C. wood pellets are mainly made from logging residues, timber killed by the mountain pine beetle infestation, sawmilling scraps and waste wood, compacted sawdust, and planer shavings.

Wood pellet production is a key segment of the bioenergy sector and an important part of the provincial strategy for growing British Columbia's natural energy advantage.
Wood pellets are used to heat the enhanced forestry lab at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). In addition to bioenergy research, UNBC’s wood pellet system is a demonstration project for industrial and community heating purposes.

Wood pellets are burned at an extremely high temperature (1,500 degrees Celsius) and leave very little waste behind. A 40-pound bag of pellets produces only three ounces of ash, making wood pellets one of the cleaner-burning sources of fuel and energy.

Wood pellets are one way to help fight climate change. They reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere when they replace a non-renewable source of energy such as coal or oil. Unlike fossil fuels, pellets are carbon-neutral since the wood is part of the current carbon cycle. Wood pellets are also environmentally friendly as they generate heat without contributing particulate to the atmosphere.

For more information about how B.C. is building world-class bioenergy capacity visit the BC Bioenergy Network website at [www.bcbioenergy.com](http://www.bcbioenergy.com)

For more information about wood pellets visit the Wood Pellet Association of Canada website at [www.pellet.org](http://www.pellet.org)

Wood Pellet Plants Operating in B.C.

- **A** Houston Pellet – Houston
- **B** Pinnacle Pellet – Burns Lake
- **C** Northwest Wood Preservers – Vanderhoof
- **D** Premium Pellet – Vanderhoof
- **E** Pacific BioEnergy – Prince George
- **F** Pinnacle Pellet – Strathnaver
- **G** Pinnacle Pellet – Quesnel
- **H** Pinnacle Pellet – Williams Lake
- **I** Pinnacle Pellet – Armstrong
- **J** Princeton Co-generation – Princeton
- **K** Okanagan Pellets (Viridis Energy) – Kelowna

Pacific Ocean