

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Nature Conservancy and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative  
Explore Responsible Sourcing for Bioenergy Feedstocks**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) launched a pilot project today to help bioenergy companies in the United States support responsible forest management through their procurement of woody biomass.

The joint effort reflects the recognition by both organizations that the bioenergy industry provides new market opportunities for forest landowners and managers, but that appropriate steps should be in place for the procurement of forest fiber in order to maintain the health of the forest resource.

The project will assist facilities that produce renewable energy or transportation fuels from woody biomass to establish a responsible procurement system. SFI's Fiber Sourcing requirements will be applied for the procurement system, and analysis will be conducted to identify gaps between existing procurement and SFI Fiber Sourcing requirements.

“Woody biomass can be a great source of renewable energy and offers an excellent incentive so landowners can maintain their forests as forests – as long the forest is managed responsibly,” said Glenn Prickett, Chief External Affairs Officer for The Nature Conservancy. “TNC is interested in this project with SFI to explore how the SFI Standard’s unique Fiber Sourcing requirements can address the need of responsible procurement of woody biomass for bioenergy facilities while managing for important forest values.”

Through the SFI program’s unique fiber sourcing requirements, all SFI program participants – whether they own or manage lands or buy fiber – must take measures to ensure the raw material in their supply chain is from responsible sources. Next steps for this project entail the identification of bioenergy facilities that can be project participants and will form the basis of our shared learning.

“Working with The Nature Conservancy and project partners will be a constructive undertaking to share and learn from our collective knowledge as it relates to responsible procurement. This initiative has the potential to demonstrate to policymakers that voluntary certification has an important role to play in demonstrating the viability of voluntary measures to address emerging issues related to a growing bioenergy market,” said SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow.

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**About the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. ([www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org))**

SFI Inc. is an independent non-profit charitable organization, and is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. Across North America, more than 180 million acres/73 million hectares are certified to the SFI forest management standard, making it the largest single standard in the world. SFI chain-of-custody certification tells buyers the percentage of fiber from certified forests, certified sourcing and/or post-consumer recycled content. The SFI program's unique fiber sourcing requirements promote responsible forest management on all suppliers' lands. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social and economic sectors equally.

**About The Nature Conservancy ([www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org))**

The Nature Conservancy is an international, non-profit conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Conservancy's mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Its on-the-ground conservation work is carried out in all 50 states and more than 30 foreign countries and is supported by approximately one million individual members. The Conservancy has helped conserve nearly 15 million acres of land in the United States and Canada and more than 102 million acres with local partner organizations globally.

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