



**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Florida - Rural Business & Cooperative Service

Strategic Partners/Alternative Energy

From Wood Waste to Energy

Outline Of Need:

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU), in Alachua County, Fla., sought to increase its power production output using renewable biomass fuel. The new wood burning 100-MW power plant would primarily use municipal and logging waste wood from several suppliers in the region.

Wood Resource Recovery, a local tree removal and wood recycling company, needed to finance a major expansion of its facility to successfully compete for the new GRU power plant supply contract.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA worked with a private lender to provide Wood Resource Recovery a \$6.8 million Business & Industry Guaranteed loan to purchase wood



Wood Resource Recovery LLC and Gaston Tree Service LLC collect, processes, and recycles tree, land clearing and yard debris as a renewable energy source for biomass energy production. The firm is a supplier to the Gainesville Regional Utilities/American Renewables GREC, a 100-MW biomass power facility located in Gainesville, Fla., which supplies enough renewable power for approximately 70,000 homes.

chippers and other equipment needed to process and transport wood biomass to the new power plant.

The Results:

Wood Resource Recovery is providing a daily average of over 1,000 wet tons of biomass to American Renewables for plant operations. This represents nearly half of the plant's biomass needs. The loan helped create approximately 40 new jobs and will improve the company's profitability. The jobs and income this operation generates creates a positive economic ripple effect in Alachua County and North Central Florida.

This project is located in one of a group of North Florida counties that are part of USDA Rural Development's Florida's "Great Region," a low income, high unemployment area that includes three of Florida's four federally designated persistent poverty counties.

Fast Facts

Program: Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan

Date: July 2013

Investment: \$6.8 million Loan Guarantee

Congressional District: Congressman Ted Yoho, District 3

Partners: Gainesville Regional Utilities, American Renewables, 1st Manatee Bank

Demographics:

The project is located in Alachua County, Fla., a federally designated persistent poverty county located in North Central Florida.

Impact:

- Expansion of company and creation of 40 new jobs.
- Wood waste feedstock enables biomass power plant energy generation.

January 2014