

Lower Emissions and Improved Resilience with Biomass Heating

Interior Health is turning waste into a resource by using biomass heating for three of their healthcare sites. With their most recent site, Parkview Place, a 31-bed complex care facility in Enderby, they have linked to the local bioenergy district energy system and have seen \$11,000 in utility cost savings and a reduction of 140 tonnes in emissions each year.

District energy systems centralize the production of heating or cooling for a community and distribute thermal energy through networks of hot and cold-water pipes. They use significantly less energy than if the individual buildings had their own boilers and chillers and often use wood chips, pellets, agricultural waste or urban wood waste to generate heating, cooling and electricity.

For Parkview Place, they've not only seen reduced emissions but also greater energy resilience and redundancy because the system can maintain power and heating during extreme weather events, such as ice storms.

"With this linkage, we were able to leverage existing infrastructure, helping us to transition to a cleaner energy supply, while also supporting local solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," states Lorne Sisley, Corporate Director, Facilities Management and Operations at Interior Health.

