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Wood-fueled boiler conference at UW-Stevens Point

Could conversion from an oil or natural gas-based boiler to a wood-fueled boiler system save money?

A conference co-hosted by UW-Extension at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) will attempt to give decision makers throughout the state background information to make such a conversion.

The Wood-Fueled Boiler Conference will take place on Wednesday, June 1, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at Room 170 in the College of Natural Resources (CNR). The U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA), UW-Madison and UWSP will co-host.

According to Robert Govett, professor of natural resources at UWSP, the conference will provide both private and public sector decision makers the necessary background information to determine if conversion to a wood or bark fueled boiler would reduce their organization or company's overall costs.

"The time may be ripe for school districts, municipalities and others to consider converting from an oil or natural gas boiler to wood or bark fuel," said Govett. "In periods of increasing energy costs, we think this conference is both timely and informative and may give decision makers another option to reduce their growing energy costs."

Conference topics will include wood fueled boilers as an alternative, wood and bark markets in Wisconsin, environmental concerns related to wood boilers, and status of legislative proposals related to wood boilers. To request registration, contact WWOA, Box 285, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Additional information on determining the cost savings with conversion to wood fuel can be found at www.forest.wisc.edu/extension/boilermanual.htm.