

## **Fibrowatt, LLC “Manure Tour” 2006**

Kathy Bunton  
Area Specialized Agent, Poultry  
North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
Iredell, Wilkes, and Alexander Counties  
P. O. Box 311  
Statesville, NC 28687  
Phone: (704)878-3154, E-mail: [kathy\\_bunton@ncsu.edu](mailto:kathy_bunton@ncsu.edu)

Fibrowatt LLC is a Philadelphia-based developer, builder, owner and operator of electricity power plants fueled by agricultural biomass, including poultry litter. Fibrowatt LLC aims to use the technology developed by Fibrowatt Ltd in the UK to build a business in the US. Fibrowatt LLC's UK technology partner is Fibrowatt Ltd (founded by the same management), which is now part of the Energy Power Resources Group in the UK. Fibrowatt Ltd built the world's first three poultry litter fueled power plants, and has licensed its technology.

Financing has been completed and construction is almost complete on the first poultry litter fueled power plant in the US, being developed by Fibrominn LLC in partnership with the City of Benson, Minnesota. The plant will generate 55MW of electricity from around 700,000 tons per year of turkey litter in combination with agricultural biomass. The plant will be located in Benson which is three hours west of the Twin Cities, in Swift County. The plant is scheduled to come on line in early 2007.

Fibrowatt LLC is proposing to build 3 power plants fueled by poultry litter and other agricultural biomasses here in North Carolina. These plants will be located in the poultry dense areas of the state. Seven counties have entered official bids to house one of these plants. Fibrowatt has recently narrowed the site selection possibilities to one site per county. The purposed plants will be located in either, Alexander, Wilkes, or Surry County in the west, Moore, Montgomery, or Union in the Piedmont, and Sampson or Duplin in the east.

This past June, a delegation from North Carolina was invited by Fibrowatt to the UK to tour plants in operation in the towns of Thetford and Eye. The group consisted of county governmental officials, county economic development representatives, and individuals representing agricultural agencies. The tour provided the delegation with the opportunity to see first hand the process of turning poultry litter in to electricity. More importantly, the group was able to visit with the citizens of the town of Thetford and find out their perspective on the plant which is located only a mile from the town limits.

The fact finding “Manure Tour” was quite successful. The delegation found Fibrowatt to have been truthful in the promotion of the plant to the citizens North Carolina. The company was seen to be environmental friendly and a good neighbor to the town of Thetford. The possibility of Fibrowatt coming to North Carolina was seen by the group as a positive endeavor that could help keep the poultry industry viable in our state for years to come.