

Traverse City based Rapid River Renewable Energy, LLC or “R³E”, is pursuing construction of a renewable energy Co-Gen power plant in Kalkaska County. The proposed 36 megawatt wood burning facility will supply sufficient electrical power to meet the current needs of approximately 30,000 homes and provide employment opportunities for 20-30 permanent, full-time employees with an estimated additional 300 indirect jobs created in the region as a result of the plant’s operations.. In addition, the project will employ approximately 150 additional construction workers during the 18-24 month building phase of the operation.

The company owns 270-acres in Rapid River Township. This location provides a sufficient buffer for neighboring homes and businesses as well as supplying the necessary infrastructure required to transport the fuel source, which in this instance will be waste wood chips. Wood chips will be derived from limbs, bark and other wood waste that is typically unsuitable for use in lumber and paper mills, and is available as a result of responsible forest management.

Bio-mass operations such as the one proposed by R³E are considered “carbon neutral” meaning that there is no additional release of carbon into the atmosphere other than that released as a result of the normal decomposition process of the organic fuel source. In addition, the Company is aggressively pursuing the feasibility of sequestering the CO² generated by its operations. Advancement of such innovative technology has the potential to make this one of the first plants to actually capture and sequester its own CO², thereby effectively making the project “carbon negative”.

It is estimated that the plant and related infrastructure will cost approximately \$140,000,000 to build.

R³E is committed to the generation and distribution of clean, environmentally friendly electricity to homes and businesses throughout Michigan.