
Agendas and Provisions for Regional Utilization of Forest Resources by Wood Biomass Power Generation Businesses

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Forest covers 70% of Japan, making wood a valuable domestic resources in the country. Forests play many public roles, such as providing water storage, flood control, and a public amenity. For sustainable use of forests, businesses that rely on forestry must be self-sustaining. In recent years, government decisions detailed in the “Forests and Forestry regeneration plan” and “Regulations on the Promotion of the use of Wood in Public Buildings, etc.” have increased the domestic wood demand in line with new manufacturing technology. In addition, the wood biomass power generation sector, which uses unutilized wood as a source of energy, has been boosted by the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) system. The wood biomass power generation sector is expected to be a cause of increased regional development. However, in order to establish a power generation business, it is first necessary to fully investigate the procurement price and amount of wood fuel available. Agendas and provisions for regional activation of forest resources by the wood biomass power generation business are hereby discussed.