California faces a forest management crisis, as severe drought, wildfire, and pest infestation worsen in the face of climate change. If managed properly, bioelectricity could help support sustainable forest management while advancing California’s renewable energy and climate goals. However, there are also legitimate concerns surrounding the climate and air quality impacts of these systems as they exist today. New research from the Schatz Center is shedding light on the net environmental impacts of using forest residues for bioenergy — and is supporting policymakers in deciding whether, and under which circumstances, these systems should be promoted.

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