

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMPETING IN OVERSEAS MARKETS  
CREATING LOCAL JOBS



## The SunGas Renewables' Beaver Lake Renewable Energy Project (BLRE) project



### Who is SunGas Renewables?

SunGas Renewables is an energy technology company focused on the production of renewable fuels for world markets. **SunGas technology converts sustainable sources of feedstock such as wood fiber into a synthetic gas called syngas**—this syngas is then used to make a wide variety of fuels such as marine methanol, renewable natural gas, sustainable aviation fuel and even renewable gasoline and hydrogen. SunGas is working to make a meaningful impact by serving global markets and looking to develop many renewable fuel plants across the Southeast United States including Louisiana.

### Is the BLRE project a clear win to grow the rural economy in Louisiana?

The BLRE project, along with others that will follow in Louisiana and throughout the Southeast U.S., will help **revitalize rural economies through job creation and financial investment to serve and outcompete other countries wanting to enter global energy markets** that demand advanced fuels. The BLRE facility will utilize sustainably sourced wood fiber from routine forest thinning activity required to keep managed forests healthy and productive. From this wood fiber, BLRE will produce renewable methanol. These feedstocks are readily available and at a surplus due to the decline of the paper and forest industries.

### What is the economic impact of the BLRE project?

The project will create more than **1,150 jobs during construction** and more than **300 to 400 indirect jobs** and **100 direct local jobs** during operation. It is anticipated that BLRE will **invest approximately \$2 billion** to construct the project at the former International Paper facility in Rapides Parish.

### Why was the Rapides Parish site chosen for the BLRE project?

The Beaver Lake Renewable Energy site was once a large paper mill, and an important local employer with a proven track record of consuming sustainably source wood fiber from local working forests. The old paper mill site offers important infrastructure, and the work force that will emerge from this community—to operate and care for this renewable fuels facility—will be substantial. **Alexandria, Pineville, and Rapides Parish area leaders and the community have been helpful and supportive.**

### How will workforce development play a role in the project?

Louisiana Economic Development (LED), the state's economic development agency, is working with SunGas Renewables and the BLRE project to bring the workforce development solution LED FastStart, which is the nation's top rated workforce development program. The State is also providing performance infrastructure improvement assistance to help ensure that local infrastructure can effectively support the new facility.

### What is the timeline for the project?

The BLRE facility is expected to **begin construction in late 2025** with commercial operations starting in 2028.

### What type of fuel and how much will BLRE produce?

The BLRE project will **produce approximately 430,000 metric tons of renewable methanol annually** that will be used to fuel ocean going ships.



## Who are the BLRE project partners?

The local community is considered the #1 stakeholder and partner in the project and ensuring benefits to them is key. Companies that are critical to the success of the BLRE project include:

- **Maersk**, one of the largest marine shippers in the world and the anchor off-taker buying green methanol from the project
- **CLECO**, the local utility that will be providing the required power to operate the facility
- **Kiewit**, the company that is expected to be performing engineering and construction
- **Louisiana Economic Development**, the State agency that will assist with workforce development

## Is the Louisiana forest large enough and available to sustain renewable fuel production?

“Forest resources are abundant in Louisiana. About half of the state (14.9 million acres) is covered with forests. Loblolly pine is the most widespread species, amounting to 5.4 million acres. In Louisiana, 86% of forest land (12.9 million acres) is in private ownership, the rest is owned by federal and state government.”

— LSU Ag Center

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1689271972191>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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By providing a continuing cycle of planting, growing, and harvesting, active forest management actually maximizes forests’ ability to economically benefit our local communities while cleaning our air, water, and providing a mosaic of landscapes for wildlife.

<https://nafoalliance.org/issues/working-forests/#:~:text=By%20providing%20a%20continuing%20cycle,mosaic%20of%20landscapes%20for%20wildlife>

The previous paper mill at the BLRE site used similar quantities of wood for decades, so the local source of biomass is readily available.

## Will the BLRE project sequester CO<sub>2</sub>?

Approximately 40% of the biogenic carbon produced from the woody biomass feedstock at BLRE is in the form of CO<sub>2</sub> and will be permanently sequestered in geological formations. The remaining carbon is used to make the marine methanol fuel.

## What is the SunGas Technology?

SunGas utilizes a type of gasification technology. Gasification technologies have been deployed for many decades and according to the Global Syngas Technologies Council, there are 272 operating gasification plants with 686 gasifiers and 74 plants with 238 gasifiers under construction globally. SunGas will provide three of its S1000 syngas generation units at BLRE to convert wood chips into syngas. Each S1000 unit is designed by SunGas engineers to utilize SunGas’s proven gasifier technology combined with wood feeding and syngas processing equipment.



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