

PARTNERSHIPS IN REFORESTATION PROJECTS¹

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Abstract: Mine Reclamation / Reforestation -- Leveraging Ecosystems Markets thru Collaborative Partnerships RPM Ecosystems Partners has been working with national biomass developers, corporations, foundations, government agencies, not for profits and community groups to provide successful solutions for large-scale land based critical environmental projects. RPM Ecosystems with its collaborative partners are applying new agroforestry models for biomass/biofuels and carbon to generate additional revenue off large scale underused and abandoned land tracks. The emerging ecosystems market place for carbon and “purpose grown” woody biomass for renewable energy brings additional incentives to the table for reforestation. Biodiversity in tree selection creates a more complex habitat that can support a wider variety of birds, insects, and other animals and whether urban or rural, agroforestry systems have the potential to restore the earth and help reduce climate change since trees take up and store carbon at a faster rate than crop plants. Cleaner, greener and smaller decentralized energy production facilities are popping up across the country. CHP plants demand for feedstock provides potential agroforestry based revenue streams for underused, abandoned and existing farm lands. Renewable energy with biofuels success depends on the market demand for a supply of predictable woody biomass feedstock and a profitable commercial supplier. In addition trees can be planted for short, mid and long rotation to deliver additional revenue in high value timber, and carbon credits. The emerging ecosystem markets offer multiple collaborative partnerships and opportunities for reclamation of abandoned mine lands, economic development and environmental stewardship.

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