



## BRAZEAU COUNTY

### Major Industry Profile

#### Forestry/Biomile



#### Forestry

Located within portions of two major forests (Rocky/Clearwater and Whitecourt) the Drayton Valley/Brazeau area is home to a thriving and growing forest industry. The Weyerhaeuser Canada Company mill is the major manufacturing plant that produces lumber. One of the largest employers in the area,

Thanks to a partnership between Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd. and Drayton Valley Power, wood wastes boost the province's power grid by an extra 10.5 megawatts of electricity each year. Prior the partnership, waste material and board used to be burned on the site.

The result is a reduction of particulate emissions, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds.

Although Weyerhaeuser dominates the Forestry industry in the area, opportunity also exists for smaller sawmills. Tall Pine Timber Co. Ltd. began operating in 1968 and produces 30,000 m<sup>3</sup> spruce and pine lumber annually. It was the first sawmill in the Rocky Clearwater forest to produce wood chips for sale to pulp producers. Unger's Sawmill was established in 1976 and is typical of mills that once dominated the Alberta forest industry. Here, the current production total 17,000 m<sup>3</sup> and is comprised of small timber permits, salvage and deciduous trees from private land.

Opportunities exist for the general public and private land owners to obtain small volumes of wood for personal use such as lumber, firewood, post and rails or transplants. Permits for these products can be purchased at the local offices of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development.

#### Bio Mile



The Bio-Mile is an initiative aimed at securing a place at the cutting edge of the rapidly emerging bio economy for Drayton Valley and the surrounding area.

The science is complex, but the facts are simple. By taking wood and plant-based waste from the forestry and agriculture industries and breaking it down to its constituent parts, it's possible to manufacture a vast array of industrial and consumer products. Drayton Valley and Brazeau County are very well situated to play a key role in this sector as it develops due to our geographical location and the abundant supply of raw materials to serve as potential feedstock.

An area of land covering approximately one square mile has been set aside to act as a home for these industries. Along with the existing Weyerhaeuser and Valley Power plants, which play key role in the Bio-Mile, the project's first new resident company, Edmonton-based Tekle Technical Services Inc., is building a state of the art engineered fibre matting plant on the site. Construction is expected to be complete later this year.

Minnesota's Otoka Energy, Inc. has received \$25 million in federal and provincial funding for the construction of a renewable energy plant. That development is still in the design stage but is progressing steadily.

CLIB2021 is a collaboration of a large number of German chemical companies, along with government and academia. The group has opened its North American head office in Drayton Valley and is currently working on a feasibility study with the University of Alberta to determine which products are best suited for production in the Bio-Mile.

The Bio-Mile has made tremendous progress over the last few months and will continue to grow and evolve for years to come. It's our hope that the Bio-Mile will play a major role in securing a prosperous and sustainable future not only for west central Alberta, but for the entire province. For more information contact Bio-Mile coordinator Patty Piironen at 780-514-2562.