

PRESS RELEASE:**FLAGSTAFF COUNTY, ALBERTA ISSUED BDO ZONE 'A' RATING FOR WHEAT STRAW**

- 'A' Rating Highlights Strong Potential for Wheat Straw Biomass Projects -

August 15, 2024



Flagstaff County, Ecostrat, and the BDO Zone Initiative are pleased to announce the issue of an investment grade BDO Zone 'A' Rating for Flagstaff County for 450,000 oven dry tons per year of wheat straw. The Flagstaff County BDO Zone is the first rating in the Province of Alberta for Wheat Straw and extends a 120-km drive distance from the center point in Forestburg, AB.

Flagstaff County's 'A' rating signifies exceptional prospective viability for feedstock supply and infrastructure, coupled with minimal default risk in the Zone. The region boasts robust support for new biobased plant operations, underpinned by a multi-generational legacy of wheat production and wheat straw harvesting. Local producers are eager to participate in sustainable and mutually profitable wheat straw initiatives. Notably, there is no competition for wheat straw within the BDO Zone, further enhancing its appeal. Additionally, the investment-ready greenfield industrial park makes Flagstaff County the ideal location for biobased projects requiring a reliable supply of wheat straw biomass.

"The 'A' rating underscores Flagstaff County's immense potential as a regional leader in the bioeconomy," said **Shaina Dunn, Economic Development Coordinator for Flagstaff County**. "We are excited to attract and collaborate with companies in bioenergy, biochemicals, and bioproducts, investing significantly in our region. This commitment to innovation and expansion will not only diversify our agricultural resources but also position Flagstaff County at the forefront of bio-based industrial manufacturing – paving the way for sustainable economic growth and a prosperous future for our community."

Jordan Solomon, Chairman of the BDO Zone Initiative, added, "As the first 'A' Rating for agricultural residues in Alberta, this BDO Zone highlights Flagstaff County's proactive approach to harnessing nearly half a million tons of abundant, sustainable wheat straw to unlock new markets for this underutilized biomass."

To see the full BDO Zone Rating for Flagstaff County, Alberta please click [here](#), or visit www.bdozone.org.

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About *The BDO Zone Initiative*

The BDO Zone Initiative certifies regional readiness for bio-based manufacturing, creates global connections with project developers, and ignites an influx of clean energy opportunities.

A BDO Zone rating is an internationally recognized standards-based technical risk assessment of biomass feedstock, supply chain, and infrastructure risk with respect to the development potential of new biofuel, renewable chemical, biogas, and bioproduct plants. Investment grade ratings attract new bio-based manufacturing plants to the areas where they are most likely to succeed-- and create jobs.

For more information on the BDO Zone Initiative, contact info@bdozone.org. To view all BDO Zone ratings, visit www.bdozone.org. Check out the BDO Zone [LinkedIn](#) page for news and updates.

Jordan Solomon is Chairman of the *BDO Zone Initiative* and President of Ecostrat (www.ecostrat.com). He can be reached at jordan.solomon@ecostrat.com. Ecostrat is the North American leader in biomass due diligence for biofuels, renewable chemicals, biogas, and bio-product project development and finance.