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Toombs County, Georgia, Issues BDO Zone 'AA' Rating for Woody Biomass **[1]**

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PRESS RELEASE:

TOOMBS COUNTY, GEORGIA, ISSUED BDO ZONE 'AA' RATING FOR WOODY BIOMASS

– 'AA' Rating Drives New Markets for Harnessing Forest Resources–

March 20th, 2024



The BDO Zone Initiative has issued an 'AA' BDO Zone rating for Toombs County, Georgia for 1,015,000 bone dry tons per year of woody biomass.

The Toombs County Development Authority and Ecostrat are pleased to announce the issue of a coveted 'AA' BDO Zone Rating for Toombs County, centred in Lyons, GA– the state's first rating for Pulpwood, Forest Residues and Sawmill Residuals.

The Toombs County BDO Zone features an investment grade rating which validates *'very high quality'* feedstock supply chains and strong infrastructure. A highly productive forest products industry along with well-established supply chains guarantee a stable and efficient supply of biomass. The industrial and transportation infrastructure is conducive to large-scale bioeconomy projects. Strong governmental support, both at the state and county levels, coupled with a pro-business community and low operating costs, enhances the appeal of this region.

"The 'AA' rating for Toombs County demonstrates our community's unique capabilities for global leadership in the bioeconomy," stated **Tim Truxel, Chair, Toombs County Development Authority.** "We look forward to partnering with bioenergy, biochemical, and bioproduct companies as we seek to promote, develop, and cultivate additional compatible uses of forestry resources to grow world-class bio-based industrial manufacturing opportunities for Toombs County."

Jordan Solomon, Chairman of the BDO Zone Initiative added, "Achieving a rare 'AA' investment grade rating is a significant accomplishment, accompanied with over a million tons of project-available biomass positions the Toombs County BDO Zone at the forefront of potential biobased innovation and development not only within the state but on a global scale."

To see the full BDO Zone Rating for Toombs County, Georgia please click **here**, or visit **www.bdozone.org.**



BDO Zone project development:

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About Toombs County

Toombs County, Georgia, is a progressive rural community that is an economic engine serving over 230,000 people within a 40-mile radius. Anchored by key sectors such as manufacturing, distribution, retail, agriculture, and tourism, offering a practical blend of urban amenities and community living. Strategically positioned for bio-based development, the county provides cost-effectiveness, proximity to a skilled workforce, access to capital, and a high quality of life. Collaborative economic development efforts foster a community-driven culture of prosperity.

Toombs County features multiple publicly-owned industrial site options with modern infrastructure, ideal for cost-effective large-scale bio-based initiatives. Located 13 miles south of I-16 and within 90 minutes of major transport corridors, including the Port of Savannah for global market access, the county ensures seamless connectivity through reliable highways, rail, and air networks. With a diverse, highly skilled workforce and competitive local and state incentives, Toombs County is a prime destination for biobased developers and investors seeking strategic location and favorable economic conditions.

For more information about **the Toombs County Development Authority**, visit **www.toombsconnect.com**. The BDO Zone Local Development Leader (LDL) is **Michele Johnson, Executive Director, Toombs County Development Authority (michelej@greatervidaliachamber.com).**

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.

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