

## ***ReEnergy Holdings LLC ... turning Biomass into electricity***

*United Way of the Tri-Valley Area launched its Corporate Champion Circle (CCC) in the summer of 2018. CCC members partner with United Way for one year, support their community, and receive unique marketing benefits. Corporate Champion Circle members contribute at one of three giving levels - Platinum (\$5,000), Gold (\$3,000), and Silver (\$1,500). To recognize CCC members, and to get to know those who are passionate about United Way, we have started a series that profiles these dedicated businesses. Please welcome, new Facility Manager, Bruce Proven of ReEnergy in Livermore Falls.*

Bruce Proven, born in Canada, grew up on the family farm with his sister and had grandparents for neighbors. He attended Minnedosa Manitoba high school and went on to work in the Ethanoyl industry, as well as on the family farm. While working for an Ethanoyl plant Bruce attended the distance learning program with Southern Alberta Institute of Technology studying Stationary Engineering.

After 20 years in the Ethanoyl industry Bruce took a position with Boralex (now ReEnergy, purchased in 2011) at the Livermore Falls plant as boiler room control operator in 2008. He advanced to shift supervisor, just before transferring to the NY plant of ReEnergy in 2012. While in the NY plant, Bruce went from Operations Manager to Facilities Manager. With this new role and responsibilities, ReEnergy brought Bruce back to Maine to the Fort Fairfield plant in 2017. He worked there until the retirement of ReEnergy Livermore Falls plant Manager, David Ettinger. In January of 2019 Bruce came full circle, taking the Facilities Manager position back at his original home in the Livermore Falls ReEnergy plant.

ReEnergy strives, every day, to be the best possible employer and corporate citizen. We are intentional in our commitments to our employees, communities and neighbors, and we make every effort to ensure that our interactions with our stakeholders are transparent and mutually beneficial. *“We envision a greener, cleaner earth with abundant energy that is produced using waste and biomass fuels. To that end, we pledge our experience, our innovation and our advanced technologies”*

ReEnergy Livermore Falls employs 24 full-time people and usually takes on 2 co-ops from Maine Maritime each summer. In addition to the company paying for employees to maintain their licenses, ReEnergy also offers programs for employees to further their education and/or to obtain licenses needed when starting in the field.

When a landowner decides to hire a logger to clear their land, ReEnergy comes in and takes the forest residue left behind after the logger cuts and removes the wood. In the past, when the loggers would cut and remove the wood, the debris and smaller logs that weren't removed were left to rot. Now, ReEnergy provides clean up to the forest floor and leave healthy land, taking the residue/debris and turning it into woodchips.

When asked what challenges and opportunities are in the community, Bruce replied, “It is a challenge to find well trained people for positions.” He also stated that, “there is a lack of understanding with people that apply to ReEnergy about the value and costs associated with the benefit packages. “it seems that people just look at the starting wage amount, not taking into consideration that all work clothes are provided and that ReEnergy pays for higher education and to maintain or obtain licenses.” Bruce sees the lack of diversity within his position, “there are not many women entering this career field.” Last, “there is a prevalent drug problem in the community. ReEnergy performs drug testing, which Bruce has

been privy to the number of people that test positive, “it’s tough and it limits the employee pool.” Next, Bruce talked about the opportunities he sees in the community as a vast amount of real estate with reasonably priced homes for young families to purchase. He says, “there is a great opportunity for tourism if developed” and “there is a lot of outdoor recreational opportunities, some just need to be better marketed or more developed.”

When asked about becoming a CCC member, Bruce said “I believe partnering with United Way reaches more people than individual nonprofits, has more of a broad focus to spread the help”. “ReEnergy believes in helping the community, which aligns with my person beliefs.”

Bruce lives in Wilton with his wife Aine and 3 Great Pyrenees mix dogs and has two grown sons he enjoys spending time with. You can always find Bruce at home doing yard work, he enjoys landscaping and has many fruit trees, he also does carpentry work on his home. He likes to travel and has been to most all continental Europe, has visited Mexico, Africa, Kenya and Tanzania also.