Dear ESF Community,

Last week there was a lot of activity on the Quad.

The willow in front of the library was cut over the Thanksgiving break as part of the normal cycle of management for this renewable bioenergy production system, according to Dr. Timothy Volk, senior research associate. The willow was originally planted to demonstrate some of the ideas and principles discovered at ESF in more than 30 years of research on willow biomass crops.

One of the benefits of the shrub willow plants used in renewable energy production systems is that they can regrow rapidly after being harvested. The regular and repeated harvest of these willow demonstration plots is part of the process and demonstrates how this system functions. This is the fifth time these willows have been harvested. They will regrow this coming spring and should be 2 to 3 meters tall by the fall of 2020.

For more information about willow and the ongoing research at ESF visit www.esf.edu/willow.

The other project was related to explorations into increasing the College’s use of geothermal heat on campus. A detailed explanation of the project can be found HERE. If you have further questions about the geothermal project, you can contact Mark Lichtenstein, chief of staff and chief sustainability officer.

Sincerely,

Dave Amberg
Interim President