Wood Boiler Planning Guide

- Boiler Planning
- Plumbing Layouts
- Thermal Storage
- Clearances
- Wiring

1-800-782-9927
www.woodboilers.com
Dear Valued Tarm Biomass® Customer

We at Tarm Biomass® want to make your installation go as smooth as possible. This document includes important design criteria including clearances, chimney requirements, thermal storage sizing, system concept diagrams, and wiring.

The system concepts shown in this guide are only examples and they should not substitute for complete system planning.

We reserve the right to make technical changes without prior notice.

For final specifications, please see product owner’s manuals which supercede all guidance in this document.

If more information is needed, please contact your local Tarm Biomass® dealer or call us directly at 1-800-782-9927.

Thank You,

Tarm Biomass®
Boiler Sizing

Sizing a boiler properly is critical for ensuring a problem-free installation. A boiler must not only be large enough to meet the heating needs of the building, but also meet the demands of those who tend it. A boiler that is too small may not keep up with a heating load or even if it can keep up, may still demand too much tending and too many fillings. A boiler that supplies more heat than the heating load demands will require a larger thermal storage tank to perform properly. While proper sizing of a boiler requires the heat loss analysis of a skilled installer, there are rules of thumb and other information that can help guide a sizing decision such as historical fuel usage, building size, type of heating system, any new or future building improvements, and/or the number of linear feet of radiant tubing or baseboard radiators. Installation of thermal storage significantly improves the likelihood that an over-sized wood boiler will meet heating loads while not operating inefficiently or in a way that will damage the boiler. The installer bears responsibility for proper boiler sizing.

Thermal Storage Tank Sizing

All wood boilers benefit from thermal storage. The most advanced and efficient wood boilers available are designed for use with thermal storage and will not perform to their design capability without thermal storage. For that reason all Tarm Biomass® wood boilers require thermal storage and it is important to size the storage tanks properly. A volume of 75-85 gallons of thermal storage per 10,000 Btu's of boiler output is ideal, though sometimes smaller volumes provide perfectly satisfactory operation. More thermal storage volume is almost always better. Added storage volume increases the number of hours or days between re-firing a boiler while allowing for less discretion about how much wood to load in the firebox each firing. Other factors to consider are boiler combustion chamber size, house characteristics, summer/shoulder season use, and lifestyle. At Tarm Biomass® we prefer pressurized thermal storage, but offer pressurized and unpressurized thermal storage options. For your convenience, there is a chart below that can be used to determine proper thermal storage sizing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boiler Model</th>
<th>Volume (gals)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fröling FHG 20/30</td>
<td>400-850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fröling S3 Turbo 50</td>
<td>600-1500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Domestic Hot Water Production

Domestic hot water can be produced at the same time that building heat is provided by using an indirect hot water heater. A smaller tank than those used for thermal storage, an indirect hot water heater, is connected to your heating system like a heating zone. The wood boiler system or your back-up boiler heats potable water through a heat exchanger within the tank. This is a very energy efficient and effective way of producing hot water using renewable energy. At Tarm Biomass® we offer indirect hot water heating options with very large heat exchangers. These heaters provide instantaneous potable hot water at lower boiler water or thermal storage tank temperatures.
The Chimney
The chimney is one of the most critical factors in the successful operation of any wood boiler. A good chimney will provide a continuous and dependable draft to pull the exhaust gasses out of the appliance.

Flue gas exhaust temperature can be low enough to cause condensation in chimneys. Condensation will over time, damage a masonry chimney. Accordingly, installation of a stainless steel chimney liner (made with 304, 316, or 321 alloys) inside the chimney flue is worth considering. Chimneys located outside the warm envelope of a building are especially susceptible to down-drafting and condensation. "Outside" chimneys often benefit greatly from insulated stainless steel chimney liners.

The chimney draft must be stable. The top of the chimney must be 3 feet above the roof and 2 feet above any structure within 10 feet measured horizontally. Please refer to NFPA 211.

Boiler Data for Planning the Flue Gas System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>FHG 20/30</th>
<th>S3 Turbo 50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flue Gas Temperature at Nominal Load</td>
<td>°F</td>
<td>300-340</td>
<td>300-340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Draft</td>
<td>inches WC</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Draft</td>
<td>inches WC</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flue Pipe Diameter</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>6°</td>
<td>6°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to center of flue</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>63%-67½**</td>
<td>67%-71½**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*flue collar adaptor required.  **measurement is based on type of flue connection used (refer to page 6).

Chimney Connection
The smoke pipe connecting the boiler to the chimney flue must be black or stainless steel, have a minimum thickness of 24 gauge, and rise a minimum of ¼" per foot of run toward the chimney. Smoke pipe sections must be attached to one another with a minimum of three sheet metal screws and sealed with a high-temperature sealant such as high temperature silicone. The smoke pipe should not contain more than two 90° elbows (45° elbows are preferred over 90° elbows).

A barometric draft regulator is installed only when there is the presence of excessive or irregular draft. A strong natural draft can cause the boiler to continue burning when the draft fan is off. This is highly unlikely with boilers connected to a thermal storage system because the draft fan should rarely be off. If however, an irregular draft is present a barometric draft regulator can be installed. Boilers with an induced draft fan must have a sealed chimney connection to prevent ash and dust from penetrating into the room. A barometric draft regulator should be installed in position 1 as shown in the images below. With the barometric draft regulator installed below the flue connection it is not in the air flow path of the boiler and is on the negative pressure side of the connection.
Planning your installation

Smoke Pipe Connection Options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height to Center of Flue Connection</th>
<th>Boiler Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option A</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option B</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option C</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outside Combustion Air

Provision for outside combustion air may be necessary to ensure that the wood burning appliance does not discharge products of combustion into the building. Guidelines to determine the need for additional combustion air may not be adequate for every situation. If in doubt, it is advisable to provide additional air. The Canadian ANSI/NFPA requirement is 1 in², per 1,000 Btu/hr. The European ÖNORM H 5170 standard states that all fan-assisted boilers need a supply cross section of 2 cm² per kW (.3 in² per 3412 Btu/hr) of rated output. Please follow all applicable local codes.

Electrical Connection

The Fröling FHG and S3 Turbo requires a 240 VAC, 4-wire power supply. The electrical connection should be from a dedicated 15 amp circuit breaker.

Wood Fuel

Preparing firewood properly is very important. A common mistake is acquiring firewood too late to allow adequate time for proper drying. A drying time of one to two years is required to properly dry firewood, especially for dense wood species like oak and maple. Tarm Biomass® wood boilers are designed to burn clean, dry cord wood. They can burn any species that is cut and split into pieces not larger than 4-6" thick with lengths between 18-20". Oak ideally is not burned as the only source of wood for long periods because of its high tannic acid content. When oak is the predominant species available, try to mix it with other species. The wood must be dry, with a moisture content between 15-25% (15-18% being ideal). In addition to increasing the likelihood of generating creosote in the boiler and chimney, burning wet wood uses a substantial amount of available energy in the wood to evaporate the water present in the wood, reducing the available energy for heat (see the chart below). Properly preparing, stacking, and covering firewood will result in much less labor in the long run.
Locating the Boiler and Boiler Clearances
The boiler must be installed with the **minimum installation clearances** to combustible materials outlined below. Clearances may only be reduced by means approved by the regulatory authorities.

- The boiler is not suitable for outdoor installation. It must be located in a weather-tight protected space. Conditioned spaces are recommended.
- The boiler must be placed on a level, non combustible floor, such as a concrete slab on earth. If the boiler is placed 8" above the floor it may be easier to load and clean the boiler.
- If the boiler is placed near inhabited rooms, so that flue gas can penetrate into these rooms, a carbon monoxide alarm must be installed.
- Chimney flue clearances may supercede boiler clearances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clearances to Combustibles</th>
<th>Boiler Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-Backwall to Appliance</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-Sidewall to Appliance*</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Boiler Depth</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-Boiler Width</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Distance in Front of Boiler</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F-Ceiling to Appliance</td>
<td>inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Minimum clearance to combustibles are shown. Additional clearance may be desirable for service and maintenance.*
This is only a concept drawing. Final design, installation and code compliance details are the responsibility of the designer/installer of the system.
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Wood System Example 3

This is only a concept drawing. Final design, installation and code compliance details are the responsibility of the designer/installer of the system.
Wood System Example 4

Key:

1. Pressure Relief Valve
2. Check Valve
3. Isolation Valve
4. Back-flow Preventer
5. Pressure Reducing Valve
6. LK 810 Loading Unit*
7. LK 821 Diverter Valve*
8. Expansion Tank*
9. Circulator*
10. Aquastat-Overheat*
11. Aquastat-Back-up Control*
12. Emergency Gravity Loop
13. AutoMag Zone Valve*
14. ZV-1 Full Port Zone Valve*
15. Tarm BLT Switch Control*
16. Typical Zone Control

Notes:
- *Items Available at Tarm Biomass
- 1 Must be a swing check valve.
- 2 Check Valves Shown Vertically (Conceptual).

Drawing Name: PT3
Drawn by: TSP
Date: 10-20-2014

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This is only a concept drawing. Final design, installation and code compliance details are the responsibility of the designer/installer of the system.
This is only a concept drawing. Final design, installation and code compliance details are the responsibility of the designer/installer of the system.
Thermostatic Loading Valve/Unit
A thermostatic loading valve/unit must be incorporated into every wood/pellet storage tank installation. The loading valve/unit is installed to ensure optimal temperature stratification in the thermal storage system and a high return temperature back to the boiler. This increases the efficiency of the boiler system and prevents condensation and creosote within the boiler, which helps prolong the life of the boiler.

Installation and Function
The thermostatic element in the loading valve/unit prevents return of cold return water to the boiler. When the boiler reaches operating temperature, return flow from the system is allowed. As the boiler reaches temperatures above 160° F, the valve/loading unit gradually opens, blending hot boiler water with the cold return water. Once system temperature equalizes (approximately 176° F), the Termovar opens fully to allow flow to and from the heating load (the building and/or storage tank system).

Three Solutions Available

**LK 820 ThermoVar Mixing Valve**
Our most economical option. The LK 820 must be installed with a balancing valve (A) and boiler circulator (B). The valve regulates the return port. A balancing or ball valve must be installed at (A) and should be set at half open. The circulator (B) is controlled by the boiler’s control or by temperature with an aquastat.

**LK 823 ThermoVar Mixing Valve**
Unlike the LK 820, the LK 823 regulates two ports. A balancing valve is not required. When the valve exceeds the nominal opening temperature by 10° C the supply port closes ensuring optimal flow rate through the valve. A circulator (B) must be installed controlled by the boiler or by temperature with an aquastat.

**LK 810 ThermoMat Loading Unit**
The easiest to install option. The LK 810 loading unit combines all the features of the LK 823 with the boiler’s circulator. It saves time and space with installation and also includes insulation and temperature gauges on all three ports.

Pipe Sizing
It is crucial to install the proper size pipe between the wood boiler and the thermal storage tank system. Most residential systems are designed for a 20° F temperature drop. In a wood system the temperature drop between the supply and return can range between 10-40° F based on the temperature of the thermal storage tank. The thermostatic mixing valve will guarantee at least a return temperature of 135° F. As the thermal storage tank temperature gets closer to boiler operating temperature the the temperature drop will decrease. Use the chart below to properly size the pipe size.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pipe Size (inches)</th>
<th>Maximum Flow Rate (GPM)</th>
<th>Maximum BTU/Hr at a Temperature Drop of:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10° F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1&quot;</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1¼&quot;</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1½&quot;</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&quot;</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>175,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pipe Connections at the Thermal Storage Tank

Single Tank Connections

The above examples represent the best ways to pipe to a single pressurized thermal storage tank. Example A is piped to two connections on the tank. Supply and return connections to the heating load are pulled off before the tank. In example B, the wood boiler is piped to one side of the tank and the heating load is piped on the other side. The tank now acts as a large hydraulic separator. The advantage of this design is that each side of the tank works independently.

Multiple Tank Connections

The above examples show multiple tank connections. The tanks are manifolded together. To guarantee equal flow through the tanks, it is important to use approximately the same pipe length to the tanks. This is accomplished by connecting to the tanks diagonally (X-X). When piped this way the tanks act as one. Sometimes this is called reverse return piping.
Overheat Loop with Loss of Power

The piping and controls must be connected to the boiler in such a way that in the event of a power failure there is at least one loop of radiation available for gravity circulation. This loop must not be obstructed by any valves or other fittings which could prevent gravity circulation during a power failure. The piping is plumbed in such a way that excessive pressure will not be developed in any portion of the boiler or system. The loop must be large enough to dissipate 10-20% of the boiler’s maximum rated heat output, assuming an ambient temperature temperature of 65° F (18° C) and a mean water boiler temperature of 180° F (82° C).

The minimum pipe size for this loop is ¾” (1” is recommended) and if possible, the loop should be located and pitched to maximize natural thermal convection of the water. The loop must be positioned above the boiler. The design of the loop must be such that it can be made inoperative only in a deliberate manual action. If large enough, an existing heating radiation zone may be used for the over-heat loop. The loop must be equipped with a zone valve which will open automatically during a power failure. We recommend AutoMag Zone Valves for this application (offered as an accessory).

Option 1: A separate zone (1) above the boiler usually in the ceiling or on the wall of the boiler room. One Automag zone valve (2) mounted horizontally on the supply or return line.

Option 2: Utilizing an existing heating zone in the house that is above the boiler that is large enough to dissipate 10-20% of the boiler’s maximum rated heat output. This must be a high temperature zone (180° F (82° C). Two Automag zone valves (2) are required one each on the supply and return line. This is to prevent ghost flow during normal operation. Supply and Return connections to the zone must be connected after any restrictive components like check valves and circulators (3).
**Overheat Aquastat Wiring Connections**

All wood boiler installations require the control of a heating zone in the event of a boiler overheating. The zone must be able to take hot water and must not be controlled by a mixing valve (i.e. radiant floor zone). A HONEYWELL L4008B close-on-rise or equivalent aquastat installed in one of the wells on the wood boiler, must be wired in parallel with the thermostat on the zone with the most heating capacity in the main living area (dump zone). Upon reaching the aquastat set point (200° F), the dump zone will be activated, pulling heat away from the boiler. The homeowner is alerted to a potential problem with the boiler by an overly warm living space. Use the wiring diagram below for a typical installation.

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![Aquastat Wiring Diagram](aquastat_wiring_diagram.png)

**Boiler Circulator Wiring Connections**

A wood boiler requires a circulator installed to properly remove heat away from the boiler. For the HS Tarm Bonus Plus, Solo Plus, and older boiler models, use the wiring examples below.

**Option 1**

This option is for HS Tarm wood boilers with a control panel. The circulator is controlled by the boiler’s control panel and will shut-off as soon as the boiler’s low-limit aquastat indicates the boiler is out of fuel. The HONEYWELL L6006A dual acting (SPDT) aquastat or equivalent must be installed in case of a power failure or increase in boiler temperature, after the low-limit aquastat has dropped out. This aquastat is set to 200° F.

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**Option 2**

For older boilers without a control panel or if a dual acting aquastat is not available, the example below can be used. A HONEYWELL L4006B close-on-rise aquastat or equivalent can be used to turn on and off the wood boiler circulator. The aquastat is installed in either a well on the boiler or in a tee on the supply line within 6" to the boiler. A strap-on type aquastat could also be used. The recommended aquastat setting is 160° F.

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**Note:**

Wood boilers like the Fröling FHG, S3, and the HS Tarm Solo Innova have the boiler circulator wired directly to the boiler’s control system.
Understanding System Integration Options

It is important to have the correct system integration components to have an efficient and seamless operating wood boiler system. We offer two options that will work with any existing heating system.

Boiler Tank Control System

This is the perfect option for integrating into an existing heating system or for heating systems that require high temperature water like heat exchangers used in forced hot air systems. The heart of the system is the BLT Switch control with three mode operation: automatic back-up, back-up only, or wood only modes.

How it works:
The BLT Switch control (1) takes input from a zone relay control (thermostat call) (2) and determines based on thermal storage tank temperature (tank aquastat) (3) whether to pull heat from the storage tank system/woodboiler or the back-up boiler (6). Return water passes into the bottom of the thermal storage tank and exits the top of the tank, re-heated by the thermal storage tank system, and moves to the supply manifold. If the wood boiler is heating, the return water is re-heated by the boiler. If however, upon a call for heat, the temperature in the thermal storage tank is below the tank aquastat set point, the circulator (4) will cease operation. The zone valve (5) will close. The back-up boiler will be energized through the BLT Switch control to meet the heat demand (8).

The diverter valve (7). Port 3 of the valve receives water from the return manifold. Port 1 is connected to the supply manifold and Port 2 is connected to the return of the boiler and the thermal storage tank system. When the thermostatic valve senses water above 165° F and above, it shunts water from Port 2 to Port 1. The result is both the heating zones and the thermal storage tank receive hot water from the boiler. This prevents short-cycling of the boiler and an overall more efficient system and responsive heating system. Refer to Appendix A for wiring options.

Smart Comfort Control System

Smart Comfort is a simple, patent pending, energy efficient option that replaces the diverter valve with a mixing valve and an active temperature controller (1) with outdoor reset capabilities. The Smart Comfort valve responds to outdoor or indoor temperature to send the proper water temperature to the heating zones. Minimum and maximum temperatures along a curve can be set. An energy efficient circulator (2) can also be utilized providing the correct flow. The Smart Comfort extends the energy capacity of the thermal storage tank system while making the house more comfortable. An aquastat (3) responding to tank temperature can be used to control a back-up boiler (4). Refer to Appendix B for wiring options.
Appendix A. Tarm BLTCONTROL Wiring

120 Volt Terminal Strip (In Panel)

![Diagram of 120 Volt Terminal Strip](image)

Incoming Power
120 VAC 60HZ
From 15 AMP Circuit Breaker or Fuse

Low Voltage Connections (Outside of Box)

1. Available auxiliary 24 VAC power for items such as zone valve for emergency overheat loop (28VA MAX)

2. End Switch

3. Multizone Relay panel for a zone valve system or circulator system

2. ZV-1 Zone Valve 24 VAC .32A

5. Tank Aquastat (open on Rise)

7. T Dry contact for back-up burner control

8. T

Note:
All wiring must comply with current National Electrical Code and any other applicable codes. Refer to schematic included with panel. 120 volt line voltage wiring shall be a code-approved type 14 gauge minimum. Low voltage wiring shall be 18 or 20 gauge thermostat wire.
Appendix B. Smart Comfort Control System Integration Wiring Options

Below are wiring options for systems using the Smart Comfort Control System.

![Wiring Diagram 1]

Below are wiring options utilizing the Burner Relay contacts on the S3 Core Module. Please refer to Lambdatronic Manual for parameter options.

![Wiring Diagram 2]
### Appendix C. Fröling FHG/S3 Turbo Boiler Specifications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification Data</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>FHG 30</th>
<th>S3 Turbo 50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Measurements</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depth-Boiler-Total</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>45½</td>
<td>49¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width-Boiler</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>22¾</td>
<td>26¾</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height-Boiler-including flue collar</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>61¾</td>
<td>64¾</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height to Chimney Connection</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>72¾</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flue Collar Outside Diameter</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight-Empty</td>
<td>lbs</td>
<td>1150</td>
<td>1366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Contents</td>
<td>gals</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loading Door</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>13X14½</td>
<td>13X14½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combustion Chamber Volume</td>
<td>cubic ft.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommended Wood Length</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>1821</td>
<td>18-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Operating Data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Temperature-Water</td>
<td>F°</td>
<td>180-194</td>
<td>180-194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal Output</td>
<td>BTU/Hr</td>
<td>102,500</td>
<td>163,783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flue Gas Temperature at Nominal Output</td>
<td>F°</td>
<td>300-340</td>
<td>300-340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Draft</td>
<td>inch WC</td>
<td>-.03 to -.10</td>
<td>-.03 to -.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Electrical Data</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boiler Power Requirement</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>240V-60Hz/15A</td>
<td>240V-60Hz/15A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical consumption</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Piping Data</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boiler Test Pressure</td>
<td>psi</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boiler Relief Valve Setting</td>
<td>psi</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply and Return Pipe Stub Size</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Boiler Loop Size</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>1¼</td>
<td>1¼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fill/Drain Valve Size</td>
<td>inches</td>
<td>½</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Return Water Temperature</td>
<td>F°</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please visit www.tarmbiomass.com for more information on our boiler systems and links to our blog, Facebook, and You Tube pages.