

CA Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 1/2019

Citizen Science Competitive Funding Program for 2019. The [Citizen Science Competitive Funding Program \(CitSci Fund\)](#) is a competitive funding opportunity for Forest Service units and partners to apply for up to \$25,000 for citizen science projects. In 2019 the Forest Service is piloting a project incubator model designed to expand the use of citizen science in the diverse work that the agency does. Projects can start at any level and then apply for the next level during the following year of funding. Projects that successfully complete Level 3, would be considered “model projects” that could be replicated on other Forest Service units. [The application deadline is January 27, 2019 by 11:59 pm EST.](#)

Woody Biomass for Bioenergy Webinar Series. Three webinars on woody biomass for bioenergy were recently presented in a [Forestry Webinars](#) series and the recordings are now available online: (1) [Evaluating the Technical and Economic Viability of Woody Biomass for Bioenergy](#); (2) [Wood Energy Options - Save Money and Reduce Your Carbon Footprint](#); (3) [Design, Implementation, and Operation of Modern Wood Energy Systems – Heating, Cooling, Combined Heat and Power.](#)

California invests Millions in Technology Research to reduce Global Warming Emissions. The [Strategic Growth Council \(SGC\) approved funding](#) for four groundbreaking research initiatives that will develop clean technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance equitable outcomes for vulnerable communities. Two of the funded projects study opportunities provided by biochar: [Working Lands Innovation Center - Catalyzing Negative Carbon Emissions](#) and [Mobile Biochar Production for Methane Emission Reduction and Soil Amendment.](#)

Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Program (CWEIP). The recently passed 2018 Farm Bill, the Agriculture Improvement Act, increases authorized funding to \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 for the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Program (CWEIP). The improved CWEIP establishes a new national competitive grant program providing capital grants of up to 35% of installed capital cost on advanced community-scale wood heating, district heating, and wood combined heat and power projects, as well as grants for projects that commercialize new innovative uses of wood. [Access the House and Senate Ag Committee Conference Report here.](#)

A Business Case for a Northern California OSB Manufacturing Facility. A study into the [feasibility and commercial interest of manufacturing Oriented Strand Board \(OSB\) in Northern California](#) was conducted by The Beck Group in [2016](#) and early [2018](#). This is one of few, non-energy, potential large-scale forest biomass consumption strategies that have emerged over the last 3-5 years, that also has publicly-accessible data. The initial overview where this alternative was raised was [funded by the USFS through the National Forest Foundation](#), and a [USFS Wood Innovation Grant](#) paid for the in-depth look.

A Carbonator is coming to town. 2019 [ROI Air Curtain Carbonator 500](#) and Biochar Promotional Tour, tentative dates and locations: Wallowa, OR (Wednesday, January 23rd); Quincy, WA (Friday, January 25th); Fossil, OR (Monday, January 28th); Aloha, OR (Wednesday, January 30th); Lakeview, OR (Friday, February 1st); Northern California, TBD (Wednesday, February 6th); World AG Expo, Tulare, CA (February 12-14).

DID YOU KNOW? In addition to traditional forest products like lumber, structural panels, newsprint, pulp, paper, tissue, and packaging, there are also wood components in a wide variety of other products that we use every day. By breaking wood down into its central components—cellulose, hemi-cellulose,

and lignin—it is possible to produce a range of substances that are needed to manufacture a variety of common household products. [Curious?](#)