

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 8/2019

The Camptonville Community Partnership Forest Biomass Business Center is hiring a Bioenergy Project Manager. Camptonville Community Partnership (CCP), is a small, community-driven 501(C)3 non-profit organization whose mission is, “Rural people working together for a safe, sustainable and healthy community.” The FBBC project goals are: 1) to build a viable business model for biomass utilization; 2) create sustainable local employment; 3) promote a fire safe community; 4) improve regional air quality; 5) enhance forest health; and 6) produce renewable energy. [See the job description here](#). Application Deadline is February 22, 2019.

Biochar Workshop at Butte College Feb. 21 & 22, 2019. [This two day workshop](#) is organized by Butte College MESA Program to review and to plan forward the BIOCHAR R&D (REGen) project it has sponsored since 2011. The project is intended to introduce students to hands-on testing and application of biochar. The project has received a \$15,000 EPA P3 Phase I grant during 2016-17 and a Phase II grant of \$75,000 awarded last February, which runs through February 2020. They have also received \$50,000 donation during 2018 from PG&E for general support of this project through the Butte College Foundation. The intended [role of this workshop](#) is to bring outside input to this project which is focused on the applications on sustainable technologies in local industries, first of all agriculture, but also in the sustainable redevelopment of the fire devastated areas of Butte County and to improve wildfire safety in view of the recent Camp Fire.

Forest Resilience as an Investment. The [Forest Resilience Bond](#) is a public-private partnership that enables private capital to finance much-needed forest restoration across the western U.S. By scaling restoration treatments, the [Forest Resilience Bond](#) can decrease the risk of severe wildfire while protecting air quality, water supply, rural communities, and habitat. Investors provide upfront capital with public and private beneficiaries then making contracted payments based on the water, fire, and other benefits created by the restoration activities.

Qualified Opportunity Zones - How to invest in Real Estate and pay nothing in Capital Gains. Opportunity Zones are a new tool for community development. Established in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Opportunity Zones provide tax incentives for investment in designated census tracts. [California Opportunity Zones](#) will support new investments in environmental justice, sustainability, climate change, and affordable housing. These new investments are funds tied to Qualified Opportunity Zones (QOZ) — [879 census tracts in California](#), both urban and rural, that local officials have designated as most in need. Qualified investments can be in real estate, as well as small manufacturers and service businesses.

Newly formed RFS Power Coalition. The [RFS Power Coalition](#), a group of biomass trade organizations, biomass power producers, and supporters, has recently formed to get the EPA to implement a law passed by Congress in 2007 which mandates the [inclusion of qualifying renewable electricity in the Renewable Fuel Standard \(RFS\)](#). EPA could move to approve an electric, or “e-RIN,” pathway which has been on the books since 2014. Doing so would allow biomass power producers to qualify their electricity as a cellulosic biofuel.