

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 19/2019

Forest Service announces 2019 Wood Innovation Grant Awards. Public–private partnerships spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service create jobs, support fire-safe communities, restore healthy forest conditions, and spur environmentally sound innovation. Today, the [Forest Service awarded over \\$8.9 million](#) through the Wood Innovations Grant program. Thirty-nine business, university, nonprofit and tribal partners in 20 states are matching the grants with an additional \$8.8 million. Five projects in California were awarded funds.

Biochar & Bioenergy 2019 conference. The conference will be held in [Fort Collins, CO, June 30th – July 3rd](#), and will focus on bridging scientific, industrial, practitioner, and policy gaps in biomass utilization for biochar and bioenergy production. The [Bioenergy Alliance Network of the Rockies](#) (BANR) will be celebrating completion of a large research effort to provide science-based underpinning for sustainable biofuel & bio-products creation from beetle-killed and residual wood feedstocks in that region. The meeting will draw attention to biochar and bioenergy science, technology, and sustainability issues at local-to-global scales.

Mass Timber Experts compile comprehensive North American Mass Timber Report. Mass timber use in North American building construction is growing exponentially. To help further that growth, a consortium of forestry, forest product, and business development experts rolled out a mass timber business intelligence report a reference tool that one can use to sell a project and to help manage project risk at all levels of the supply chain. The report is available here [State of the Industry North American Mass Timber report](#).

New Report details the economic Impact of US Forest Products Industry. Forest2Market recently completed an [economic impact study](#) for the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO), which quantifies the contribution that forestry-related industries make to state, regional and national economies, and analyzes the most forested regions of the United States based on the most recent year of data available (2016).

Japanese demand for Wood Pellets largely fulfilled by North American Producers. Japan's consumption of wood pellets continues to increase significantly in the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in 2011, as its government has targeted a “best energy mix” of roughly 4 GW of biomass-fired capacity by 2030. By then, [Japanese demand for wood pellets](#) will be upwards of 15 million tons per year—a staggering 3,000% increase from its consumption of roughly 500,000 tons in 2017.

BTU Act reintroduced in House, Senate. A bipartisan group of lawmakers renewed efforts to establish an investment tax credit for high-efficiency wood heating installations in late February with the reintroduction of [the Biomass Thermal Utilization \(BTU\) Act](#). The BTU Act aims to amend the federal tax code to incentivize the use of energy efficient wood boilers, stoves and heaters through tax credits for capital costs incurred in residential and commercial installations. According to information released by Collins’ office, tax incentives already exist for many other forms of renewable or efficient energy. The BTU Act seeks to achieve parity between those systems and thermal biomass systems.

DID YOU KNOW? One can make flame-retardant coating for wood from ... [wood](#). A spray- or brush-applied fire retardant coating made from nanocellulose is well suited for improving the fire properties of wood-based materials. It reduces the access of oxygen to the surface, thus inhibiting combustion.