

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 21/2024

Wood-based Economic Development webinar series. This is a four-part Forestry Webinars series on wood-based economic development, sponsored by Southern Regional Extension Forestry. While some of it will be more or less specific to the South of the US, basic economic principles and business concepts hold true across regions. [Expanding Forestry Markets- How is it done?](#) May 21, 2024, 11:00 am; [How do you recruit Wood-based Businesses?](#) May 28, 2024, 10:00 am; [The Fundamentals of Workforce Development in Forestry.](#) June 25, 2024, 11:00 am; [Where do you find Clients and who can help You? Forest Economic Development Allies.](#) July 10, 2024, 10:00 am.

USFS Wood Innovations Program Grants – FY 2024 Funded Proposals. Sustainably sourcing wood to make products helps to make our forests healthier and our communities more prosperous. The US Forest Service invests in local wood economies through its grant programs. These grants support innovation, expand wood energy markets, and promote wood as a sustainable building material. Press Release [USDA Invests in Wood Products to Support Local Jobs and Healthy Forests in 41 States and American Samoa as part of Investing in America agenda.](#) [FY 2024 Funded Proposals.](#)

Funding for Firewood Banks. Wood heating has a long history in the United States, and many low- to moderate income residents in particular rely on wood heat. Wood banks fill a crucial need for those running low on money or heating assistance funds, facing electricity outages, or needing more heat to remain safe and comfortable. The mission of [this funding opportunity](#) is to support these people in need by providing feedstock and financial assistance. The main priority of this program is to provide financial and educational resources to public and tribal firewood bank programs in the United States to support access to wood heat for low- to moderate-income individuals who are struggling to pay for home heating fuel and deal with emergency situations such as power outages. A second priority is to help supply additional feedstock to expand the potential of wood that is generated from hazardous fuel treatments, forest management, or storm cleanup activities on both public and private lands. Additional benefits may include improved safety of firewood bank processing, clean and safe firewood burning, and mitigation of insect risks. The [Alliance for Green Heat](#) (AGH), a national nonprofit organization, is working with the U.S. Forest Service to facilitate the deployment of this funding to firewood banks across the country. [Applications for start-up and new grants are now live.](#)

CEC EPIC Clean Dispatchable Generation Solicitation. The purposes of [this solicitation](#) are to support the adoption of clean, dispatchable generation in California, and reduce the reliance on fossil-based technologies while providing reliable power for critical infrastructure. By deploying clean, dispatchable generation technologies and producing hydrogen for electricity generation, this solicitation can benefit California's communities, workforce, air quality, and natural environments. CEC staff will hold one Pre-Application Workshop to discuss this solicitation with potential applicants. Participation is optional but encouraged. The Pre-Application Workshop will be held remotely. Applicants may attend the workshop via the internet, or via conference call on the date and at the time and location listed. The meeting will be recorded. June 6, 2024, 10 am - 12 pm, Remote Access Only. [For more Information.](#)

The California Carbon Report. In 2017, the [Carbon Leadership Forum](#) published the [Embodied Carbon Benchmark Study](#) for North American buildings. Since then, the practice of whole-building life cycle assessment (WBLCA) has grown rapidly in the AEC industry, and it has become clear that more robust and reliable benchmarks are critical for advancing work in this field. The new CLF WBLCA Benchmark Study (Version 2) will build upon research and insights from the 2017 study. The project will expand the

research methodology and result in geographically and typologically specific benchmarks for buildings, systems, and assemblies modeled with consistent scope and background data. This will allow designers and decision-makers to set reliable embodied carbon targets and understand the potential for reduction throughout the design and construction processes. The first CLF Benchmarking Study (v2), [The California Carbon Report, Analysis of Embodied and Operational Carbon Impacts of 30 Buildings](#), is now available. The study investigated the use of whole life carbon assessment (WLCA) through a sample of 30 new construction building projects located in the State of California that were sourced from design practitioners as part of the CLF WBLCA Benchmark Study (v2). California was chosen for this preliminary study owing to its unique climate, large population, geographic size, rapidly decarbonizing electrical grid, ambitious climate targets, and quickly evolving policy landscape.

Save the Date. 2024 Biomass Energy Symposium. Local engagement to enhance forest biomass residual utilization in the Western Central Sierra. June 26, 8am – 5pm. Maidu Community Center, 1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville, CA.