

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 39/2019

**Forest Health & Fire Prevention Grant Workshops.** Starting on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, CAL FIRE is hosting public workshops throughout California for the 2019-2020 Forest Health & Fire Prevention Grant Programs funded through California Climate Investments. [Dates, times, & locations for all workshops can be found here](#). A recorded version of the Sacramento presentation will be posted on each of the program's webpage. Grant Guidelines & Information can be found on the [Forest Health & Fire Prevention](#) web pages. Solicitation periods will open soon!

**Urban & Community Forestry Grants.** CAL FIRE has announced the solicitation of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Urban and Community Forestry Grants, including the Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement, Urban Forest Management Activities, and Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization grant types. Please see the [Urban and Community Forestry Grants Page](#) for grant guidelines and a link to the concept proposal online form.

**Feasibility Assessment for converting Biomass Power Plants to Renewable Natural Gas.** In February 2019 the Gas Technology Institute GTI released a site-specific engineering design titled [Low-Carbon Renewable Natural Gas \(RNG\) from Wood Wastes](#). GTI led a team of engineers and scientists to produce a "blueprint" for converting an existing biomass facility into an RNG production site, using the wood waste feedstock and some of the existing infrastructure. A biomass power plant in Stockton, California, was the host site for the engineering design effort. In addition to providing data about the process technologies, the integrated plant, and production costs, the study highlights the many environmental benefits and the low-carbon fuel produced.

**Arbor Day Foundation seeking proposals for large-scale plantings.** The Arbor Day Foundation is seeking proposals for 2019/2020 large-scale plantings that will positively impact the environment, create habitat for wildlife, promote watershed restoration, and other benefits to the public. Interested individuals are encouraged to fill out an online proposal for projects at: <http://www.arborday.org/replantingrfp> by end of day October 25th, 2019. While the Arbor Day Foundation will consider all proposals, support of projects will be dependent on the availability of resources. Please contact our Manager of Forest Restoration Programs, Brad Brandt, at 402-473-9619 or [bbrandt@arborday.org](mailto:bbrandt@arborday.org) with any questions you may have.

**Mass Timber University Grant Program Projects support Forest Health and vibrant Communities.** The USDA Forest Service awarded \$1 million through the [Mass Timber University Grant Program](#) to 10 institutions in seven states. This cooperative partnership with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities supports the construction of mass timber buildings on college campuses across the country and brings \$136 million in university matching funds. The Forest Service received 16 proposals. Ten projects were selected for work in seven states, including Arkansas, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.

**DID YOU KNOW?** You can get dressed in trees – well, kind of. [Lyocell](#) is a form of rayon which consists of cellulose fiber made from dissolving pulp using dry jet-wet spinning. It was developed beginning in 1972 by a team at the now defunct American Enka fibers facility at Enka, North Carolina. Lyocell is composed of nanofibrils - very, very small fibers - which are hydrophilic. This gives the fabric unique moisture absorption ability, which in turn makes it breathable, softer, and less prone to wrinkles. [Tencel](#) is a branded version of this fiber, created by Austrian textile giant Lenzing.