

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 48/2019

2020 Wood Innovations Grant. The 2020 Wood Innovations Grant was announced on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2019. See the press release [here](#). Information on how to apply is available on the [Wood Innovations homepage](#). The RFP and application instructions can be found [here](#). The deadline for submitting grant applications is Jan. 15, 2020. The 2020 grant will be focused on projects that address the following goals: Reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health on National Forest System and other forest lands; Reduce the costs of forest management on all land types; Promote economic and environmental health of communities. A national informational webinar was held on November 7th and a [regionally focused \(USFS Region 5\) supplemental webinar on November 18](#). Questions about the grant and the application process can be directed to Larry Swan (Larry.Swan@usda.gov) or Helena Murray (Helena.Murray@usda.gov).

Combined Heat and Biochar (CHAB) Webinar. In the process of making biochar from biomass, thermal energy is produced that can be used for heating and cooling. Systems that take advantage of both the biochar and the energy are called Combined Heat and Biochar or CHAB. The Nebraska Forest Service is hosting a [webinar on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM PST](#) to present the basics of CHAB systems, available technologies, appropriate applications, and the economics of combined heat and biochar.

CPUC 2019 Renewable Portfolio Standard Annual Report. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is required to report annually to the state legislature on the progress of electricity retail sellers in meeting their RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) goals and substantive actions taken to achieve those goals. The two reports that are required annually have information on [1\) RPS program cost savings and 2\) progress and status of the RPS program](#). The annual RPS Report to the Legislature was released in [November 2019](#). It includes information about the [BioMAT](#) and [BioRAM](#) programs, including a statistic that almost 1 million BDT of biomass was consumed by BioRAM facilities in 2018. See here for a short [presentation and summary](#).

WoodWorks Carbon Calculator. Wood products continue to store the carbon absorbed by trees during their growing cycle, keeping it out of the atmosphere. Using wood as a substitute for fossil fuel-intensive materials such as steel and concrete also reduces greenhouse gases that would have been emitted during manufacturing. To calculate the carbon benefits of a wood building, users can access the [WoodWorks Carbon Calculator](#) and enter nominal wood volume information. The calculator then estimates: How much time it takes U.S. and Canadian forests to grow that volume of wood; the amount of carbon sequestered in the wood products; and Greenhouse gas emissions avoided by not using more fossil fuel-intensive materials. The [References & Notes](#) describe assumptions and other information related to the calculations.

Master of Science in Architecture with a focus in Mass Timber Design. The post-professional Architecture Master of Science (MS) degree at the University of Oregon allows students to complete advanced research and design work that builds on an existing professional degree in architecture, structural engineering, architectural engineering, construction management, or a related field. The [Mass Timber Design degree path](#) allows students to focus on mass timber design in an interdisciplinary one-year program, taking advantage of Oregon's position as the epicenter of mass timber manufacture and application in the United States and at the [TallWood Design Institute](#) (TDI), a partnership of the

University of Oregon's College of Design with Oregon State University's Colleges of Forestry and Engineering.

DID YOU KNOW? By selectively extracting wood's lignin - the substance that makes up its cell walls - and replacing it with a specific type of polymer, it becomes a new material. The optical properties of the polymer are matched to that of the wood such that light does not bend when it moves through the augmented wood. Instead, it passes through. [This wood is weather-proof, more fire resistant, three to five times stronger, and transparent.](#)