

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 22/2020

Webinar - Navigating the U.S. DOE'S Packaged CHP Systems eCatalog with the Western CHP TAP.

Discover how to maximize combined heat and power (CHP) investments using the U.S. Department of Energy's recently launched [Packaged Combined Heat and Power Systems eCatalog](#). The core of the eCatalog are DOE recognized CHP Packagers who commit to provide pre-engineered and tested Packaged CHP systems that meet or exceed DOE performance requirements, and DOE recognized CHP Solution Providers who commit to provide responsible installation, commissioning, maintenance and service of Packaged CHP systems and also provide a single point of project responsibility. The eCatalog already showcases over 185 DOE recognized Packaged CHP Systems with detailed system descriptions and performance data that may apply in facilities like yours. [Register here](#) for the webinar on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM PDT.

Webinar Series on renewable Wood Energy. The Maryland Forest Association and several other organizations are sponsoring this [five-part webinar series](#) that includes speakers from around the country who will cover a range of economic, operational, environmental, policy, and regulatory considerations around renewable wood energy projects. [Registration is free](#). Join policymakers, industry experts and environmental advocates for this special Webinar Series, examining the impacts and advantages of utilizing wood resources for thermal biomass energy in Maryland. This webinar series will highlight available technologies, economic competitiveness, ease of installing and operating biomass energy systems to examine how Maryland commercial and institutional consumers can benefit from the adoption of thermal biomass energy solutions. Speakers will share case study examples of successful projects and discussions will cover a range of economic, operational, environmental, policy, and regulatory considerations. If you work in renewable wood energy anywhere in the U.S., consider participating in one or more of the sessions.

Little Hoover Lessons from Research: Wildfire Preparedness and Forest Management. In its 2018 report, *Fire on the Mountain: Rethinking Forest Management in the Sierra Nevada*, the Little Hoover Commission urged the state of California to increase the pace and scale of forest management. At the time of the report's publication, the backlog of forestland needing treatment in the Sierra Nevada alone was approximately six million acres, according to an estimate the Sierra Nevada Conservancy put together for Commission staff. The report also acknowledged, however, that resources were finite. A lawmaker told staff that even if the entire state budget were spent solely on forest management, it still wouldn't be enough to fund treatment of all the state's overgrown forests. [Given current economic conditions](#), the state may have to prepare itself for slower progress than originally anticipated, but policymakers would be well-served by knowing what resources are necessary to create and maintain forest resilience so California can have a plan in place for better times.

In California, a Push grows to turn dead Trees into Biomass Energy. As forests in California and the Western U.S. are hit by rising numbers of fires and disease outbreaks related to climate change, some experts argue that using dead and diseased trees to produce biomass energy will help to restore forests and reduce CO2 emissions. [This article by a California writer about forest biomass utilization in California](#) was just released in Yale360.

\$1.8 Million in awards announced for the Innovative Finance for National Forests Grant Program. [Ten awards support development of finance models](#) that seek to leverage private sector capital to support resilience of the National Forest System and surrounding lands. These new grants will support local

stakeholders partnering with project developers to connect private capital to unfunded environmental challenges in National Forests and surrounding landscapes in Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, California, Rocky Mountains, Appalachians, and New England. The \$1.8 million in awards are the first announced for the Innovative Finance for National Forests Grant Program. This new partnership is funded and administered by the USDA Forest Service National Partnership Office's Conservation Finance Program, the National Forest Foundation (NFF), and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Endowment). The ten projects funded were selected from nearly 50 proposals received in the inaugural year of the grant program.