

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 26/2020

**Feasibility of Biomass for regional Energy Independence in Northern California.** A [recently released report](#) seeks to determine if nine counties in northern California - Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity - can utilize the surplus of woody biomass in its forests for localized energy generation. Woody biomass in this report identifies the material as small-diameter wood in the forests that is too small to be sold as timber but large enough to be chipped. It is important to understand if woody biomass removal will adequately enhance forest health and support local communities. The analysis also seeks to understand the extent to which burning woody debris for energy could reduce ladder fuels and associated wildfire emissions, as compared to the potential emissions from that same debris being burned in a biomass energy facility. Given the high costs of using biomass for energy, financial factors are investigated. Lastly, [the report](#) considers policy implications.

**Request for Quotes - Forest Utilization Network Market Analysis.** The [Council of Western State Foresters \(CWSF\) is seeking proposals](#) from qualified parties to complete an international wood energy market analysis. With a clearly defined, positive relationship between forest utilization, forest health, rural communities, wildfire mitigation, and forest-based economies, the analysis will provide CWSF with a picture of current opportunities presented by international wood energy markets; and provide a technical review of technology and infrastructure domestically available to support engagement in these markets. The complete RFQ is available [here](#). Bids should be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. Mountain Time on July 15, 2020.

**CEC workshop: Assessing the future Role for Microgrids in California.** As part of the 2020 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update (2020 IEPR Update), the California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a remote access workshop to gather information on trends in assessing the future role for microgrids in California. CEC Chair David Hochschild, the lead commissioner for the microgrid portion of the 2020 IEPR Update, will co-host this workshop with CEC Vice Chair Janea A. Scott. The workshop will be held in three sessions over two days as follows: [Tuesday, July 7, 2020, 10:00 AM](#); and [Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM](#).

**Webinar: Getting to Neutral - The Importance of Renewable Gas in Decarbonizing Society.** This [1-hour webinar](#) summarized key findings from the recently published Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) report, "[Getting to Neutral](#)" and strategies that can enable states to accelerate their efforts to fight climate change. One of the report's lead authors shared an analysis on how California could achieve carbon-neutrality by complementing the state's ongoing mitigation efforts with negative emissions technologies that remove CO2 from the atmosphere, making use of the state's natural biomass and geologic advantages. The first-of-its kind study—which documents how carbon neutrality can be achieved at a very modest cost, and using available technology—was the topic of extensive discussion within California state government and spawned the introduction of multiple bills in the legislature.

**Bipartisan Bill sets up Forestry and Ag Carbon Offsets Program under USDA.** Bipartisan legislation that could encourage the creation of carbon markets to address climate change received a [hearing this week in the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee](#). The panel took testimony on the "Growing Climate Solutions Act," a bipartisan bill introduced earlier this month by Sen. Mike Braun (R-Ind.) The measure, [S. 3894](#), would create a certification program at the Department of Agriculture for technical service providers who help farmers devise carbon sequestration practices and sell carbon credits. It

would add to programs that private companies have launched in recent years, providing some certainty to farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners in certain private markets, supporters said. The legislation would also create a related advisory committee at USDA and would require a report to Congress on its implementation. The proposal would help fill gaps in efforts to establish carbon markets by giving third-party providers a "USDA Certified" status. The bill has support from a wide range of groups that often don't agree on policy, particularly around human-influenced climate change.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The worldwide largest walkable wooden sphere ("Erlebnisholzkuugel") opened its doors in 2019 in Steinberg am See, Germany. Weight: over 500 tons; height: 40 meters; diameter: almost 50 meters; 627 m<sup>3</sup> (22,142 cuft) of glue-laminated timber, 190 tons of steel parts, 40,000 screws, 18,000 bolts/building screws/dowels, 3,300 m<sup>2</sup> (35,521 sqft) cladding panels, and 2,200 meters (7,218 ft) of railing - these are just a few of the key features of this [enormous project](#). The way up is along a 700 meter (2,297 ft) long walkable path inside the sphere, past 30 experiential and skills stations, with a barrier-free slope of 6%. For the way down there is a shortcut - a giant slide.