

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 45/2020

**2021 USFS Grant Programs announced.** The US Forest Service [announced two competitive wood utilization funding](#) opportunities. The application and instructions for the [Wood Innovations Grant](#) can be found [here](#). Applications are due via email to Larry Swan ([larry.swan@usda.gov](mailto:larry.swan@usda.gov)) by 5pm on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The second funding opportunity is a new program called the *Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grant Program*. More information can be found [here](#). Applications to this grant are due via email to Larry Swan ([larry.swan@usda.gov](mailto:larry.swan@usda.gov)) by 5pm on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. There will be a national informational pre-application [webinar on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11am Pacific Time](#) that will cover the details of both programs, to provide information and answer questions. A webinar focused on regional issues and priorities (USFS Region 5) will be offered on [Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am Pacific Time](#).

**Aiming to shrink Housing Costs, Boston Firms launch Catalogue of Mass Timber Designs.** A group of seven design, engineering and development firms have launched a [new catalog of mass timber design systems](#) in an effort to simultaneously lower new buildings' carbon footprint and make housing construction cheap enough to meet the burgeoning demand for new homes. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Agriculture, the Softwood Lumber Board, the Binational Softwood Lumber Council and the commonwealth of Massachusetts, the [Tallhouse catalog](#) aims to de-risk the deployment of sustainable systems, aiding policy makers in the difficult decisions regarding use of building materials, through precise and pre-vetted data on different, code-compliant systems.

**Natural Carbon Solutions in U.S. Farms and Forests: Building a Policy Agenda for Congressional Action.** Recently, attention has focused on designing policies for natural carbon (or climate) solutions (NCS), a term that encompasses actions aimed at increasing carbon storage and/or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions from forests, wetlands, grasslands, and agricultural lands. New policies and programs are needed to accelerate NCS and to create long-term revenue streams for land management practices that result in increased carbon storage, reduced emissions, and other environmental benefits. [A synthesis report from the Bipartisan Policy Center's Farm & Forest Carbon Solutions Initiative](#) draws from a set of working papers prepared by experts in the NCS field to identify policy options for orienting federal programs to increase carbon storage in soils and trees. These options range from modifying existing farm and forest programs to establishing new programs that take advantage of innovations in American agriculture and forest management.

**Reinventing the forest products industry.** The forest products sector is widely recognized for its net-positive impact on the environment, thanks to carbon absorption in lush forests, carbon sequestration in new wood-based buildings and durable goods, and low environmental impact of the industry's manufacturing practices. [A research report](#) by Accenture takes a deep dive into the forces set to reshape the industry, with new insights on strategies for growth.

**Firebreak: Wildfire Resilience Strategies for Real Estate.** [This recently released report by the Urban Land Institute \(ULI\)](#) details the implications of wildfires for the real estate industry and explores best practices in building design and land use policy that can reduce the damage caused by wildfires and help set communities up to thrive in the long run. The report shows real estate developers, urban planners, and public leaders increasingly are aware of the land-use drivers of wildfires, their concern about the consequences of wildfires, and how they are implementing asset and community-scale resilience efforts.

**DID YOU KNOW?** If you happen to have missed one of our monthly meetings of the CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group, or would like to review a presentation given, worry not. The [agendas and many presentation slide decks are available on our website](#). And this eNewsletter you are reading will be [archived](#) as well.