

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 5/2021

**California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.** On January 8, 2021, the [Governor's Forest Management Taskforce](#) released a [comprehensive action plan](#) to reduce wildfire risk for vulnerable communities, improve the health of forests and wildlands and accelerate action to combat climate change. The Task Force and the state's efforts going forward will be guided by this [Action Plan](#) with an overall goal to increase the pace and scale of forest management and wildfire resilience efforts by 2025 and beyond.

**CPUC Clean Energy Financing Workshop.** On [January 28](#) and [January 29](#), 2021, the CPUC will host a 1.5-day Clean Energy Finance Workshop. Please see the [agenda](#) for details on each day's events, including the daily schedule as well as featured topics, panelists and moderators. The objectives of the workshop are to: a) Identify lessons learned from existing clean energy finance efforts in California and nationally; b) Identify priorities and objectives for the CPUC's new Clean Energy Financing [Rulemaking](#); c) Begin to shape future decisions on energy financing in California.

**Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation - Advisory Council.** The [Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation](#) (Institute) is [requesting nominations for two vacancies](#) within its Advisory Council. The Institute is a committee of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and consists of two co-chairs, two academic positions, nine Council members, and one Board staff. Council members reflect a diversity of perspectives and expertise, which may include forest products, forest management, environmental conservation, finance/investment, forested communities, rural economic development, tribal interests, and other areas of interest as determined by the Board.

**2021 Biomass Thermal Summit.** The [Biomass Thermal Energy Council](#) will host its [2021 Biomass Thermal Summit](#) March 23-25, 2021. This virtual event will feature six sessions on the state of the industry, latest federal policy developments from the US Congress, the Biden Administration and agencies. Over the past several years, BTEC has achieved a number of successes, including passage of the [residential tax credit of the BTU Act](#) and establishment of the [Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Program](#).

**COVID relief bill will be a gamechanger for residential wood heat.** The \$900 billion COVID-19 relief package passed by Congress on Dec. 21 includes provisions of the Biomass Thermal Utilization Act and will enact a three-year [investment tax credit \(ITC\) for high-efficiency home heating equipment](#) that fires wood pellets, chips or cordwood. The credit applies to the installed cost of home heating and hot water systems that utilize wood pellets, chips and cordwood at efficiencies greater than 75 percent high heat value. The ITC is for 26 percent in 2021 and phases down to 22 percent in 2022 and 2023.

**Forest-Climate Working Group releases Policy Platform for 117th Congress.** To help in the fight against climate change, family forest owners need support from lawmakers. The [Forest-Climate Working Group](#) unveiled new detailed policy proposals that would empower this important ownership group with the resources they need to maximize their forests' abilities to fight climate change. [The platform](#) outlines how policymakers can help private forest owners and public land managers grow the powerful climate solutions in America's forests and forest products while delivering other environmental and economic benefits.