

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 11/2021

**CAL FIRE is hosting online workshops on Fire Prevention & Forest Health grants.** [See here for the workshop schedules.](#) Due to COVID-19 restrictions, participation will be limited to online workshops via Microsoft Teams. No registration is necessary. CAL FIRE began accepting applications for the [Fire Prevention Grants Program](#) on March 10. Contingent upon appropriation from the [California Climate Investments](#), or other funding source, up to \$165 million will be awarded. Additionally, up to \$170 million will be awarded to [Forest Health](#) projects that fit the eligibility criteria and score competitively against the selection criteria. Up to \$40 million of the total funding will be reserved for post-fire recovery.

**Forest Management Workforce Development Seminar Series.** California is embarking on an aggressive effort to improve forest health and community fire resilience by entering into a joint commitment with the US Forest Service to actively manage 1 million acres of forested land per year. Achieving that goal will require diverse fuels and vegetation management projects coupled with an expanded skilled workforce. Expanding the forest and wood products sector in California will require a strategic and dedicated focus on building trained workforce capacity to support the annual 1 million acre commitment as well as to demonstrate a thriving workforce to attract new businesses. Since the creation of the Tree Mortality Task Force, which transitioned into the Forest Management Task Force, many efforts have been underway to expand workforce training opportunities. This [four part virtual series on Forest and Wood Products Careers](#) continues that critical work. When: March 25; April 22; May 27; June 24. Time: 12:00 pm-12:50 pm. [Register here.](#)

**New Opportunities to convert Biomass “Waste” to renewable Methane and Green Hydrogen.** Although most renewable gases are currently produced through anaerobic digestion, several innovative developers are working to deploy gasification and pyrolysis pathways to commercially viable energy production. These technologies allow for the conversion of dense, low-moisture organic material into valuable renewable gas and biochar, creating new opportunities to manage forests, agricultural waste, and other hard-to-handle organic feedstocks. Attend this [75-minute Renewable Gas 360 webinar on Thursday, March 18, 10:00 am PDT](#) to hear more from industry leaders.

**After the Flames.** Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc. (COCO) has been working in post-fire since its inception in 2014. In a new era of year-round, catastrophic wildfire, there is a need to address the social, economic and environmental devastation occurring post-fire. In 2019, COCO hosted the first [After The Flames](#) conference, bringing together hundreds of researchers, practitioners and community members responding to the post-fire landscape. COCO, alongside affiliates and partners, has created a [website](#) as a resource toolbox for communities and agencies to access research and best management practices. A [Planning for the post-fire Flood webinar](#) will be held April 5, 11:30 – 2:30 PDT. [Register here.](#)

**Good Fire: Current Barriers to the Expansion of cultural Burning and prescribed Fire in**

**California and recommended Solutions.** In 2020, over four percent of California burned in wildfires. Cultural burning and prescribed fire are essential tools in managing these impacts, restoring California's fire-adapted ecosystems, and repairing the fraught relationship between California, its Indigenous peoples, and stewardship of the landscape. Based on the direct experiences of cultural fire practitioners and other burners, [Good Fire](#) explores the legal and policy underpinnings of current barriers to expanding the scope of intentional fire in California. From there, [the paper identifies legislative, regulatory, and policy solutions](#). While individuals and agencies have made good progress, far more work is needed if intentional fire is going to have a significant impact on the wildfire-related challenges California faces.