

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 14/2021

**Early Budget Action for Wildfire Prevention.** Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego) and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) today announced a [\\$536 million funding plan to help improve California’s resilience to wildfires](#). They released the following statement: “With California facing another extremely dry year, it is critical that we get a head start on reducing our fire risk. We are doing that by investing more than half a billion dollars on projects and programs that provide improved fire prevention for all parts of California. [...]” Details on this funding package can be found in SB 85 and AB 79.

**Wood Innovation: Sustainable Forest Products to Reinvigorate Rural Economies.** On Tuesday, March 23, 2021, the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Wood Innovation: Sustainable Forest Products to Reinvigorate Rural Economies. [The recording is available on YouTube](#). Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Chair of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, delivered [these remarks at the Subcommittee's hearing](#).

**Forest Utilization Network.** Established in 2017 via charter from the [Council of Western State Foresters \(CWSF\)](#), the [Forest Utilization Network \(FUN\)](#) addresses a range of regional forest utilization issues. In cooperation with CWSF leadership, the FUN works to support sustainable forest management, the forest industry, and communities. FUN members help to inform the CWSF membership about issues and opportunities for leadership action. A synopsis of recent FUN projects include: A [Comprehensive Analysis of Torrefaction Technologies for Producing Advanced Wood Pellets](#), a [2020 Success Stories Publication](#), a [Biochar Market Analysis](#), and a [Mass Timber Market Analysis](#).

**A Clearer Vision 2020.** The [U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities](#) (the Endowment) officially announced the release of its 2020 annual report. The report, titled “[A Clearer Vision 2020](#),” is a vivid illustration of what the Endowment has done over the past year and demonstrates a vibrant path forward. Some of the highlights from this year include the introduction of new programs, including the utilization of blockchain technology to combat illegal logging, while also giving an update on some of the Endowment’s most noteworthy programs, like the Sustainable Forestry and the African American Land Retention Program (SFLR) and the continued work of Restoration Fuels to turn low-value biomass into an environmentally-friendly, renewable alternative to coal.

**California Energy Commission released final SB 100 Report.** On December 3, 2020, the California Energy Commission (CEC) released the [Draft 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report Achieving 100% Clean Electricity in California](#). The report included a summary of the joint agency process and working interpretations, modeling results of the 2045 policy and recommendations for future work and implementation. The public comment period on the draft closed on December 18, 2020 and 43 comment letters were received. Agency staff reviewed the public comments and incorporated changes into the final report. The comments

did not result in any changes to the methodology or resulting conclusions. In addition to the [Full 2021 SB 100 Report](#), a [Summary](#) as well as the [SB 100 RESOLVE model package](#) have been posted on the [CEC's website](#).

**DID YOU KNOW?** [Your stress may be 7 percent lower if you're in a wooden building](#).

Considering in the developed world, around 90 percent of our time is spent inside – something that's been exacerbated in recent times by the COVID-19 pandemic – it is more important than ever to assess wellbeing whilst indoors, and this [whitepaper](#) demystifies the role building materials play in this.