

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 23/2021

**CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program Overview and Q&A Webinars.** Please join the CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program staff as they present details on this year's grant offerings, how to apply, how the grant programs work, and what to expect of the application process and what to expect if receiving a grant award. There will be two webinars hosted, and each will have ample time for questions to be asked and answered. The two webinars will have the same content. Please register for either or both Urban and Community Forestry Grants webinars on [Jun 15, 2021 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM](#) and/or [June 16, 2021 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**Wood Carbon Seminars.** The [Wood Carbon Seminars](#) was an 8-part webinar series hosted by the Carbon Leadership Forum (CLF) in the Spring of 2020. It brought together wood experts to answer common and critical questions about the carbon impacts of wood from the building industry. The webinars were organized around four main categories: 1) Background and Basics, 2) LCA and Wood, 3) Tracking Carbon in North America, and 4) Wood and the Building Industry. For each category, three speakers were asked to present on a specific topic in the first week and return for a discussion session the following week. The schedule, recordings, and slides for these presentations and discussion sessions can be found [here](#), along with written Q&As from the speakers. For some background, see this CLF feature article about the Wood Carbon Seminars: [Learning About Forests, Carbon, and Wood](#).

**Funding opportunity for small businesses working to reduce embodied carbon.** The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program ("America's Seed Fund") offers substantial grants to small businesses, with innovation areas established by various government agencies. Under "Sustainable Materials Management", this year's SBIR solicitation from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) includes the following topics of interest: a) Low impact construction materials and technologies to reduce embodied carbon of buildings; b) Low impact construction materials and technologies to increase resiliency to disasters and recovery of materials generated from these incidents. This is potentially a great opportunity for businesses working to reduce embodied carbon in buildings. EPA intends to release its 2021-2022 SBIR Phase I solicitation in mid-June with a close date approximately 48 days later. EPA SBIR page: <https://www.epa.gov/sbir/sbir-funding-opportunities>; SBIR home page <https://www.sbir.gov/>.

**Engaging Northern California's Private Forest Owners to reduce Wildfire Risk.** Over the past several years, California has seen some of the most destructive wildfires in the state's history, taking lives and endangering the community and ecosystem. Overly dense forests, drought, pests, and a changing climate have caused longer wildfire seasons and have resulted in fires that are larger and burning more intensely. Yet these forests remain vitally important. For example, the Sierra Nevada range in California provides nearly 60% of the state's developed water supply. While most think reducing wildfire risk is a public lands issue, a recent report found that in California alone, nearly 3 of every 5 acres at risk from fire in important watersheds are privately-owned. While landowners are eager to lower their risk of wildfire, both for their safety, and for the greater good of their communities, many are unable to. [What prevents most from taking action is a lack technical assistance and financial resources to get their forests back to health.](#)

**2021 Biomass Thermal Summit.** The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) hosted its [2021 Biomass Thermal Summit](#) as a weekly event, occurring every Thursday at 1:00 pm EDT (10:00 am PDT), from May

6 to June 10, 2021. This virtual event featured 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. The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) invited industry, environmental and policy stakeholders to this [multi-day virtual experience](#) to discuss the contribution that the biomass thermal energy industry can make to mitigate climate change and to discuss policy and regulatory solutions to expand the industry's beneficial impacts, create new markets for woody biomass resources, and the environmental benefits of a closed-loop forestry and agricultural industry.

**DID YOU KNOW?** From orange juice to building material. Since it was first introduced in 2016, transparent wood has been developed by researchers at KTH Royal Institute of Technology as an innovative structural material for building construction. It lets natural light through and can even store thermal energy. To make it 100 percent renewable, an [extract from orange juice](#) production is used to create the polymer that restores delignified wood's strength and allows light to pass through.