

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 33/2021

**CAL FIRE funds Collaborative Projects to advance Forest Health and Resilience.** The [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection \(CAL FIRE\)](#) has awarded [\\$160 million](#) for landscape-scale land management projects intended to restore and maintain healthy forests throughout California while enhancing carbon storage. The grants were awarded by CAL FIRE's Forest Health and Forest Legacy programs to local and regional partners and collaboratives implementing forest treatment and conservation activities on state, local, tribal, federal, and private lands. This year's [funded projects](#) are distributed among 27 counties covering the length of California, from Siskiyou County to San Diego County. A map of projects is posted on the [Forest Health webpage](#). Within the next month, CAL FIRE expects to award up to an additional \$123 million for Fire Prevention projects and \$2.3 million for Forest Health Research projects.

**Wood Wool Cement Products and Wood Fiber Insulation Feasibility Analysis.** The Council of Western State Foresters' [Forest Utilization Network \(Network\)](#) requests proposals from qualified respondents to research, prepare, and present a written report and presentation format summary on [wood wool cement products and wood fiber insulation](#). Successful responses to this RFP will include feedstock requirements and characteristics, required capital investment, manufacturing processes, and current and potential domestic markets. Successful respondents to this RFP will also include key financial, regulatory, certification, and adoption barriers. The RFP is available [here](#). The submission deadline is September 17 at 3:00 p.m. PDT.

**Mark your calendars: National Forest Products Week & Bioenergy Day.** Congress, through enactment of Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 123), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products Week" (October 17-23, 2021) to recognize the value of forest products and commit to conservation practices that help responsibly manage U.S. forests. This week celebrates the role and impact of forests and wood as integral components to the nation's environment, society, and economy. As has been tradition for several years now, the Wednesday during National Forest Products Week will recognize the [Annual Bioenergy Day](#) on October 20th.

Also during that week, the USDA Forest Service usually releases calls for RFP's in the [Wood Innovations Grants Program as well as Community Wood Grant Program](#).

**Report: Market Opportunities and Challenges for decarbonizing US Buildings.** This [assessment of possibilities and barriers for transforming the national buildings sector with advanced building construction](#) employs key findings from hands-on market research conducted by the [ABC Collaborative](#). This foundational work investigates systemic problems across the buildings sector, examines critical technologies and approaches, analyzes market segments, and summarizes interviews with key industry stakeholders. This report provides a synthesis of technologies and approaches that can help to implement streamlined, high-quality, low-carbon solutions for new construction and building retrofits. These findings help establish the foundation of a substantive action plan the Collaborative ultimately aims to coordinate and galvanize in partnership with industry.

**Advanced Building Construction with Wood.** The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced \$3 billion in funding to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better. This consists of six programs in all. Three of these, described in the following, may be especially relevant to those pursuing advanced building construction. This includes developing manufacturing, fabrication,

and workforce capacity to support the offsite construction of high-performance buildings. [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#) – Targeting 20-30 regions across the country, this \$1 billion program will support manufacturing and workforce activities, such as regional industry initiatives or clusters focused on high-performance industrialized construction. Phase 1 application deadline: October 19, 2021. [Good Jobs Challenge](#) – With \$500 million allocated to collaborative skills training, this program supports training and placement programs that will likely align with the changing demands of the buildings sector. Application deadline: January 26, 2022. [Economic Adjustment Assistance](#) – This program is the most flexible among these EDA opportunities but also provides the smallest awards. It could support a wide range of projects, including construction, that respond to local needs. Applications are rolling, with suggested submission by March 15, 2022.