

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 45/2021

**California Sustainable Forestry Investor Club.** How do we drive more investment capital to social ventures working in the sustainable forestry sector within California to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health, provide good jobs, and construct buildings that improve climate? In partnership with the [Rural Community Assistance Corporation](#) (RCAC), [Impact Finance Center](#) (IFC) is working to build the infrastructure to achieve this goal. The infrastructure includes Investor Accelerators (Impact Investing Giving Circles) and Investor Clubs that act as a marketplace to directly connect investors with the projects they care about. On Tuesday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-2:30 pm PST, Impact Finance Center and RCAC will be hosting the [California Sustainable Forestry Investor Club](#) with the primary goal of providing education and investment opportunities. As IFC works to build the infrastructure for community members to be able to invest directly in the social ventures (nonprofits, startups, businesses, funds, cooperatives, hybrids, and more) they care about, Investor Clubs are a critical step forward. Building on the success of the Colorado Impact Days and our growing network of Impact Investing Giving Circles, Investor Clubs are the next step in achieving Impact Finance Center's vision of a Main Street 2.0. Register [here](#).

**2022 Wood Innovations & Community Wood Grants.** The [USFS Wood Innovations Grant and Community Wood Grant Programs](#) are now accepting applications. These grants are designed to develop and expand the use of wood products and strengthen emerging wood energy markets that support sustainable forest management – particularly in areas of high wildfire risk. The [Wood Innovations Grant Program](#) stimulates and expands wood products and wood energy markets. Focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. The [Community Wood Grant Program](#) provides funding to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. The program places extra emphasis on assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology.

The US Forest Service held an informational Pre-Application Webinar on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. The webinar introduced the grant application process and highlighted regional priorities to help applicants develop successful proposals.

A [USFS Region 5-specific webinar will be offered on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm](#). Potential applicants are recommended to participate in both the national and R5 webinars to meet with Region 5 Wood and Biomass Specialists [Larry Swan](#) and [Helena Murray](#). The application period for both programs closes on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

**Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation.** The [Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation](#) (JIWPI) is a committee of the [Board of Forestry and Fire Protection](#), and dedicated to providing California forest product information, research, and analysis to increase economic drivers for healthy forests. JIWPI work focuses on long-term ecological and economic sustainability; education and outreach; increased forest resilience, long-term carbon storage, and local economies; and industry retention and development in California. The meetings of the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation Advisory Council are open to the public, and are hosted via teleconference. For more information [see the agenda for the next meeting](#), Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am – 11:30am, as well as the [Joint Institute Forest Biofuels Draft Report](#).

**2021 California Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.** FEMA is newly exploring providing Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding for biomass/bioenergy projects. This is new, and no one is exactly sure how it will fit into

their existing grant program. With that in mind, the CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has announced the 2021 [funding opportunity for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#). This opportunity provides funding for communities to implement mitigation activities to reduce risk to life and property from natural hazards. In CA, natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, flooding, and other impacts of climate change. HMGP funding can also support the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) and project scoping activities. Deadline for NOIs in December 31<sup>st</sup>. Initially, an application for this funding would likely be difficult, but could also help pave the way for valuable grant funding in this new area.

**Pyrolysis Projects for Conversion of Wood Chips to Fuels on a Hot Streak.** Pyrolysis is the thermal degradation/decomposition process that occurs in the absence of oxygen, which results in the production of pyrolytic liquid (pyrolysis oil), biochar, and gas. Pyrolysis oil is the main product and can be utilized in different ways. It can be gasified to syngas and further converted to various chemicals and fuels; it can alternatively be co-fed into petroleum oil refineries, and the following hydrotreating or cracking, will result in the production of biofuels, chemical feedstock (e.g., naphtha) and chemical building blocks. Production of food flavoring (liquid smoke) is a commercialized product from pyrolysis. Pyrolysis oil can also be fed into a combined heat and power plant to produce heat and electricity. The co-products biochar and gas are typically combusted to provide the process heat requirements. Biochar can also be used as a soil amendment. While pyrolysis has already been applied in a variety of industrial applications such as in cogeneration of heat and electricity, pyrolysis for conversion of wood chips to fuels is still considered to be in the early-stage commercial or pioneer facility stage of maturity. For more in depth information, [here a Special Report](#).