

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 3/2022

Business and Workforce Development Grants Virtual Workshop. CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy team recently opened their Business and Workforce Development Grants solicitation. Up to \$24 million is available for eligible business development and workforce development projects. An additional \$4 million is available for improvement or development of native tree nurseries. Please join the Wood Products Team on January 26 for our virtual workshop to learn more about this new and exciting grant opportunity. In an effort to make the most effective use of time, it is strongly encouraged that attendees review the [Business and Workforce Development Grant Guidelines](#) prior to attending the virtual workshop. The virtual workshop will be recorded and posted to the Wood Products webpage for later viewing. No registration required. Date: January 26, 2022, 1:30 - 3:00 pm PST. [Link to Meeting](#). For information about the workshop or solicitation, visit the [Wood Products webpage](#). Please direct any questions to woodproducts@fire.ca.gov

Mass Timber and other innovative Wood Products in California. [This just released report](#) examines various barriers and solutions to help grow the state's mass timber and other innovative wood products sector. As states across the West, including California, grapple with the implications of overstocked forests threatened by catastrophic wildfire, governments and others view mass timber manufacturing as one high value product that can incentivize forest restoration. As of this writing, there are no mass timber manufacturers in the state, though this research revealed that California is already a leader in the design and utilization of mass timber in projects. California has two-thirds more projects in the design and construction phase and completed than the next leading state.

Regenerative Construction Ecosystems Symposium. Industrialized wood construction through well managed forest resources can reduce wildfire risk, while delivering decarbonized buildings that are healthier for occupants, assembled rapidly, and adaptable. Regenerative Construction Ecosystems is focused on how wood industrialized construction deployed to meet the Passive House standard, can lead to decarbonized environments that are resilient and adaptable to our changing environments. Passive House is a global ultra-low energy building standard that offers resilience in the face of wildfires, energy insecurity, and a warming world. A free 6-hour online symposium, over 2 days, sponsored by Blue Lake Rancheria and North Fork Lumber in partnership with the US Forest Service, Humboldt County Economic Development, Fabric Workshop, and the Passive House Network. January 26 & 27, 10am to 1pm PST, register here: <https://naphnetwork.org/wood-symposium/>.

Confronting the Wildfire Crisis. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Forest Service Chief Randy Moore have launched a comprehensive response to the nation's growing wildfire crisis – "[Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America's Forests.](#)" The strategy outlines the need to significantly increase fuels and forest health treatments to address the escalating crisis of wildfire danger that threatens millions of acres and numerous communities across the United States. The Forest Service will work with other federal agencies, including the Department of the Interior, and with Tribes, states, local communities, private landowners, and other partners to focus fuels and forest health treatments more strategically and at the scale of the problem, based on the best available science. The strategy highlights new research on what Forest Service scientists identified as high risk "firesheds" – large, forested landscapes with a high likelihood that an ignition could expose homes, communities, infrastructure, and natural resources to wildfire.

Wood Heater Design Challenge. The U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, along with the Alliance for Green Heat, have announced the [5th Wood Stove Design Challenge](#), modeled after DOE’s Solar Decathlon. The initiative is a renewed push to identify technologies for the next generation of wood stoves. Wood stoves are very effective at reducing the use of fossil heating fuels, but they are still manually operated, often leading to operator error and excessive emissions. This new initiative will bring together researchers, developers, and manufacturers to identify and demonstrate new pathways to consistently lower emissions. The first year of this Challenge features a [series of seminars](#) with domestic and international scholars, experts, and industry leaders. Workshop 2: Advances in Instrumentation used for Wood Heater Testing and Field Data Collection, [February 22-23, 2022](#). Workshop 3: Adoption of new Wood Heater Technology and Integration with other Renewables, [March 28-29, 2022](#). These groups will share knowledge on technical and cost barriers to achieving the levels of performance improvement needed to ensure wood stoves will contribute to the nation’s energy needs far into the future. The second year features a “technology slam” following a modified shark tank model, where judges will select teams to receive funding. During the third year, teams will build prototypes of next generation wood stoves and these will be tested under carefully controlled lab conditions.