

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 21/2022

CAL FIRE invests in Workforce and Business Development. In the inaugural round of its new Business and Workforce Development Grants program, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has awarded \$33 million to business development and workforce development projects that support healthy, resilient forests and the people and ecosystems that depend on them. CAL FIRE's [Wood Products and Bioenergy Team](#) awarded [30 grants](#) to applicants that include non-profit organizations, businesses, universities and community colleges, and local governments. These partners are implementing projects to create a robust and diversified wood products industry to facilitate the economic and sustainable management of California's forests, as outlined in [California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#).

Forests and Wood: The Path to a sustainable, negative-carbon World. In a three-part series, [Treesource](#) explored the potential roles of forests and wood products in addressing the global climate crisis. Part 1 ([Read it here](#)): How can we use more wood, a renewable, biodegradable carbon sink, while also storing more carbon in forests across the U.S. and the world? Part 2 ([Read it here](#)): What incentives and regulations are needed for landowners, forest stewards, corporations, governments, and NGOs to change their practices and thereby make carbon storage a top priority? Part 3 ([Read it here](#)): A look ahead to 2050. What could a more sustainable society look like, if forests and wood products were utilized in new and more effective ways?

Made of Air - Bioplastic. Berlin, Germany, startup [Made of Air](#) has developed a carbon-negative bioplastic that can be used in cars, interiors, transport and urban infrastructure, and building facades. The material contains biochar, a carbon-rich substance made by heating biomass without oxygen, which prevents the carbon from escaping as CO₂. The recyclable material is 90 percent carbon and stores around two tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) for every ton of plastic. By 2050, Made of Air hopes to be storing up to a gigaton of CO₂e a year in the material, which is also called Made of Air. Last year, the bioplastic was used to clad a [car dealership in Munich](#) with the installation storing 14 tons of carbon, according to Made of Air. [Find out more](#).

Request for Proposals: Wood Wool Cement Products and Wood Fiber Insulation Feasibility Analysis. The Council of Western State Foresters ([CWSE](#)) Forest Products Committee ([FPC](#)) 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](#). The rollout of the national Infrastructure Law represents an opportunity to align expected woody biomass removals with feedstock requirements of wood wool cement and wood fiber insulation manufacturing facilities. Successful responses to this RFP will investigate anticipated biomass feedstock removals, including quantity and quality, how these expected feedstocks align with process and production requirements for wood wool cement products and wood fiber insulation, and include 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 June 30, 2022 4:00 pm MDT.

Decarbonization Roadmap Guide for School Building Decision Makers. A [new guide from the New Buildings Institute](#) can help districts leverage funding for learning spaces that are better for people and the planet. America's K-12 schools currently spend \$12.5 billion per year on energy. Meanwhile,

students are demanding a more hopeful and sustainable future, starting with better learning environments than the many aging, unhealthy, and underfunded school buildings where they currently spend their time. The [Decarbonization Roadmap Guide](#) is designed for school districts stakeholders that are interested in healthy, efficient, carbon neutral schools. It lays out achievable goals and actionable steps to decarbonization in school district portfolios. This guide and associated toolbox provide key elements for creating a roadmap, outlining goals and approaches to consider when key building lifecycle events occur.