

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 03/2023

Business and Workforce Development Grants Virtual Workshop. CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy Team recently opened the 2023 Q1 Business and Workforce Development Grants solicitation. Up to \$8 million is available for eligible business development and workforce development projects, with an additional \$5 million available for biomass transportation subsidy projects. Please join the Wood Products Team on [January 26, 2023, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. PST for a virtual workshop](#). 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, just [use this link to join the meeting on the day of the event](#). For information about the workshop or solicitation, visit CAL FIRE's [Wood Products webpage](#). Please direct any questions to woodproducts@fire.ca.gov.

California Forestry Workforce Summit. The UC Davis Institute of the Environment, in partnership with the Foundation for California Community Colleges' Resilient Careers in Forestry program, will host the [California Forestry Workforce Summit January 31 and February 1, 2023](#) at the UC Davis Conference Center. The event will provide a platform for federal and state leaders to identify challenges and resources for effective, equitable workforce development in forestry and wildfire management, and help Californians prepare for and secure meaningful careers in this vital sector. A broad range of stakeholder groups, including government and tribal representatives, forestry professionals, researchers, college and university administrators, and others interested in forestry, will participate in this critical multilateral dialogue. [Registration](#) is closing soon.

Funding Opportunity for Advanced Prefabricated Zero Carbon Homes. The California Energy Commission will invest up to \$15 million in projects to develop, test, and demonstrate zero-carbon, cost-effective, prefabricated homes that can be readily deployed, particularly in under-resourced communities including California Native American Tribes. Projects that maximize the spending of CEC funds in California will be given preference. The prefabricated housing industry generally has minimal research and product innovation, except in meeting code requirements. By involving key prefabricated and manufactured home industry stakeholders in the development process, they share ownership of the results, and increase the opportunity to gain widespread and immediate market acceptance. Economically integrating energy efficiency solutions at the factory with advancements in manufacturing processes can reduce production costs and make the homes affordable. The results of projects funded by this solicitation can increase cost-effectiveness of energy efficient prefabricated homes in under-resourced communities, including in fire-prone areas. [Pre-Application Workshop \(optional but encouraged\): 31 January, Application Deadline: 17 March](#). Please refer to the CEC's website at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/funding-opportunities/solicitations> to confirm the date and time.

Adding Value to Biomass Power Plants with Biochar. This Biomass Magazine [podcast from Jan 11, 2023 features California's Josiah Hunt, Founder and CEO of Pacific Biochar](#), interviewed by Anna Simet, editor of Biomass Magazine. In November 2020, Pacific Biochar, a leading biochar producer and distributor on the west coast, [secured the first carbon credits for biochar in the United States](#), issued by the blockchain carbon sink platform, [Carbonfuture](#), paving the way for rapid growth of the U.S. biochar industry and the carbon sequestration needed to address climate change. Pacific

Biochar transforms forestry biomass waste collected primarily from high-risk forest fire areas into a stable form of carbon called biochar. They do this by repurposing existing bioenergy infrastructure, which the company believes is the most cost-efficient way to scale up biochar production to meet growing demand and address climate change. Biochar is important for its carbon sequestration ability as well as its ecosystem benefits.

International Mass Timber Conference 2023. After a full year of planning, much anticipation, and even hand-wringing - will there be an in-person event? - the 2022 International Mass Timber Conference was a rousing success. Co-hosted by the [Forest Business Network](#) and [WoodWorks](#), it offered over 2,100 of the top minds in mass timber and stakeholders from every sector the opportunity to trade insights. The International Mass Timber Conference is the largest gathering of mass timber experts in the world, focusing on the entire industry supply chain. The [International Mass Timber Conference on March 27–29, 2023](#) will be the 7th annual event in Portland, Oregon. Explore cross-laminated timber (CLT), nail-laminated timber, glulam, mass plywood panels, dowel-laminated timber, and laminated veneer lumber; and the opportunities and obstacles in global design, construction, development, manufacturing, and more.