

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 13/2023

**Biomass Energy Technology Symposium.** The Placer County Air Pollution Control District will be hosting a Biomass Energy Technology Summit on Monday, May 1st in Roseville, CA. Join a day of presentations and discussions around new conversion technologies that are on the cutting edge of the biomass energy industry. Many technology companies will be present to answer questions and share about their product offerings. Breaks in between presentations will be provided with coffee and snacks. [Please see the agenda and RSVP here.](#)

### **US DOE: Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas (Part A): Community-Scale**

**Demonstrations.** The purpose of this program is to provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions in rural and remote areas that can be replicated and scaled. Program goals include: - Delivering measurable benefits to energy customers in rural or remote areas by supporting replicable energy projects that lower energy costs, improve energy access and resilience, and/or reduce environmental harm; - Demonstrating new rural or remote energy system models using climate-resilient technologies, business structures that promote economic resilience, new financing mechanisms, and/or new community engagement best practices; - Building clean energy knowledge, capacity, and self-reliance in rural America.

The purpose of the [Community-Scale Demonstrations component](#) is to implement clean energy projects that will utilize one or more clean energy technologies that advance resilience and provide other benefits to one or more rural or remote communities. Funding will support projects that demonstrate solutions to barriers that impede broad-scale adoption of clean energy solutions.

**US DOE: Energizing Rural Communities Prize (Part A): Partner Track.** The purpose of this program is to incentivize the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote areas of the country by offering a cash prize pool to kickstart development of clean energy projects. The prize is intended to encourage applicants to take the first steps necessary to develop a clean energy project, and applicants should have an idea for a future project; however, construction is not required as part of the prize.

The purpose of the [Partner Track component](#) is to facilitate new or existing partnerships that enable development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities. Award recipients will create connections that lead to collaborative efforts for the development of clean energy projects in rural or remote communities.

**USFS Releases New Story Map on the Benefits of Forests for Drinking Water.** A new [story map](#) from the USDA Forest Service (USFS) shows how extensively public drinking water systems rely on national forests and grasslands, with tools to explore, query, and visualize the data. The story complements a recent [report](#), the latest product in a long-term project. The story map details the aggregate contribution of the National Forest System and other forested lands across the 48 contiguous states. This map also covers inter-basin transfers, water supply from forests, the public water systems, and how forests provide the cleanest and most stable water supply that can transfer from one geographically distinct area to another. This story map describes the importance, and the impact, forested lands have on the available water supply and its cleanliness. Additional resources are also available to further explore the relationship between the National Forest System and the public water system. Click [here](#) to explore the story map.

**Healthy forest for healthy people.** [March 21 was the International Day of Forests](#). The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. Countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.

The organizers are the [United Nations Forum on Forests](#) and the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\)](#), in collaboration with Governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations in the field.

**The Inflation Reduction Act: An Overview of Clean Energy Provisions and their Impact on Affordable Housing.** The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has many implications for affordable housing, the low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) and renewable energy communities. The IRA provides a historic investment in clean energy and contains a variety of tax incentives, loans and grants to improve energy efficiency and climate resiliency. Though focused on clean energy and climate change, the IRA still has implications for the housing and community development sectors, as [there are a number of provisions that can incentivize the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures](#) in residential and commercial real estate, some of which are targeted to developments in low-income communities.