

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 4/4/2023

**Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance grant announcement.** The USDA announced it is making nearly \$50 million in Forest Service grant funding available through its Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance grants. The U.S. Forest Service is seeking proposals that support crucial links between resilient, healthy forests, strong rural economies, and jobs in the forestry sector. Made possible by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, this funding will spark innovation, create new markets for wood products and renewable wood energy, and expand processing capacity. [Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of Nearly \\$50 Million to Strengthen Forest Products Economy, Forest Sector Jobs as part of Investing in America Agenda | USDA](#). The Forest Service is requesting proposals from eligible entities in the private, non-profit, and government sectors including Tribes, local and state governments, businesses and for-profit entities, institutions of higher education, as well as public utility, fire, conservation, and school districts, among others. For the press release and more information on this funding announcement, visit the Forest Service [Wood Innovations webpage](#). Applications are due in December.

**Community Navigator Program - Building Climate Resilience together.** The USDA Forest Service has started the [Community Navigators Program \(CNP\)](#) to support leaders in historically underserved communities to find and access funding and partnership support. The CNP connects communities to the appropriate resources for building climate resilience when and where they need it most. Collaboration is essential to strengthen community resilience against climate impacts. Developing and executing successful projects requires multiple entities to work together. We've seen incredible progress from applicants working together all over the country in recent months. [From the initial stages of crafting a proposal to the later stages of getting the project on the ground](#), the active involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders are absolutely vital to the project's success. As you move forward in the grant process, consider the power of diverse perspectives. Including a range of ideas and opinions increases your chances of finding the best solutions. Every voice deserves to be heard!

**Report: Long-Term economic Impacts of large Fires in California from 2018-2021: Losses and Opportunities.** California appears to have entered an era of megafires with more wildfires burning hundreds of thousands of acres, and a few individual fires burning over 1 million acres. Lives have been lost, thousands of homes destroyed, and communities forever changed overnight. [This report](#) focuses on impacts of the large fires in 2018 through 2021 on the timber industry sector and characterizes some of the economic impacts caused by these fires. CAL FIRE and USFS engaged Mason, Bruce & Girard (MB&G) to assess forest sector impacts and carbon emissions from large California fires over 10,000 acres in size from 2018 through 2021. [The project focuses on fires within a 40-million-acre area across the North Coast, Cascade Mountains, and Sierra Nevada Mountains](#). Mike Buffo (MB&G) will give a

presentation of the report at the next meeting of the CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Climate Innovation Program Update Workshop.** The California Energy Commission (CEC) will host a workshop to provide an update on development of the Climate Innovation Program, present potential funding topics, and gather public input on solicitation design. Thursday, November 2, 2023, 9:00am - 12:00pm. [Remote Access Only](#).

**State Clean Heat Standards and Pellet/Chip Heating.** Most states now have standards designed to gradually increase the amount of renewable electricity on their grids. Now, some states are looking to do the same for heat, through clean heat standards (CHS). A CHS is a performance standard, requiring heat providers to deliver a gradually-increasing percentage of low-emission heating services to customers. Vermont was the first state in the nation to adopt one, and now Massachusetts is working on one. Four experts at [this webinar](#) hosted by the [Alliance for Green Heat](#) will discuss how they work, how wood, pellet, and chip heating systems may best fit in, and unique equity challenges CHS pose for lower income households. November 9, 8:00am - 9:30am (PST). [Register here](#).