

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 5/0/2023

Climate Innovation Program Update Workshop. The California Energy Commission (CEC) is hosting a [virtual workshop](#) regarding funding opportunities for technologies to address climate change in California’s forest and agriculture sectors. The [Climate Innovation Program](#) was established by AB 209 (2022) and directs the CEC to provide financial incentives to California-headquartered companies for developing and commercializing technologies that help California meet its climate goals – as it relates to both GHG emissions reductions and climate resilience. The CEC is currently developing an investment plan for the program. As of December 2023, CEC staff plan to fund technologies in the following general areas: Grid Reliability (storage, transmission, renewables); Resilient Electrified Communities (buildings, transportation); Industrial Decarbonization (fuel switching, carbon and methane capture and utilization); Healthy Forests (vegetation management, biomass utilization, wildfire detection and response); Resilient Agriculture (biomass and waste reduction and utilization, on-farm renewable energy generation, farm and food processing equipment, soil health and carbon retention). The purpose of the December 12 [Forests and Agriculture Workshop](#) is to seek expert perspectives and public input on technologies to support Healthy Forests and Resilient Agriculture. Information shared and comments received as part of this workshop will help CEC staff as we develop an investment plan and solicitations for the program. The workshop will include a program overview, three panel discussions, and opportunity for public comment and Q&A. Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. [Remote Access only.](#)

California Forest Biomass Pile Data Collection. Produced by [CLERE Inc.](#) and the [Spatial Informatics Group](#), [this new report](#) quantifies forest biomass piles accumulated from 2018 – 2021 and provides an inventory of forest biomass pile material potentially available for wood and biomass utilization. It offers details on the number of forest biomass pile burn permits issued from 2018 - 2021 by CA Air Districts to provide information about open pile burning, prescribed burning, and the total acreage and tonnage of burn piles in CA. Highlights include potentially 150,000 acres of available forest biomass piles, representing approx. 1 million tons of material in piles currently on the landscape, with 78% of it occurring on public lands. Nineteen percent is accessible via existing road networks. The [report](#) and [associated appendices](#) are now available online.

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities Impact Investing Program. The [U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities](#) has announced an RFP for their new Impact Investing Program. The program seeks to deploy up to \$5 million in 2024 through impact investments in companies, funds, or projects that advance systemic, transformative, and sustainable benefits for the health and vitality of working forests and forest-reliant communities in the United States. They welcome proposals that fit the following themes: - Community revitalization: Forest industry-related activities that contribute to the revitalization of forest-reliant communities, particularly in disadvantaged areas. - Forest revitalization: Forest thinning or reforestation activities that contribute to the health and resilience of America’s forest assets. Read the Endowment’s press release [here](#), review the RFP materials [here](#), and share the information with your network. This is a great opportunity for companies and project developers seeking capital on reasonable investment terms. Initial pre-screen submission deadline: January 9, 2024 by 5pm PST. RFP submission deadline: February 13, 2024 by 5pm PST. [For more information see here.](#)

The Carbon Accounting of modern Wood Heat. Join the [Northern Forest Center](#) and [Alliance for Green Heat](#) for a discussion on carbon emissions and modern wood heat systems. They will be joined

by researchers studying this question and will dive into what several life cycle assessments tell us about the climate impacts of modern wood heat, from the forest to the flame. [January 17, 2024 9:00 AM PST](#). In October 2022, the US Forest Service awarded more than [\\$712,000 from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) to the Alliance for Green Heat to expand firewood banks and serve more people. Firewood banks, like food banks, provide a local, renewable, and cost-effective heating source for people in need, including [tribes](#). Along those lines, the Alliance for Green Heat has begun creating safety materials and other resource sheets to help [firewood banks](#) improve education and outreach. Visit their [resources](#) page to download available materials. They also welcome recommendations on wording of these materials and suggestions for new resource sheets.

Community Change Equitable Resilience Program. EPA has launched a new climate resilience technical assistance program. This program, called Community Change Equitable Resilience, will consist of free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops, with the intent to help eligible entities apply for grants under EPA's [Community Change Grants](#) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). EPA intends to offer this technical assistance to up to 50 recipients nationwide. Requests will be accepted on a rolling basis until 50 recipients have been identified. Request this TA through this simple [online form](#). Eligible projects for this technical assistance must be located in a disaster-prone area and benefit a disadvantaged community. The requestor can propose up to three sites for design assistance. Climate resilience projects must have a direct community benefit and could include retrofits to community-serving buildings; design or redesign of public parks, open space, and waterways; redesign of streets; or other projects that address climate resilience and environmental justice. Proposed projects should address climate change impacts such as extreme heat and more intense heat islands, wildfire and wildfire smoke, floods, storms, or other impacts that pose a greater risk to disadvantaged communities.