

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 2/2024

California Biomass Workshop. Solving the state's wood waste challenge to reduce wildfire, support rural economies, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. California is in the grip of a wood waste crisis – one that is expected to become significantly worse as the state ramps up forest treatments in accordance with the Governor's target to treat one million acres per year by 2025. IBank estimates that over 80% of these residues are left to degrade in place, masticated, or piled and burned, resulting in significant carbon and air pollution as well as an ongoing wildfire threat to communities. The goal of [this workshop](#) is to bring together stakeholders from around the state to address this vital resource management challenge in a manner that can drive rural and tribal economic development, non-combustion technology innovation and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. [Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.](#) The Citizen Hotel - 926 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. [Register here.](#)

CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grant Guidelines. CAL FIRE is planning a Business and Workforce Development Grant Solicitation in early 2024 (2024 Q1) that will be funded through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). [Draft Grant Guidelines](#) that address GGRF requirements are now available on the [website](#) for public review and comment. What's new: - Up to \$20 million will be available for Business and Workforce projects; - Only projects that will be completed by March 31, 2026, are eligible; - Updated application; - Additional materials are required in the application; - Additional reporting will be required for grantees. To comment, please email WoodProducts@fire.ca.gov by January 12, 2024, with the subject line "Grant Guidelines Public Comment" to ensure comments are received and reviewed. CAL FIRE plans to open the 2024 Q1 grant solicitation on January 15, 2024, with applications due March 8, 2024. Final grant guidelines, applications, supporting documents, and a recorded workshop will be posted on the [Wood Products and Bioenergy web page](#) when the solicitation opens.

CAL FIRE Forest Health Research Grant Program. CAL FIRE's [Forest Health Research Grant program](#) is now accepting concept proposals. An anticipated \$4.5 million will be awarded to Forest Health Research projects. The [Forest Health Research Grant Guidelines](#) are specific to [this grant solicitation \(RP-RFP-2023-01\)](#) for fiscal year 2023/2024. This program is designed to complement the [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Action Plan](#), the [2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California](#), and the [Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy](#), which propose to protect lives, property, and resources of California and increase the ability of our natural and working lands to survive and mitigate the effects of climate change. A virtual workshop for prospective applicants was hosted on December 21st, 2023. The workshop was recorded and is posted on the [Applicant and Grantee Resources webpage](#). Virtual applicant office hours are also scheduled for Monday, January 22nd at 2 pm ([Register here](#)). Concept Proposals are due January 31st by 3 pm.

Forest Stewardship Story Map. Explore California's forests through the words of landowners and natural resource professionals. The [UC ANR Forest Stewardship Education Initiative](#), which in 2022 received the National Woodland Owners Association Award for the [Outstanding Comprehensive Educational Program to improve Management of Family Owned Forests](#), provides accessible education that empowers California's private forest landowners to [achieve their management goals](#) and address [post-wildfire issues](#). 24 cohorts of forest landowners have completed the [Forest Stewardship Workshop Series](#), which offers landowners a free site visit from a California Certified Range Manager, Burn Boss, or Registered Professional Forester (RPF) upon completion of the nine-

week series. The [Forest Stewardship Story Map](#) is a compilation of stories from past Forest Stewardship Workshop participants and forestry professionals throughout California. The map is a working tool for landowners to explore experiences of others in the wide-ranging forestry community.

Made of Air - In Business to reverse Climate Change. From wood waste to biochar and carbon-negative compounds: that's the process developed by [Made of Air](#). They create materials that can replace traditional high emitters like fossil plastics and aluminum in the built environment and consumer goods. 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. In 2021, the bioplastic was used to clad a [car dealership in Munich](#) with the installation storing 14 tons of carbon. [Learn about Made of Air in under a minute.](#)