

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 17/2024

**2024 Biomass Utilization Symposium.** The [2024 SMEDD Biomass Utilization Symposium](#) will bring together industry, academia, Tribes, government, and community-based organizations to explore the opportunities and challenges of implementing forest biomass utilization projects for fire safety, forest health, renewable energy, and wood products, and supporting the appropriate growth of sustainable, stewardship-based, rural economic development. Themes: Fire Safety, Forest Health, Wood Products, Renewable Energy and Sustainable, Stewardship-based, Rural Economic Development. May 2 & 3, 2024, Hopland, CA. [Register here](#).

**Wood Innovations Grantee Spotlight Session - Firewood Banks.** The US Forest Service Wood Innovations program invites to the next Grantee Spotlight Session. For this session, support to firewood banks authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be highlighted. The Forest Service has partnered with the [Alliance for Green Heat](#) (AGH) to fund [80 firewood banks](#) in 24 states over the past two years. Applications for this year's funding will open on May 1<sup>st</sup>, so this is a great opportunity to learn more about the program. Get an overview of the firewood bank grant program from AGH, and then hear from two recipients of firewood bank grants: the Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California and Gold Country Senior Services. April 30, 2024, 10am – 11am PDT. [Register here](#). Note: The series is open to the public and not just Wood Innovations program grant recipients.

**PG&E Foundation funding available.** The [Better Together Nature Positive Innovation](#) grant program will award \$500,000 total this year – five \$100,000 grants, one in each region of PG&E's service area, to fund projects that will promote protecting and restoring land, water, and air in habitats and communities. The [Resilience Hubs](#) grant program will award \$400,000 in grants in total this year—at both the \$25,000 level (Feasibility Projects) and \$100,000 level (Design and Build Projects)—to support the development of local “resilience hubs” aimed at providing a physical space or set of resources that supports community resilience—such as access to power, shelter, and information—to climate-driven extreme weather events, including wildfires, as well as future Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. Eligible applicants include government organizations (including tribal governments), educational institutions, and certified 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. Applications for both programs are due by June 7, 2024.

**Procuring Biomass from National Forests in California.** The US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, State, Private & Tribal Forestry has put together a resource on the basics of procuring wood and biomass from National Forests. The intended audience is new businesses looking to enter the forest products industry and others who are interested in learning more about accessing forest products from National Forests. This is an entry level informational guide and is not meant to replace any official laws or policies. Link to the report: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1170862.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1170862.pdf).

**Forest Business Alliance Guide Book.** The [Forest Business Alliance](#) provides technical assistance, workshops, and a peer-learning network to increase local and regional capacity for applicants to [CAL FIRE's Business and Workforce Development Program](#). It now released the first chapter of their Guide to Forest Business Development at [forestbiz.info](https://forestbiz.info). The [Analysis chapter](#) examines funding for CAL FIRE's Business and Workforce Development Program through Q3 2023. New chapters will be added to the guidebook in the next few months. Suggestions and feedback are all welcome. Note that in the upper right of the site, you can download any chapter in the guide and switch to dark mode using the icons.

**Save the Date.** 2024 Biomass Energy Symposium. Local engagement to enhance forest biomass residual utilization in the Western Central Sierra. June 26, 8am – 5pm. Maidu Community Center, 1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville, CA.