

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 4/2019

**A Carbonator is coming to town.** 2019 ROI Air Curtain Carbonator 500 ([YouTube video](#)) and Biochar Promotional Tour, dates and locations: [Wallowa, OR \(Wednesday, January 23rd\)](#); [Fossil, OR \(Monday, January 28th\)](#); [Lebanon, OR \(Wednesday, January 30th\)](#); [Lakeview, OR \(Friday, February 1st\)](#); [Oroville, CA \(Wednesday, February 6th\)](#); [World AG Expo, Tulare, CA \(February 12-14\)](#). The northern California demonstration on February 6th will be hosted by Butte College in Oroville. The demonstration will convert fire damaged wood from the Camp Fire to biochar for carbon sequestration and soil improvement. It will be held on the [college campus](#) at the intersection of Highway 191 (Clark Road) and the Durham Pentz Highway.

**Waste to Wisdom.** Waste to Wisdom is an innovative biomass research project led by Humboldt State University to make better use of forest residues from timber harvests and thinning by using new equipment, operations, and technologies that can turn that biomass into valuable bioenergy and bio-based products. [Their webinar series http://wastetowisdom.com/webinars/](http://wastetowisdom.com/webinars/) includes topics like Economics of transportable Biomass Conversion Facilities for producing Biochar, Briquettes, and torrefied Wood utilizing Forest Harvest Residues; Life Cycle Assessment and Economics of Biochar from Forest Residues; Life Cycle Assessment and Economics of torrefied Biomass; Production of quality Feedstock from Forest Residues for emerging Biomass Conversion Technologies; Biochar Production using Forest Residuals; Evaluation of Economic and environmental Benefits from utilizing Forest Residues.

**Why wood construction is making a comeback.** While it was one of the first and most common materials used to make things, when it comes to buildings larger than a log cabin, wood has been on the outs for more than a century. Due in part to an aversion from using it on safety grounds, following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and because of the superior strength and relative inexpensiveness of steel following the Industrial Revolution, wood has been relegated to a part-time role in smaller residential construction in the United States. [But that could all be changing.](#)

**2019 California Mass Timber Building Competition.** GovOps will award \$500,000 in grants to selected design and development teams (commercial and residential) pursuing mid-rise and high-rise mass timber buildings in two California municipalities <https://www.govops.ca.gov/2018/11/07/2019-california-mass-timber-building-competition/>.

**International Mass Timber Conference.** The 2019 International Mass Timber Conference will be held March 19–21, in Portland, Oregon, at the Oregon Convention Center <https://www.masstimberconference.com/>.

**Thermoelectric Wood Stoves, Solar Power, and the 2018 Wood Stove Design Challenge.** Could the marriage of residential solar photovoltaic and thermoelectric wood stoves soon be a reality? The results of the 2018 Wood Stove Design Challenge suggest that it just might be, and [a productive marriage at that!](#)

**Fire Adaptation Public Policy: West Coast Updates:** 2018 marked a feverish year of drafting and passing wildfire-related policies in the state of California. Fresh on the heels of the 2017 wine country wildfires, and the Thomas Fire, lawmakers and constituents explored options ranging from regulatory reforms to budget appropriations. They considered numerous facets of wildfire management, including promoting

fire adapted communities, increasing landscape resilience and improving fire response. [California clarifies prescribed Fire Liability, invests in Fuels Removal, and focuses on Community-Level Work.](#)

**Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network.** To live better with fire, we need to adapt to fire. That's where the concept of Fire Adapted Communities comes into play. Local people learning and working together is the foundation of fire adaptation. Learning and working together builds community capacity and resilience. Today the network includes two dozen core members and more than 120 affiliates. Together, FAC Net and its partners are changing the way people relate to wildfire. They are connecting people to resources, and to other practitioners, so they can reduce their wildfire risk and increase community resilience. [A change in our fire management paradigm requires a change in culture, and the FAC Net is helping lead that change.](#)

**DID YOU KNOW?** The California ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group is now on Twitter. It's still a fledgling, hatched early this year <https://twitter.com/CAFBWG>.