

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 21/2021

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. California Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot and U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester Randy Moore relaunched the next iteration of the Governor’s Forest Management Taskforce, the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, on May 20, 2021. They were joined by CalEPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld, OPR Director Kate Gordon, CAL FIRE Director Thom Porter, CSAC President James Gore, RCRC Chair Stacy Corless, and Don Hankins of the Intertribal Indigenous Stewardship Project in serving as the new Executive Committee of the Task Force. The recording of the webinar will be made available on the revamped [website of the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force](#), where you can find the [Organizational Charter](#) as well as comprehensive [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#).

Mass Timber Design Manual. Mass timber is a must-know building system for architecture, engineering, and construction professionals. To inform experts and novices alike, [WoodWorks](#) and [Think Wood](#) have created their first Mass Timber Design Manual, an interactive resource offering 90+ pages of the most up-to-date information on topics from products and design best practices, to taller wood construction and sustainability. [Download the manual here](#).

The Economics of US Forests as a Natural Climate Solution. Considering the increased focus on the role of forests in meeting ambitious global commitments to address climate change, [this webinar](#) provided recent results from leading forest economic models that estimate the costs and potential of carbon sequestration in U.S. forests. Presentations provided U.S. scale estimates of forest-based mitigation potential and costs for various activities (afforestation, reforestation, forest management, rotation extensions), as well as at the regional, county and mill-shed scale for relevant activities. A panel discussion focused on how to move from ambition to reality on the landscape with experts on market design and implementation.

How embodied Carbon and Life Cycle Analysis can support Decisions in an Architectural Project. [Each building is unique with materials, location, etc.](#) To develop effective comparisons between buildings, adequate info on the performance of current buildings is needed as a reference using the same scope and parameters. To create effective goals for future sustainable buildings, it is essential to have adequate information on the performance of current buildings, which can be used as a reference. In order to build a database of existing information, built-in carbon assessments need to be conducted consistently, with the same scope and parameters. [The UBC Embodied Carbon Pilot: Study of whole building life cycle assessment processes at the University of British Columbia](#) illuminates nine embedded carbon assessments conducted on three campus buildings. The report shows some variations according to its three chosen tools: [Athena IE4B](#), [One Click LCA](#), and [Embodied Carbon Calculator for Construction \(EC3\)](#). The research provides a better understanding of the challenges, tradeoffs, and information gaps found by project teams in the development of accurate bills of materials (lists of materials to categorize and quantify specific building materials), and the effect they have on the resulting embedded carbon impacts.

Current Methods for Life Cycle Analyses of Low-Carbon Transportation Fuels in the United States.

Low carbon fuel standards, such as the Federal Renewable Fuel Standard and the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard, are major U.S. programs for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation fuels. These standards rely on life cycle assessment (LCA) as a tool to estimate fuel GHG emissions. However, current LCAs differ notably in how they are implemented, with disagreements pertaining to data quality, modeling approaches, and key assumptions. This methodological assessment aims to develop a reliable and coherent approach for applying LCA to low carbon fuel standards. A first (virtual) meeting of the Committee on [Current Methods for Life Cycle Analyses of Low Carbon Transportation Fuels in the United States](#) will be held on June 1, 2021 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (Eastern). Register [here](#) if interested in attending the public session.

DID YOU KNOW? [We can 3D-print wood now](#). The technology uses two byproducts from the wood industry. The process spreads thin layers of sawdust, and inkjets a nontoxic binder (including lignin, the part of natural wood that helps hold it together) to recreate the grain of wood layer by layer. Unlike particle board or laminate, the grain goes fully through the material, so it can be sanded and refinished like wood. [A product like a chair or bowl can also be printed in its finished form, without waste](#). Since the first [3D printed homes](#) are going on sale, maybe the two technologies can be combined?