

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 19/2022

Ribbon Cutting for Indian Valley Wood Utilization Campus. The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment is pleased to announce the [opening of a new, community-scale sawmill](#) operated by J&C Enterprises and funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy at the restored Indian Valley Wood Utilization Campus in Crescent Mills, CA.

Please join on Wednesday, May 18th, [15690 CA-89, Crescent Mills, CA](#), from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM for a celebratory event with speakers, food trucks, informational booths, and a ribbon cutting ceremony. We look forward to bringing Indian Valley residents and Sierra Institute partners together in person to celebrate the new sawmill and learn about how the burgeoning wood campus will contribute to our local restoration economy and post-Dixie Fire recovery.

The site will open at 1:00 PM for parking and lunch at local food trucks; the program starts at 2:00 PM. Please make sure to [RSVP](#). Visit www.sierrainstitute.us for more information, or call (530) 284-1022 with any questions. This event is located at an industrial site, outdoors and exposed to the elements. Closed-toed shoes are recommended, and be sure to check the weather for sun, heat, or high winds—come prepared with your hat, sunglasses, coat, a full water bottle, and cash for lunch at the food trucks!

Workshop: Forest Biomass Utilization in the Pacific Northwest - Innovative Research enables Business Success. This [workshop](#) will provide insights into bridging gaps between forest biomass research, product development, and successful biomass utilization in the Pacific NW to enable higher value products. The workshop will align innovation, wildfire risk reduction, and economic development with public land management priorities and Forest Service policies. Objectives: 1) Review recent research in innovative biomass utilization in the Pacific NW region; 2) Identify successful case studies, product development, and innovative practices for forest-based businesses; 3) Consider next steps to promote bio-economy development in the Pacific NW. This is a free virtual workshop - no registration is needed. [May 25 and May 26, 2022, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM PT](#). See the [agenda](#).

Request for Proposals: Wood Wool Cement Products and Wood Fiber Insulation Feasibility Analysis. The Council of Western State Foresters ([CWSE](#)) Forest Products Committee ([FPC](#)) requests proposals from qualified respondents to research, prepare, and present a written report and presentation format summary on [wood wool cement products and wood fiber insulation](#). The rollout of the national Infrastructure Law represents an opportunity to align expected woody biomass removals with feedstock requirements of wood wool cement and wood fiber insulation manufacturing facilities. Successful responses to this RFP will investigate anticipated biomass feedstock removals, including quantity and quality, how these expected feedstocks align with process and production requirements for wood wool cement products and wood fiber insulation, and include required capital investment, manufacturing processes, and current and potential domestic markets. Successful respondents to this RFP will also include key financial, regulatory, certification, and adoption barriers. The RFP is available [here](#). The submission deadline is June 30, 2022 4:00 pm MDT.

Branching Out: Waste Biomass Policies to promote Wildfire Resilience and Emission Reduction. In response to California's devastating wildfires over the past several years, government and private landowners are removing more debris and residual material from forested areas, such as removing dead trees and creating fire breaks. One strategy to improve vegetation management outcomes is to

support markets for this residual material through wood products, chips and mulch, or other end uses. Policy makers are considering financial, permitting, and research programs to incentivize these end use markets, which can support more wildfire resilience and reduce fossil fuel usage from offsetting traditional production of these products. To advance this conversation, the [Center for Law, Energy & the Environment](#) (CLEE) convened a small group of experts in late 2021 to discuss opportunities to improve the market for debris material. CLEE's new policy report "[Branching Out: Waste Biomass Policies to Promote Wildfire Resilience and Emission Reduction](#)" recommends various pathways for establishing a sustainable market for this material.

Developing an Embodied Carbon Policy Reduction Calculator. A growing number of cities are committed to tackling the urgent challenge of their built environment carbon footprint through their policies and programs. 110 cities took the Cities [Race to Zero](#) Clean Construction pledges to reduce embodied emissions in their policies and programs in 2021, and 40 leading cities are participating in the [C40 Clean Construction](#) program and mayors are setting the direction of travel by signing the Clean Construction Declaration, which requires collective action to halve embodied emissions by 2030. However, embodied carbon is a new policy area for many cities and the lack of city-level data on embodied carbon is a significant barrier for policymakers to gain political support and make informed decisions. The [Developing an Embodied Carbon Policy Reduction Calculator](#) report summarizes findings from the development of a proof-of-concept calculator and pilot study focused on estimating the carbon savings potentials of city-wide embodied carbon policies.