

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 23/2024

**California German Bioenergy Conference.** Discover the intersection of innovation and sustainability at this upcoming bioenergy conference in Berkeley. Throughout the day, keynote speakers from California and Germany will illuminate the path forward, offering insights into the latest advancements in sustainable biomass production, biogas technologies, and policy frameworks. Engage with thought leaders as they explore the dynamic landscape of bioenergy, from cutting-edge research to practical applications, and uncover opportunities to drive positive change in the energy sector. This conference is part of a trade mission by German experts and companies from the bioenergy sector to California hosted by the German American Chamber of Commerce and funded and supported by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Action. The conference will include presentations from German and Californian industry experts and researchers. The exchange of industry insights, best practices, and the promotion of partnerships between California and Germany (Europe) is the overall mission of the event. Tuesday, June 11, 10am - 5pm PDT. [More information and registration here.](#)

**Building a Forestry and Wood Products Investment Pipeline for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.** The [U.S. EPA's \\$20 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#) is a financing project opportunity in the forestry and wood products sector, where funds will be used to capitalize green banks and community lenders for projects that reduce greenhouse gases. Project developers, partnerships, non-profits, local governments, and for-profit companies should submit projects that deliver significant greenhouse gas reductions, will repay investment through a credible revenue stream, and that will be ready to receive investment within the next 12 months. Eligible projects include: *agroforestry and sustainable land-use practices; biochar; forest conservation and sustainable forest management; mass timber and sustainable construction materials; reforestation and afforestation projects; and sustainable packaging.* Quantified Ventures, with support from the [U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities](#), has launched a national [Request for Information \(RFI\) to build a pipeline for forestry and wood products](#) to receive GGRF investment. Quantified Ventures is offering transaction support development for projects submitted by [June 16, 2024](#). Identified priority projects will receive support from Quantified Ventures for further development, technical assistance, and investment structuring to help secure investment from GGRF awarded entities in late 2024 and early 2025.

**Biomass Supply Symposium.** Local engagement to enhance forest biomass residual utilization in the Western Central Sierra. Discuss the future of biomass; Network with industry leaders and local and state officials; Gain insights into initiatives shaping the forefront of forest and fuels management. [June 26, 8am – 5pm. Maidu Community Center, 1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville, CA. Agenda and registration here.](#)

**Wood Innovations projects in California receive \$12.7M in Grants Funding.** Wood Innovations, Community Wood, and Wood Product Infrastructure Assistance funding awards were announced on May 15<sup>th</sup>. [California will receive \\$12.7 million](#) to invest in 26 grants, including three tribal projects, as part of a nationwide \$47 million investment made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. These grants are meant to spark innovation, create new markets for wood products and renewable wood energy from sustainably sourced wood, and increase the capacity of wood processing facilities. This includes expanding modern wood use — as construction material in commercial buildings, as an energy source, and as manufacturing and processing for wood products used in framing homes and more.

**Pioneer Community Energy local Feed-In Tariff (Local-FIT) program.** Pioneer Community Energy is launching a [local Feed-In Tariff \(Local-FIT\) program](#) that offers developers incentives to build biomass and small hydro projects in its service territory. For communities in the Sierra foothills, biomass energy provides many benefits — such as reducing wildfire risk and providing clean, renewable, baseload electricity that supports grid resiliency. The fuel for biomass energy is abundantly available in these communities rather than being shipped from around the world. The Pioneer Local-FIT program advances its mission to be a community partner in reliable energy solutions and support the local economy. To qualify for participation in the Local-FIT program, the project must: Be in [Pioneer’s service territory](#); Be between 1-3 MW capacity; Be biomass or small hydro; Use Pioneer’s pro-forma 20-year Power Purchase Agreement.

**Wood-based Economic Development webinar series.** This is a four-part Forestry Webinars series on wood-based economic development, sponsored by Southern Regional Extension Forestry. While some of it will be more or less specific to the South of the US, basic economic principles and business concepts hold true across regions. [Expanding Forestry Markets- How is it done?](#) May 21, 2024, 11:00 am; [How do you recruit Wood-based Businesses?](#) May 28, 2024, 10:00 am; [The Fundamentals of Workforce Development in Forestry.](#) June 25, 2024, 11:00 am; [Where do you find Clients and who can help You? Forest Economic Development Allies.](#) July 10, 2024, 10:00 am. Recordings are available shortly after the webinars on the respective pages.