

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 27/2024

**Forest Service Wood Innovations Grantee Spotlight – Mass Timber.** The Forest Service Wood Innovations program is inviting to the next [Grantee Spotlight Session](#). For this session, mass timber projects that have been supported through Wood Innovations Grants will be highlighted. The Forest Service has invested significantly in the development of the American mass timber industry and sees it as a critical component in supporting forest health and wildfire prevention, strengthening rural economies, and developing affordable housing solutions. Hear about three projects funded by Wood Innovations Grants: an affordable housing mass timber building in Iowa; a tool for researching and tracking regional wood products to improve decision-making in the building industry; and a cross-laminated timber (CLT) manufacturer and modular home builder in Colorado. July 9, 2024 at 10am PDT, [register here](#).

**Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program.** The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) has released the [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#), Application Questions, and Application Interest Survey for the Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program. The Factory-Built Housing (FBH) Pre-Development Pilot Program (Pre-Development Program) has \$12 million available for competitive grant awards in this funding round. Awarded applicants may receive funding between \$1 million to \$4 million for the two-year grant term. The Factory-Built Housing Pre-Development Pilot Program (Pre-Development Program) will support FBH manufacturers applying for [the US Department of Energy Loan Programs Office \(LPO\) Title 17 Program](#) to expand or establish new factories in California. DOE's Title 17 Program funds projects in the United States that support clean infrastructure and energy, along with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution. Successful completion of the Title 17 process unlocks more than \$100 million in loans from the DOE's Loan Programs Office. Applicants must be developing projects to build new and/or expand, retrofit, or repurpose one or more existing FBH manufacturing facilities in California that produce an energy-efficient end-use product and advance co-benefits such as energy efficiency, affordability, and community and workforce benefits. The Pre-Development Program will support applicants who have passed Part I of the Title 17 Application Process and are embarking on Part II, by funding the project's pre-development activities such as creating a community benefits plan, site planning, and engineering costs. Entities interested in applying to the program should submit the [Application Interest Survey](#). The application portal for the Pre-Development Program will open on Submittable, a free application platform, on Aug. 4, 2024. Applications will be due on Oct. 1, 2024 before 4 p.m. The Application Questions support potential applicants interested in the Pre-Development Program. The application on Submittable may differ slightly. Visit the [SGC website](#) for the full Notice of Funding Application (NOFA) and more information on the program.

**A Manual for Biochar Carbon Removal.** Created by the [International Biochar Initiative](#) (IBI) and [HAMERKOP](#), this new [e-book](#) provides a roadmap for biochar producers, investors, and stakeholders keen on understanding the intricacies of biochar carbon removal certification. The goal is to offer practical insights and comparisons to assist producers and investors in selecting the most appropriate approach for their specific biochar projects. The guide provides an overview of the various methodologies established by existing certification standards, and provides access to an Introduction to biochar; Biochar's current standing in the voluntary carbon market; the variables of biochar production, feedstocks, technology, and more; guidance for the design of biochar projects; Guidance to select the right biochar carbon standards methodology for a project; Cost comparisons by standard; and main steps for biochar carbon removal certification. The goal is to offer practical insights and comparisons to assist producers and investors in selecting the most appropriate approach for their specific biochar

projects. Whether you are a biochar producer aiming to demonstrate the environmental benefits of your practices or an investor considering opportunities in carbon markets, this handbook is designed to equip you with the necessary knowledge and guidance to navigate the certification process effectively. [This publication](#) will be updated periodically to keep pace with this rapidly developing industry.

**Biomass Tracking System – Development.** The California State Department of Conservation (Department) requires the services of a contractor to support the Department in the development of a [biomass tracking/chain of custody system](#) to be developed in collaboration with the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation (Joint Institute), Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), Air Resources Board (CARB), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR). You are invited to review and respond to this Request for Proposal (RFP), entitled [4023-015 Biomass Tracking System - Development](#). In submitting your proposal, you must comply with these instructions listed herein. The Department must receive proposals by July 12, 2024 by 2:00 PM.

**Mobile/Modular Wood Processing Technologies.** [This document](#) provides examples of currently available technologies for processing forest biomass on a modular/mobile scale. They are representative of technologies and are not to be considered as endorsement of particular manufacturers or being vetted. The target audience of this document are communities, Resource Conservation Districts, FireSafe Councils, land managers, and other entities that are looking for options to utilize their forest management residue, short of building a stationary bioenergy plant that takes many years to permit, finance, and build. For land managers who are implementing forest management activities in remote areas, away from major roads, or on small tracts of land, large investments in stationary assets are impractical as well as infeasible due to limited access to markets for potential products. With no revenue to balance expenses, the common practice is often to pile and burn residuals as the least cost option. The purpose of [this document](#) is to provide an overview for a range of processing equipment currently available to convert woody biomass on-site into a variety of products instead of just burning it. “Range” in this context generally encompasses purchase price, equipment size, feedstock consumption and sizing, as well as a variety of products. Each project site has specific circumstances, including but not limited to availability, accessibility, quality, and volume of feedstock, proximity to demand centers for products, operating and maintenance constraints, as well as financial capabilities. The modular and mobile equipment listed here can provide opportunities to evaluate distributed, scalable, and/or temporary use cases for forest biomass while at the same time mitigating the risk of large stranded assets. These technologies may also provide opportunities for communities to utilize wood waste while determining the scope and scale of potential stationary facilities.