

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 5/2025

California Infrastructure Map and Wood Products Site Planning Tool: This new [web app](#) can be used to understand the proximity of critical infrastructure to existing and potential wood products-related businesses in the State of California. The data featured in this tool come from a variety of authoritative sources and provide information on the location and characteristics of infrastructure in addition to the nature and extent of dominant vegetation lifeforms, public land ownership, relevant regulatory bodies, and the condition of local economies. It was developed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Fire and Resource Assessment Program for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF), the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation, and their collaborators. See the [How-to-Use Guide here](#).

USDA announces Key Natural Resources and Environment Appointments to lead on Wildfire Prevention. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [has announced key appointments](#) by President Donald J. Trump to support his administration's focus on forest management, wildfire prevention, and natural resource conservation. Ahead of the President's visit to California to assess wildfire damage, these appointments highlight a renewed dedication to protecting communities, enhancing forest health, and ensuring responsible stewardship of natural resources. USDA's [Natural Resources and Environment \(NRE\)](#) mission area oversees the [U.S. Forest Service](#) and the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#), ensuring the sustainable management of the nation's forests, grasslands, and watersheds. USDA NRE supports proactive forest management to reduce wildfire risks, conserve ecosystems, and maintain the health and productivity of 193 million acres of public lands.

Webinar: Leveraging the unique Position of the Forestry Sector in the Carbon Sphere: The Westervelt Company is a private, family-owned land stewardship company that has managed forest resources for almost 140 years. With more than a half-million acres of forest currently under management, Westervelt has established itself as a leader in sustainable forestry, responsibly sourced timber products, ecological mitigation services, hunting and recreation, and natural resource conservation. The company is headquartered in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with offices throughout the United States and in New Zealand. The Westervelt Company's Sustainability and Government Relations team will share insights into how a private land management company is navigating the realm of carbon in today's markets and socio-political climate. Westervelt is proud to be a leader in an industry that provides nature-based climate solutions and will discuss how they promote this facet of their business to policymakers, environmental organizations, and the general public. They will discuss some of their internal efforts in greenhouse gas accounting and available carbon accounting tools as well as emerging technologies in which they are engaged. They will discuss leveraging legislation and where policymakers can increase nature-based climate solutions to have tangible impacts on climate change. [February 13, 2025, 9:00am PST](#).

TimberHP Virtual Factory Tour: [TimberHP](#) is the first and only manufacturer of Wood Fiber Insulation in the USA. Their extensive Resources section includes a [Technical Library](#), [Video Library](#), the [Beyond R-Value blog](#), and much more. In their recent Beyond R-Value Webinar: Product Update & Virtual Mill Tour they provided a brief reflection on 2024 milestones, including product updates and advancements in [TimberFill](#). Plus, a preview of what's ahead for 2025, such as the anticipated 7.25" [TimberBatt](#) launch.

Behind the Scenes: A virtual mill tour, showcasing how their products are made, with visuals including a [UMaine video](#) and a detailed photo walkthrough.

Really cool roofs: How breakthrough materials can save lives, carbon, and money in a warming world. [Passive Daytime Radiative Cooling](#) (PDRC) products can cool even during the daytime, even when exposed to direct sunlight, and without any energy input. They take full advantage of the physical properties of radiation. PDRC solutions have been developed in many forms, including coatings, thin films, fabrics, cellulosic microfibers, [porous structures \(like delignified wood\)](#), and aerogels. While painting roofs white to cool buildings has been standard practice in hot climates like the Mediterranean for generations, PDRC-equipped roofs take things one step further. PDRC materials don't just reflect the sun's rays back, they are both highly reflective and highly emissive. They emit more heat than they absorb by taking advantage of longwave infrared thermal radiation — in a nutshell, they can bypass Earth's "greenhouse" and send the sun's heat back into space. This means that PDRC solutions are able to radiate heat even with the sun beating down on them and can reduce surface temperature to at or below ambient outdoor temperatures. Their almost magical-seeming, counter-intuitive properties mean that a PDRC material is cooler when placed outside in the sun than it would be inside in the shade.