

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 6/2025

Return To Log Values for California's North Coast Region. Return To Log (RTL) is a methodology for estimating the economic value a manufacturing technology confers to the wood fiber used as the raw material. In the simplest terms, RTL analysis involves subtracting the cost of manufacturing from the value of the products produced. The remaining amount, if greater than zero, is the price the manufacturing process can afford to pay for raw material (delivered to the plant site) and break even. RTL values are determined at sawmills and veneer/plywood plants to help managers understand which log types are most valuable for their operations. Mills sort logs by length, diameter, species, and grade, then process them to track the value and volume of products produced. [This new report](#) investigates various wood-based manufacturing technology scenarios selected as appropriate for development in Northern California. For each selected technology an RTL analysis was completed to evaluate the economic return on raw materials.

Woodsmoke Reduction Program. The California [Woodsmoke Reduction Program](#) is part of [California Climate Investments](#) (CCI), a Statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. The [Program Guidelines](#) set maximum incentive levels per property or household. The cost of both the physical heating devices and installation of those devices has increased since the Guidelines were last modified. The difference between these increased costs and the incentive amounts as specified in the Program Guidelines is significant enough that many priority population Applicants are unable to participate in the Program. To better reflect current pricing and ultimately encourage priority population participation, CARB is proposing to increase the maximum Enhanced Incentives from \$10,000 to \$12,000 for electric heat pump installations and from \$5,000 to \$7,000 for [eligible wood stoves, pellet stoves](#), or electric heating devices. CARB is accepting public comments on the maximum Enhanced Incentives aspect of the Draft Program Guidelines modified on January 27, 2025, for a 30-day public comment period ending February 27, 2025. Submit comments on Maximum Enhanced Incentives aspect to woodsmokereduction@arb.ca.gov.

Tuolumne Biomass Public Open House. Tuesday, March 11th from 11 am to 2 pm. [Take a tour](#) and see how their facility is contributing to local forest management and creating jobs in Tuolumne County. [Heartwood Biomass](#), through its subsidiary Tuolumne Biomass LLC, is operating a new forest products manufacturing facility centered entirely around monetizing small-diameter logs generated from forest restoration projects in Tuolumne County, CA. Building on 14 years of experience of an existing facility in NE Oregon, the project will primarily produce bundled firewood, agricultural posts and poles, and residual chips for a range of end uses (e.g., biomass energy, particleboard), using 30,000 tons of forest restoration biomass per year and directly employing over 19 people starting year 1, with job growth anticipated over time. The project also includes a biomass energy component to expand the facility's production capabilities by designing, installing, and operating an integrated energy system that uses wood waste to fuel a highly-efficient Combined Heat and Power system, chip drying system, and firewood kilns.

Forest Carbon Data Visualization. Originally launched in 2022, the revamped [Forest Carbon Data Visualization](#) includes a [new module](#) on sustainability and forest age-class distributions, updated US Forest Service data sets, and an improved user experience. The National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) invested in this educational material because they believe a mutual understanding of these

complicated concepts and data will lead to better policy outcomes. Explore this updated resource to deepen your own understanding or share the climate benefits of sustainable forestry practices.

Natural Harmony: Solid Wood's Role in a Neurodiverse World. A recently released white paper looks at practical tips on how solid wood supports the needs of people living with neurodiversity. With insights drawn from over twenty years of design experience and personal understanding as a parent of an autistic child, the author of this [white paper](#) advocates for the thoughtful incorporation of solid wood furniture in spaces to support various neurological needs. It emphasizes the importance of understanding neurodiversity, including conditions such as autism and dementia, and how natural materials can positively impact individual well-being and comfort.