

## CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 10/2025

**Development of a Biomass Tracking System for the State of California – Public Hearing:** This is the second of three public meetings on the development of a secure, scalable, open-access, and low-cost biomass tracking system for California. This system aims to improve data visibility, transparency, and trust among stakeholders while ensuring alignment with existing policies such as the Board of Forestry's Forest Practice Rules and the Air Resources Board's Low Carbon Fuel Standard. The recommendations for this system are being developed by Carbon Direct in consultation with an interagency working group that includes representatives from the California Air Resources Board, Department of Conservation, Energy Commission, Public Utilities Commission, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and CAL FIRE. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity to learn more about the project and share input. March 6th, 2025, from 4:00-5:30 PM PST. Please register to attend through the Joint Institute for Wood Product Innovation's [Virtual Meeting Link](#).

**Biomass Utilization in the Central Sierra Public Workshop:** Join the Mariposa RCD for an exciting event focused on exploring the potential of forest biomass utilization in the Central Sierra region. This public workshop will bring together experts, stakeholders, and community members to discuss innovative ways to harness the power of forest biomass for a sustainable future. Areas of Focus: Regional Forest Biomass Feedstock Supply; Forestry Workforce Development; Coordinated Biomass Management; and Local Government Involvement. There is limited availability for in person attendance! March 24, 11am - 3pm PDT, Sonora, CA. Please RSVP if you plan to attend this workshop [in person](#) or if you would like to attend [virtually](#).

**Promoting Forest-Sector Business & Workforce Development.** The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is soliciting applications for California business and workforce development projects that support healthy, resilient forests and the people and ecosystems that depend on them. Competitive projects will also sequester carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Applications will be accepted until midnight on April 25, 2025, via the [Wood Products and Bioenergy webpage](#). A total of \$5 million in grant funding is available. CAL FIRE's Wood Products & Bioenergy Program supports the creation of a robust and diversified wood products industry to facilitate the economic and sustainable management of California's forests. These grants help make California a more competitive place to conduct forest-sector business and create financial incentives for industries to invest in clean technologies, develop innovative ways to process wood products, and support the growth of a strong forest-sector workforce. Since 2022, the program has provided over \$80 million in grant funding for 94 projects.

**How can California pay for Wildfire Prevention at Scale?** To reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, California must invest billions of new dollars each year into key actions including forest thinning, prescribed fire, defensible space, home hardening, and more. Yet for all of our ambition, a key question remains: where does the money come from? In this [technical blog post](#), the authors from [Net-Zero California](#) analyze five potential state-controlled funding options, including: (i) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) revenues; (ii) avoided wildfire carbon credits; (iii) vehicle miles traveled (VMT) mitigation banks; (iv) new insurance mechanisms; and (v) a new biomass economy. They find that while each option has potential in different settings, a new biomass economy producing high-value products from wood waste may be the only option capable of supporting forest treatments at scale. VMT mitigation banks could also be effective for incentivizing buffer zones in wildland-urban areas, such as Greater LA and the Bay Area. GGRF can provide near-term support in both cases. They identify policy

needs to enable a sustainable forest bioeconomy and VMT mitigation banks in California. Importantly, both strategies are policy focused and would require little, if any, support from California's General Fund.

**Tahoe Wood Company gives Caldor Fire Logs new Life.** Colby Albino at [Well Rounded Wood Co.](#) is salvaging logs from the Caldor Fire and giving them new life. In doing so, he hopes to redefine lumber sourcing regionally. "Natural disasters happen and it is a significant thing to be able to salvage something from a natural disaster rather than letting it completely die," Albino says. "It gives that tree, the spirit of the tree, a longer life to live on." The trees have taken on new life in the form of furniture, guitars, cabinets, wall paneling, and lumber for both interior and exterior projects. Albino helped salvage logs from properties on Echo Summit and also allowed people to drop their own salvaged logs to him. It provided a cheaper option for those looking to offload the burned logs compared to hauling logs to a biomass center. His company has salvaged 200 logs since the start of the endeavor. Each salvaged log helps the community and helps the forest. Additionally, Albino hopes to [foster and grow the idea of supporting local timber use through other avenues](#). One such way is through urban logging and utilizing urban sawyers when trees are taken down for development. He says often those trees go to the landfill or get chipped. "We would love to have the ability to avoid that." He also wants to expand the industry standard from viewing only a handful of species as valuable wood, to harnessing the benefits of other species. Albino says Lodgepole pine, for example, can have a higher density rating than Douglas fir, which can be useful for structural products.