

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 11/2025

CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grants – Virtual Workshop. CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy Team recently opened the 2025 Q1 Business and Workforce Development Grants solicitation. Up to \$5 million, in part through California Climate Investments (CCI) funding, is available for eligible business development and workforce development projects. Please join the Wood Products Team on Tuesday, March 18 for a [virtual workshop](#). The workshop will include information on the following: Project Eligibility; Match Requirements; Application Evaluation; Reporting Requirements; Application tips; Participant Q & A. In an effort to make the most effective use of time, it is strongly encouraged that attendees review the current [Business and Workforce Development Grant Guidelines](#) prior to attending the virtual workshop. *The virtual workshop will be recorded and posted to the Wood Products webpage for later viewing. No registration required. March 18, 2025, 09:00 - 10:30 a.m. PDT.* Use [this link](#) to join the meeting on the day of the event. For more information about the current solicitation, visit the [Wood Products and Bioenergy web page](#).

Solicitation Insights for CAL FIRE's Business and Workforce Development Grants. The [Forest Business Alliance](#) will offer insights for developing a winning proposal for CAL FIRE's Business and Workforce Development 2025 Q1 grant round. March 26, 2025, 09:00 - 10:00 a.m., on [Zoom](#).

Evaluating the Role of Wood Products as Carbon Offsets. After trees are harvested, their carbon storage capacities continue through wood products, contributing to US carbon sinks alongside living forests. Strong markets for wood products can encourage reforestation and prolong the duration of carbon storage, but challenges to the viability of these markets and calculating carbon credits, especially in the face of increased wildfire intensity and frequency, remain. Join [Resources for the Future](#) (RFF) for a [webinar](#) convening researchers and forest sector analysts. Together, these experts will address critiques; examine the role of wood products in carbon accounting and offset markets; identify opportunities for crediting protocols; and clarify the role of wood products in reducing net emissions. Wednesday, March 26, 11:00 p.m.–12:30 p.m. PT on Zoom. [RSVP here](#).

California Strategic Growth Council - Factory-built Housing – Request for Information (RFI). The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is seeking input related to the [factory-built housing \(FBH\) landscape](#) in California. The SGC recognizes FBH as an opportunity to accelerate progress toward California's housing production and affordability goals while reducing the environmental impacts associated with conventional residential construction. [This RFI](#) allows participants across the California FBH market to share insights on actionable strategies to address previously identified barriers to FBH deployment, such as zoning and other land use regulations, market conditions, supply chain dynamics, and access to financing. Due Date: 20 March 2025.

Sawmill 202 Workshop. The [Forest Business Alliance](#) is hosting an opportunity to learn advanced sawmill techniques at this hands-on [Sawmill 202 Workshop](#) – perfect for those looking to take their skills to the next level. Continuing the Sawmill 101 Workshop offered in 2023, the Sawmill 202 workshop will feature expert panels on Sustainable Finance, Secondary Wood Treatment, and Marketing. There will also be plenty of opportunities to interact with colleagues and ask questions to panelists. Tuesday, May 20, 9:30am – 4:30pm PDT, Sacramento. [More Information and Registration here](#).

Northeastern California Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot Project Entity Action and Long-term Objectives Plan. Fall River RCD shares the final [Northeastern California Woody Feedstock Aggregation](#)

[Pilot Project Entity Action and Long-term Objectives Plan](#) (EAP). This Pilot Project was launched in 2022 to address barriers to biomass utilization through the creation of a biomass aggregation entity that supports biomass markets, incentivizes new wood processing infrastructure, and promotes forest management. As part of the project, the Fall River RCD team conducted outreach and engagement, assessed market capacity, and explored potential Joint Powers Authority (JPA) models for biomass aggregation. The team generated multiple reports analyzing market conditions, funding mechanisms, insurance options, and pricing strategies (reports available [here](#)). This information is synthesized in the [EAP](#) which establishes the foundation for the future activities and long-term goals and objectives of the RCD-led biomass management JPA, and makes specific recommendations for entity formation.