

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 27/2025

Forest Business Alliance Grant Management Workshop. The [Forest Business Alliance](#) (FBA) will offer a virtual Grant Management Workshop on Wednesday, July 23rd 11am - noon PDT. Topics covered include financial management and reporting, programmatic reporting, and general grant administration. The workshop will feature practical and applied information and advice on how to run grants and meet funding requirements. Also offered will be some out-of-the-box ideas for converting reporting into organizational learning, as well as doing double duty by communicating success to your key clients and audiences. [Registration is here](#). Past workshop recordings are available on the [FBA YouTube channel](#).

CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants. CAL FIRE has announced the solicitation for the [FY 2025-2026 Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#). California's 2025-26 budget allocates up to \$135 million to CAL FIRE's WP Grants Program in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 from the CCI Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Proposition 4). CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program funds local projects that focus on increasing the protection of people, structures, and communities. Activities include hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education. The following entities are eligible: State Agencies, Native American Tribes, Fire Protection Districts, Community Services Districts, Water Districts, Resource Conservation Districts, City, County, or City and County agencies, Fire Safe Councils with a 501(c)(3) designation, other qualified non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation, and Joint Powers Authority (JPA) if the entities involved are eligible applicants. A virtual public workshop to explain the grant process and requirements will be held on [July 1, 2025, 11am - noon PDT](#). Applications need to be submitted no later than August 6th, 2025, by 3:00 PM PDT. The Wildfire Prevention Grants Program will also be hosting a series of virtual office hours to assist with various steps in the Wildfire Prevention Grants process, including addressing questions. Please check the [Wildfire Prevention Grants webpage](#) for exact dates, times, and locations for each office hour event. Recordings of the events will be made available on the website.

CAL FIRE Business and Workforce Development Grants. CAL FIRE has released the applicants list for the [2025 Q1 Business and Workforce Development Grants](#). A total of 103 projects submitted proposals for over \$85 million. The [Wood Products Team](#) intends to maintain a continuously open solicitation for Business and Workforce Development Grants as funding availability allows. Detailed information regarding the solicitation, application process, eligible activities and projects can be found under Grantee Resources and in the [Grant Guidelines](#).

Scrimber's Comeback - Start-Ups to revive long dormant Timber Tech. [Scrimber](#) - a high-value engineered wood product made from crushed thinnings and small trees - is coming back into focus and might one day dominate the construction industry. [New efforts to commercialize the technology](#), which has failed to achieve industrial production on multiple occasions, are for three reasons: One is to get more yield out of a tree. Nowadays, the yield is about 30% for CLT or glulam. With Scrimber, it could be up to 90%. The second is to use underutilized species/assortments, which cannot usually be turned into load-bearing members. And finally, to compete with concrete, to prove a material that can store carbon in buildings for hundreds of years. Building products made of wood store around one ton of CO₂ per cubic meter, as whole trees - from trunk to crown - are processed into building products. Scrimber is being further developed by the [Bern University of Applied Sciences](#) and [other research partners](#) on the basis of developments in Australia in the 1970s and experience with bamboo. This could bring new

[large-format and low-cost Scrimber products](#) to market maturity. It is planned to build an industrial pilot plant in the canton of Bern (Switzerland) as well as in Meridian, MS, USA.

Bipartisan Bill introduced to expand Development of Sustainable Wood Products and support Forest Products Industry. U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Susan Collins (R-ME), and Mark Kelly (D-AZ) are reintroducing the [Community Wood Facilities Assistance Act of 2025](#), bipartisan legislation that would make it easier to develop sustainable wood products and energy from biomass made from small-diameter timber left over from forest thinning projects, including projects that reduce the risk of wildfire. Repurposing wood residuals is key to supporting innovation in the forest industry and creating new jobs while also helping businesses that repurpose the wood save money on energy costs and reduce emissions. The [Community Wood Facilities Assistance Act would revise the U.S. Forest Service's Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Grant Program](#) by: Allowing grants to be used for the construction of new facilities, in addition to making improvements to existing facilities; Increasing the authorization from \$25 million to \$50 million; Increasing the maximum grant per facilities from \$1 million to \$5 million; Increasing the federal cost-share from 35 percent to 50 percent; Increasing maximum size for community wood energy systems eligible for grant funding from 5 megawatts to 15 megawatts; Change the program name to the Community Wood Facilities Grant Program to avoid confusion with the similarly named Wood Innovations Grant Program. A [companion bill](#) was introduced in the House of Representatives in March by Reps. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA-03), Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01), and Dan Newhouse (R-WA-04).