

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 37/2019

PG&E grant supports Woody Biomass Open Innovation Challenge. Entrepreneurial and out of the box thinking that delivers immediate market solutions at a meaningful scale is especially encouraged. Concept summaries are due Friday, September 20th 2019. They plan on selecting winners by the first week of November. [Proposals are accepted for three categories: Next-generation woody biomass collection and harvesting technology; Next-generation woody biomass densification and transportation technology; Expanding markets for woody biomass products.](#)

2nd Germany California Bioenergy Symposium. On September 24th, 2019 the Representative of German Business will host the [2nd Germany California Bioenergy Symposium](#) in Sacramento. This full-day conference is part of a trade mission for selected German companies and bioenergy experts who will visit California from September 23 — 25, 2019. The event will focus on the regulatory framework for developing biogas in California as well as technological innovation in the field and will provide ample networking opportunities. Different approaches in California and Germany will be examined by a variety of high-level speakers from policy, industry and research. The symposium will provide the unique opportunity to discuss innovative ideas, new developments and market opportunities with these Bioenergy experts.

Forests to Faucets. When the appetite for high-priced housing threatened the water source of this picturesque mountain town, the residents raised taxes and spent money on forests. Three years later, when rising tourism upped the summer demand for water, more money was raised to buy more forests. The equation used by local and state officials, nonprofit groups, and private residents was straightforward: [It's cheaper and easier to have the forests cleanse the water than to throw chemicals and machinery at the task.](#)

USDA seeks Applications for Rural Energy for America Program. The Rural Business-Cooperative Service invites applications for loan guarantees and grants for renewable energy systems; to make energy efficiency improvements, conduct energy audits, and provide development assistance. The funding is being provided through [USDA's Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#), which was created under the 2008 Farm Bill and reauthorized under the 2018 Farm Bill. [This notice seeks applications for Fiscal Year 2020 funding.](#) The deadlines to apply for renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grants are Oct. 31, 2019, and March 31, 2020. Applications for loan guarantees are accepted year-round. The deadline to apply for energy audit and development assistance grants is January 31, 2020.

CLT and Wood Construction Products help combat anti-Forestry Narrative. While policy drivers such as the Timber Innovation Act and the International Code Council's change in building codes have assisted in making cross-laminated timber (CLT) and "mass timber" building products more mainstream, the free market has ultimately driven the [remarkable growth of the industry, which is helping the "green" movement to reassess the benefits of wood as well.](#)

DID YOU KNOW? The [official land-speed record for a wood-gas powered vehicle](#) was set in September 2011 by Wayne Keith. The official record currently stands at [73 mph](#). And then there is the "[El Kamina](#)", a model year 1987 Chevrolet El Camino, the unofficial fastest (and very cool looking) wood-gas powered car at 87 mph.