

CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 24/2024

Biomass Supply Symposium. Local engagement to enhance forest biomass residual utilization in the Western Central Sierra. Discuss the future of biomass; Network with industry leaders and local and state officials; Gain insights into initiatives shaping the forefront of forest and fuels management. [June 26, 8am – 5pm. Maidu Community Center](#), 1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville, CA. [Agenda and registration here](#).

Forest Business Alliance workshops. The Forest Business Alliance is offering a series of workshops focused on preparing your business for wood product and innovation grants and preparing your application for fall solicitations from USFS and CAL FIRE. [Register here](#). Now is also a good time to ensure that your program design/strategic plan prioritizes how you respond to new grant and funding opportunities. To get started or retrofit your current strategies, see the latest chapter in the FBA guide on [Program Design](#). Don't bend your plans for funding. First, design a strong strategy, then find funding that aligns with it. The Measuring Success chapter will be released next. It will focus on the balance between required reporting to funders and measuring your organization's impacts or outcomes and learning during the process. [Tribal-specific resources](#) are becoming available as well.

USFS Region 5 Funding Resources. The US Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region has compiled a comprehensive website with guidance, checklists, grant and financial terms, common acronyms and abbreviations, as well as information for grant proposals and grant management. All this and more [here](#).

Forest Markets - Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team. The [Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team](#) is part of the technical assistance provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Wood Education and Resource Center. The Team helps public and private sector facility owners evaluate and develop community-scale projects that use woody biomass for heat energy or for both heat and power throughout the United States. These renewable energy projects utilize local, sustainably harvested wood; wood residues; and wood wastes to offset the use of fossil fuels, saving owners money while reducing net greenhouse gas emissions and boosting local economies. One of the key products that the [Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team](#) can provide is a business grade pre-feasibility study for organizations or businesses that need a high-level assessment of a proposed wood-to-energy project. A pre-feasibility study can be essential when seeking project financing or when applying for grant funding from programs such as the Forest Service's Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity and Community Wood programs.

Forest Service Wood Innovations Grantee Spotlight - Firewood Banks. This [video](#) highlights the work of the Forest Service and its grant opportunities, focusing on firewood banks. It discusses the funding provided for firewood banks through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the administration of the program by the US Forest Service in partnership with the Alliance for Green Heat. The program aims to provide wood resources for heating, particularly in tribal reservation homes, and has funded 80 firewood banks in 24 different states. The application process for firewood bank funding, including new safety plan requirements, is detailed. Additionally, the [video](#) covers the cultural significance of firewood for tribal members, the Elderwood program, partnerships with organizations and agencies, and the utilization of grants for program development and expansion.

Online tool helps design Buildings that can use Biomass for Heat. The Colorado State Forest Service is offering a tool to help builders make new buildings more climate conscious and less dependent on non-renewable sources of energy. The [Biomass Ready](#) tool helps builders, architects, engineers, planners and

others in the building trade to design new buildings that can incorporate biomass as a heating source. Woody biomass is a clean and renewable alternative for heating today's new buildings. Unfortunately, many builders are not aware of the simple design considerations that make it easy and inexpensive to incorporate a biomass heating system as part of their new building construction. To address this dilemma, the CSFS worked with the USDA Forest Service's Wood Innovations Program and the Wood Education and Resource Center to develop the Biomass Ready app. This online tool walks builders through five steps to ensure new buildings can incorporate a biomass heating system. Even if a biomass heating system is not a viable option for a builder today, this tool ensures that the new building would be able to incorporate one in the future. The [Biomass Ready Guidebook is available here](#).