



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Workshop**

# **Rural Community Development Initiative: Rebuilding Capacity and Wood Utilization in Forest Communities**

*May 16 and 17, 2017*

*Location: Embassy Suites Old Town, Sacramento*

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment recognizes that restoring forests through utilization of small-diameter trees and biomass offers a unique opportunity to advance community-scale projects that will create jobs and spur local economic development. Through our Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), the Sierra Institute works with nine rural forested communities in California to build organizational and technical capacity to enable successful community and economic development projects focused on biomass utilization. The Sierra Institute also works with other community groups supported by the State Wood Energy Team, along with leaders in the field of biomass utilization development to accelerate forest restoration and rural community development across California.

This year's RCDI workshop will be held on May 16 and 17 in collaboration with Waste to Wisdom researchers to connect the latest research on biomass utilization technologies with on-the-ground project development in rural communities. On Day 1, participants will have an opportunity to hear project updates from community bioenergy and other wood utilization projects, learn about the outcomes of the state's Tree Mortality Task Force work, and gain insights on financing and business plan development. The morning of Day 2 will feature presentations from organizations developing wood product campuses, insights on brownfields cleanup, and a dialogue on how rural communities can successfully partner with for-profit entities while ensuring community benefits. The afternoon of Day 2 will feature presentations on biomass feedstock and conversion technologies from researchers, as well as a facilitated conversation between community organizations and researchers associated with the Waste to Wisdom Project. We welcome others to join the workshop!

Please [click here](#) to register to attend the May 2017 Workshop!

For more information, contact Kyle Rodgers or Jonathan Kusel by phone at 530-284-1022, or by email at [krodgers@sierrainstitute.us](mailto:krodgers@sierrainstitute.us), or [jkusel@sierrainstitute.us](mailto:jkusel@sierrainstitute.us).



Rural Community Development Workshop  
**Rebuilding Capacity and Wood Utilization in Forest Communities**

May 16 and 17, 2017  
Sacramento, California

Day 1

**Tuesday, May 16, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

9:00 – 9:30      *Registration, Refreshments*

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**9:30 – 9:45**      **Workshop Introduction**  
*Review objectives for the workshop, introduce participants, and update on recent RCDI activities.*

**9:45 – 11:00**      **Bioenergy Case Studies**  
*Share lessons from community groups pursuing small-scale bioenergy, from technology to business planning.*

**11:00 – 12:00**      **BioMAT Session**  
*An opportunity to review the process for interconnection and related issues of concern associated with the State's SB 1122 process and small-scale wood bioenergy development.*

**11:45 – 12:45**      **LUNCH**

**12:45 – 1:30**      **Utilization Case Studies**  
*Share lessons from community-based efforts to develop businesses utilizing small wood and woody biomass beyond bioenergy.*

**1:30 – 3:00**      **Outcomes from Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF) – Implications for Biomass Utilization**  
*A dialogue with members of the TMTF to discuss connecting state policy work to on-the-ground realities.*

**3:00 – 3:30**      **BREAK**

**3:30 – 4:15**      **Technology and Project Development**  
*Review of current status of technology and project development tips from a leading expert in the field.*

**4:15 – 5:15**      **Financing and Business Plan Development**  
*Update on financing and business plan development, with a case study from one of the RCDI communities, and an open conversation about novel financing approaches.*

**5:15 – 5:30**      **Day 1 Recap and Preview of Day 2**  
*Review major points from the first day of the workshop, and look forward to day two.*

## Day 2

Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

- 8:00 – 9:30**                    **Beyond Bioenergy: Integrating Multiple Economic Development Options**  
*Success stories and challenges from developers of wood product campus models, including non-profit incubators and for-profit entrepreneurs.*
- 9:30 – 10:30**                   **Rural Re-Development: Brownfields Cleanup**  
*Hear how a couple communities addressed brownfields challenges and learn from agency representatives about the future of brownfields programs and funding for cleanup.*
- 10:30 - 11:00**                **BREAK**
- 11:00 – 11:30**                **Managing Partnerships to Ensure Community Benefit**  
*Discussion on lessons learned about engaging developers and other for-profit entities and the challenges of ensuring local community benefit.*
- 11:30– 12:00**                **Next Steps for RCDI**  
*Synthesizing outcomes from the workshop and next steps for RCDI communities and the project as a whole.*
- Please consider the following sessions a continuation of our meeting as we transition to a series of joint sessions with the Waste to Wisdom Research Project, an interdisciplinary research project led by Humboldt State University to advance biomass utilization, designed to provide an opportunity for researchers and communities involved in biomass project development to learn from one another.*
- 1:00 – 2:00**                    **Production of quality feedstock from forest residues: sorting, comminution, screening, Han-Sup Han**
- Development of baling technologies, Jim Dooley**
- Questions and Discussion**
- 2:00 – 2:15**                    **BREAK**
- 2:15 – 3:15**                    **Biomass conversion technologies: System performance, case studies, and implications for California’s forest management, Arne Jacobson and David Carter**
- 3:15 – 4:45**                    **Connecting Research with Community Projects**  
*A joint discussion focused on grounding research in on-the-ground realities, and transferring research lessons to project proponents in rural communities.*
- 3:15 – 4:45**                    **Closing Comments**