



## 2024 Biomass Utilization Symposium Agenda

**Overview:** The 2024 Biomass Utilization Symposium will bring together industry, academia, government and community-based organizations to explore the opportunities and challenges of implementing forest biomass utilization projects for fire safety, forest health, renewable energy, wood products, and sustainable, stewardship-based, inclusive, rural economic development.

**Date:** May 2-3, 2024 (including day-before tours + social)

**Location:** UCANR Hopland Research and Extension Center Shippey Hall

**Potential Co-hosts:** SMEDD, UCANR, Redwood Region RISE

### Proposed Agenda & Schedule:

#### Thursday May 2, 2024

- 10:00 am-4:00 pm | Forest Safety and Biomass Utilization Tours
  - Northern Option | Ukiah & Potter Valley, Mendocino County
  - Southern Option | Old World Winery, Sonoma County
- 4:00-6:00 pm | Pre-Symposium Social and Networking, Thatcher Hotel, Hopland, CA

#### Friday May 3, 2024

- 8:00-9:00 AM | Welcome and Registration
- 9:00-9:15 AM | Opening Addresses (Symposium Context, Goals and Objectives)
  - Tribal Welcome, Sonny Elliot Jr., Hopland Rancheria Chairman
  - Robin Bartholow, Chair of SMEDD
  - Glenn McGourty, Mendocino County Supervisor
  - Supervisor David Rabbitt, Chair Sonoma BOS
- 9:15-9:45 AM | Keynotes
  - [Elizabeth Betancourt, California Department of Conservation, Natural and Working Lands Policy Advisor](#) and [Glenda Humiston](#), VP of UC Ag & Natural Resource
    - Challenges and concerns managing forests in CA
    - Importance of biocarbon and CA's carbon reduction goals
    - CA's Current Policies and Efforts On Forest Resiliency
- 9:45-10:30 AM | Biomass Utilization 101 ([Michael Jones](#), UCCE Mendocino, Moderator)
  - [Daniel Sanchez](#) Wood utilization options
  - [Martin Twer, Biomass Program Director, The Watershed Center](#) Non-energy products
  - [Haris Gilani](#) Energy and transportation fuels
- 10:30-10:45AM | Break

*\*Speakers and Panels subject to change\**



- 10:45-12:00 PM | Public-Policy Panel: Wood products and forest stewardship: Is there a connection? (Moderator: [Genevieve Taylor](#), Ag Innovations)
  - [Yana Valachovic](#): Why accelerating pace and scale of forest management matters
  - Nathan Rich, NCRP Rep: Missing Links
  - [Jim DiPasquale](#), Wood & Biomass Utilization Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Region 5 State & Private Forestry
  - [John McCarthy](#)- CAL FIRE

### 12:00-1:00 PM | Lunch

- 1:00-3:00 PM | Regional Projects Panel(s)
  - 1:00 - 2:00 PM | Biomass to Energy
    - [Elizabeth Betancourt](#), California Department of Conservation, Natural and Working Lands Policy Advisor, Moderator
    - [Andrew Haden, Founder & President, Wisewood Energy](#)
    - [Dean Kerstetter, Mendocino Forest Products](#), Ukiah Mill Project
    - [Bill Shevlin, Mavericks Energy](#), off-taking options: Challenges & Opportunity
    - [Terrance Rogers, Golden State Natural Resources](#)
  - 2:00-3:00 PM | Biomass to Wood and Soil Products
    - James Gore, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, Moderator
    - [Temra Costa, Regenerative Forest Solutions, Woody Feedstock Aggregation Pilot](#)
    - [Jeremy Fisher](#), Forestree Collective
    - [Darek Trowbridge](#), Soil Carbon Management
    - Fernando Mora, Berry's Sawmill Project

### 3:00-3:15 Break

### 3:15-4:30 Community Opportunities and Funding: Making It Real- how to move Biomass Utilization Sector to create a sustainable and resilient economy

- Facilitator/Moderator: [Josh Metz](#), Senior Advisor and District Manager, SMEDD
- [Walter Kieser, Senior Principal and Co-Founder, Economic & Planning Systems, Inc.](#)
- [Laurel Harkness, Coalition Director, Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition](#)
- [Mary Anne Petrillo, West Business Development Center](#)
- [Zach Knight, CEO Blue Forest](#)

### Closing Session

- 4:30-4:45 PM | Closing thoughts: [Steve Kaffka](#), Cooperative Extension Specialist, UCANR

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- 4:45-5:00 PM | Native American Closing

**Sponsors:**



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