



Vermont Forest Products Association



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The Mission of the VFPA is to promote and defend the interests of our members. VFPA represents all aspects of the forestry community and the member businesses and individuals that are located throughout the State of Vermont. VFPA meets its mission through:

- Information and continuing education to its members
- Public outreach and education
- Working with other organizations through partnering and coalition building
- Networking with others within the forest products industry
- Lobbying state and federal government officials and lawmakers

CERSOSIMO LUMBER COMPANY, INC. RECOGNIZED OUTSTANDING SAWMILL OPERATOR BY THE NORTHEASTERN LOGGERS' ASSOCIATION



OLD FORGE, NY -- On May 18, 2023, the Northeastern Loggers' Association presented Cersosimo Lumber Company, Inc. with its Outstanding Sawmill Operator Award for 2022 at the organization's annual Loggers' Banquet in Brewer, Maine.

Based in Brattleboro, Vermont, Cersosimo is a third-generation family operation and celebrated its 75th year in operation in 2022. The company also has mills in New Hampshire and New York, and processes high-quality northeastern hardwoods and eastern white pine.

Cersosimo is committed to the complete utilization of all products from the woodlot, adding value to locally harvested wood and creating jobs in the rural economy. They use modern technologies and time-tested practices in manufacturing, making use of low-grade materials and byproducts.

Fifteen years ago, the lumber company built a stand-alone chip plant to feed their own kilns for drying lumber and to produce clean chips for paper companies and pub-

lic and private institutions.

Cersosimo has a reputation as being both a strong advocate for good forest stewardship as well as employing a collaborative approach to business.

Stuart Bevin, Forester, Stillwater Forestry LLC, said, "It has always been apparent to me they want to see those they do business with succeed and prosper."

Ben Coll, a logging contractor in the Brattleboro area, wrote in a letter to NELA that Cersosimo Lumber is an important asset for all loggers, foresters, landowners, and the local people of the areas in which they operate. "The ability to move as much product as close as possible to where we are harvesting... [makes] the whole process from landowner to forester to logger to the final destination of the mill yard a seamless one for all involved," Coll said.

Company President Michael A. Cersosimo accepted the award on behalf of the company and its employees. "Winning this award in 2022, the year of our 75th anniversary feels a little extra special. My grandfather Tony Cersosimo, the company's founder, would have been proud not just that we made it 75 years, but that we kept it in a condition worthy of winning the award," Mr. Cersosimo said. (continue on page 2)

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The Northeastern Loggers' Association, Inc. (NELA) was founded in 1952 and is headquartered in Old Forge, New York. The organization has nearly 2,000 members in the region from Maine to Minnesota and Missouri to Maryland. NELA publishes the monthly magazine *The Northern Logger & Timber Processor* and hosts the annual Northeastern Forest Products Equipment Exposition (Loggers' Expo). NELA

hosts the Annual Awards Banquet every year on the evening prior to the opening of its annual Loggers' Expo.

NELA serves its membership and the public by advocating for the wise stewardship of our forest resources. The organization develops programs that strengthen the forest products community and help members produce products to meet the needs of the American people.

Learn more about NELA at www.northernlogger.com

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VFPA Hosts 11th Annual Northern Regional Roundup

The Vermont Forest Products Northern Regional Roundup was held on Saturday, April 29th, at the Eastside Restaurant in Newport, which included a hearty breakfast buffet and meeting.

VFPA Vice-President, Colleen Goodridge, welcomed the group of about 45 attendees to this popular regional event made possible by our many generous sponsors. Information about the VFPA, serving all sectors of the Forest Products Industry was presented, along with goals for 2023 for the organization.

Several area legislators joined the group for breakfast and offered updates from the Statehouse.

Speakers for the meeting included: David Wilcox, Watershed Forester, FPR- "Watershed Forestry Update from FPR"; Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner FPR, and David Beurle, CEO, Future IQ, Facilitator- "Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap Project."

Christine McGowen, Forest Products Program Director, VT Sustainable Jobs Fund, announced the Vermont Forest Industry Summit will be held in September at Bolton Valley Resort.

Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist, gave legislative updates. In closing, Ed noted that after 25 years serving as VFPA Lobbyist, he will be stepping aside as Lobbyist, but will continue advocating for the Forest Products Industry in other ways. Thank-you for your years of service Ed!

LEAP and SAF Continuing Education credits were given for this half-day event for those attending.

~A very Special THANK YOU to our
Northern Regional Roundup Sponsors~

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**VFPA Legislative Report**

By:

**Ed Larson, Lobbyist for
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Lots of new faces filled chamber seats this new biennium. This 2022 election delivered the largest turnover of Representatives and Senators in recent history. There are 47 new Representatives and ten new Senators. In the House there are nine new chairpersons and there are three new Senators in chair positions. There was a big learning curve for many, there was a slow start during the first few weeks, but it didn't last long. The democrat super majority had a large progressive agenda and they implemented it very aggressively in every committee.

In the House, Speaker Krowinski reconfigured the committees. She reduced the number of policy committees from 14 to 13 by basically combining last year's Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and the Energy and Technology committees into a single Environment and Energy Committee. Amy Sheldon who chaired the Natural Resources committee last biennium will chair Environment and Energy. Now under post-Covid procedures, many committees are moved to other places in the building using larger spaces to spread people out. All the smaller committee rooms are used for legislative workspaces and small meeting places.

This first year session ended with eight vetoes of which the democratic majority was able to over-ride five of them.

Although there was lots of activity affecting several economic and social constituents, forestry topics were very limited this year. This is mostly because of the **Forest Futures Strategic Roadmap** law that was passed last year. Forest Futures is about halfway through its process to deliver a report to the Legislature next January. The report is to describe the forest products industry's desired future goals and includes a plan as to how to get there. Several industry people are engaged in an 18-month process to create this report. So, due to this process, legislators are willing to hold off proposing new legislation affecting our industry and wait for the final report.

A few bills did pass that impacts our industry:

Conserved lands – Establish state-wide goals.

Last year the Legislature passed H.606, a bill to **establish State goals of conserving 30 percent of the land of the State by 2030 and**

50 percent by 2050. The Governor Vetoeed the bill so it failed to become law. This session House Environment and Energy Committee Chair, Rep. Shelden introduced, [H.126](#), an act relating to community resilience and biodiversity protection and made it a priority bill in her committee.

The bill, as introduced was identical to the as passed version of H.606. Some changes were made but its intent to permanently conserve forestland by setting these goals remains.

The Agency of Natural Resources, with support from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, will work with stakeholders such as private landowners, land trusts, conservation groups, working lands enterprises, outdoor recreation businesses, planners, Indigenous groups, and the public at-large, to determine the tools, programs, and mechanisms needed to advance to conservation of 30% of Vermont's land and water by 2030 and 50% by 2050.

On or before December 31, 2024, the Secretary of ANR shall develop a plan to implement the conservation goals of Vermont Conservation Design to meet the goals established in this bill. She is directed to create an advisory group and hold at least 12 public hearings before bringing the plan back to the Legislature. Reaching 30 percent by 2030 and 50 percent by 2050 shall include a mix of permanently protected ecological reserve areas, biodiversity reserve area and natural resource management areas. It also adds a new sustainable forest management area. These four land areas are defined as follows:

"Ecological reserve area" means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and is managed to maintain a natural state within which natural ecological processes and disturbance events are allowed to proceed with minimal interference.

"Biodiversity conservation area" means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area and is managed for the primary goal of sustaining species or habitats. These areas may include regular, active interventions to address the needs of particular species or to maintain or restore habitats.

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“Natural resource management area” means an area having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover for the majority of the area but that is subject to long-term sustainable forest management.

“Sustainable forest management” means the stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, State, and regional levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

The bill also includes a specific definition of “Conserved” which means protected and meeting the definition of ecological reserve area, biodiversity conservation area, or natural resource management area as defined in this section.

VFPA was one of only a few that opposed this legislation, mostly because we could not understand the actual impact this will have on the forest products industry. It was clear that there would be a reduction in the available timber base, but how much and where. We were also concerned about the need for permanence. This excludes land enrolled in the Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA) which as we have always believed are conserved lands. Only land that has a permanent conservation easement or is publicly owned is counted towards these goals. The use of Vermont Conservation Design was also problematic as it is only an internal document for the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to identify important resource lands to manage a vibrant wildlife community.

VFPA in part proposed changes in the House Committee on Agriculture, Food Resiliency and Forestry to offer clarity to these questions. The committee did propose a floor amendment but was very watered down from our proposal. The Senate basically adopted the House version with some minor changes and the Governor allowed the bill to become law without his signature. Basically, the changes made in both the House and Senate were to gain the support of the ANR Secretary and had little concern about our issues with the legislation.

Truck Weights under Review

In the DMV miscellaneous bill, S.99 a section was included that brings VFPA to the table to discuss how we might be able to change the law to increase truck weights on Vermont roads. This was proposed last year but was turned down by the Senate due to concerns that having a conversation about increasing truck weights may jeopardize federal transportation funds. Somehow, that was not a concern this year so both chambers supported this measure.

Our highest permitted weight is currently 99,000 pounds. This legislation seeks to reach 117,000 pounds on seven axles to be equal to New York. At this point, this is only a process to discuss new technologies that may make it possible to attain these weights while minimizing impacts on the roads and maintain public safety. The discussion includes VFPA, the Commissioner of the Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR), V TRANS and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT).

VFPA President, Steve Hardy is currently the point person on this effort and has had conversations with some truckers to get their thoughts and see if there is any interest to participate in these conversations. If you are a trucker and want to learn more or participate, contact Brandy at VFPA, myself or Steve and let us know of your interest.

At some point during the process, we plan to call a special VFPA meeting for our trucking members to provide a report and gather more information from you. We hope to include the FPR Commissioner and someone from V TRANS in this meeting.

Act 250

The Legislature spent a great amount of time trying to address the housing crisis in Vermont. Some changes to Act 250 were made to allow for more housing construction in certain designated growth areas. There were no other changes such as the issue we have dealt with over the past several years known as forest fragmentation. We expect that they will deal with that next year. They did add the study on Act 250 and VFPA has been asked to participate as a land-use focus committee member. This process has just started so there is not much to report on yet, but we can expect to discuss and debate the role of Act 250 in addressing forest fragmentation and the protection of wildlife corridors.

Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program (UVA)

Administration proposes change to the Use Change Tax (penalty for withdraw)

In 2015 the Legislature changed the penalty from a pro rata calculation to a stand-alone appraisal for the portion removed. As predicted a near firestorm has been brewing among listers, buyers and sellers of the removed land and the tax department. Confusion, complexity and the long waits has the Dept. of Property Value and Review (PVR) Director, Jill Remick fielding numerous complaints.

Now PVR wants to go back to prorate the acreage removed to the original listed value of the full parcel and apply the tax rate to that. To keep in line with the policy of raising the tax to discourage withdrawals, the proposal raises the rate considerably from the 10 and 20% rates prior to the 2015 change. Apparently, the Current Use Advisory Board supports this change. Bruce Shields was a long-time member of the CUAB.

During her testimony, Director Remick stated the intended purpose for changing the tax in 2015 to discourage withdrawals has not worked, in fact there has been a considerable spike in withdrawals during the pandemic.

The Legislature did not act on this proposal as there are so many questions but appears interested. In that light, PVR plans to hold stakeholder meetings this summer to prepare a new proposal next year.

DMV Fees Increased

For the first time since Phil Scott became our Governor, the Legislature got a fee increase through. They added an increase in DMV fees that includes vehicle registration and truck weight permits. This is approximately a 19% increase in almost all fees. They say we need this to increase revenue so to be able to provide the 20% match to be able to draw down an additional \$600 million of federal transportation funds. The Governor did Veto the bill but the Legislature over-rode his Veto and the new increased fees are in effect as of July 1.

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Time for Change

For most of the last 25 years, I have proudly served as your lobbyist. It is truly an honor to represent this very important signature industry in the Vermont Legislature. It is however time to step aside and allow the next generation to take the helm. Back in December, I announced to the VFPA Board of Directors that this will be my last year as the lobbyist to allow sufficient time for the Board to seek and find a replacement. The board has created a search committee and will begin the process of advertising, screening and recommend new representation to the full Board sometime later this year. I am not going into retirement yet. I plan to continue as a consulting forester for a few more years. I also want to continue teaching forestry classes at the Vermont Technical College. So I will not be riding into the sunset, but will seek other things I can do to continue advocating for our industry.

Thank you for the opportunities presented.

As always, I am humbled and honored to represent this very important signature industry in the Vermont Statehouse. Please reach out when you have a question or an issue that we could address to improve the business climate and keep this industry strong. Having a voice is crucial which is why we appreciate your support.



***Ed Larson,
VFPA Lobbyist
Montpelier, VT
(802) 224-9177***



Governor Phil Scott Announces Forests, Parks, and Recreation Commissioner Appointment

April 18, 2023



Montpelier, Vt. – Governor Phil Scott today announced the appointment of Danielle (Danny) Fitzko as commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR). Fitzko has served as interim commissioner since January 2023, and has worked at FPR since 2003, including as director of forests for the past four years. She replaces Michael Snyder, who served as FPR commissioner for 12 years. "Danny has demonstrated a deep commitment to Vermont and our natural assets over the course of her two decades of service to the Department," said Governor Scott. "I'm confident she'll continue that good

work leading FPR."

Fitzko will lead FPR's 130 full-time employees across four divisions, and over 400 seasonal workers that mainly operate our world class Vermont State Park system. The FPR team works to support the diverse offerings of the Vermont landscape:

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scenic vistas featuring mountains, lakes, and rivers; and a strong rural identity of working lands, outdoor lifestyle, and traditions. FPR is one of three departments in the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), along with the Fish and Wildlife Department and the Department of Environmental Conservation. “Danny’s vision, energy, and optimism for the future of Vermont’s forests and the role forests can play in making Vermont more resilient to the effects of a changing climate were among the reasons she was selected for the role,” said ANR Secretary Julie Moore. “She has a proven record of setting a clear vision and establishing effective pathways to implementation.”

Currently, a resident of Stowe, Fitzko has worked for FPR for 20 years, spending 15 of them managing the Urban and Community Forestry Program, which helps to build local capacity to green the gray of our developed areas. Outside of work, she can be found in the garden, the woods, or on her yoga mat. “I am grateful for the chance to serve as commissioner and look forward to continuing to collaborate with FPR’s brilliant and hard-working team,” said Commissioner Fitzko. “With a deep-rooted passion for Vermont’s forests, the mission and people of FPR, and public service, I am excited to help steward Vermont’s natural environment and connect people to them on behalf of the people of Vermont.” The appointment is effective immediately.

To learn more about the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, visit <https://fpr.vermont.gov> or email danielle.fitzko@vermont.gov

1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, VT 05602-3801



Our team would like to express our deep sadness at the devastating recent floods and provide resources and guidance to help affected businesses navigate this time. We know there is a great deal of information circulating right now - below are some key resources and ways to reach us which we hope farm and forest businesses will find helpful!

Flood affected businesses should let their lenders know of their situation, and ask for suspension of payments for a period if they expect their cash flow to be hit hard. They should also contact key vendors to ask for extended terms where possible. Basically, affected businesses should shut off any cash outflows they can, and with clear communication to their creditors.

We are currently accepting applications for business planning services and shorter business coaching clinics, **and are available to help with more immediate flood-related financial planning needs.** Those in need of assistance can [complete a brief intake form](#) or contact the Berlin UVM Extension office at: (802) 476-2003 or the Brattleboro UVM Extension office at: (802) 656-7530.

DISASTER BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

SBA Fact Sheet on Disaster Loans: [FACT SHEET ABOUT U \(vermont.gov\)](#) and [Disaster assistance | U.S. Small Business Administration \(sba.gov\)](#)

In depth guide for businesses to use for recovery: [VtSBDC-cover-and-pages-clientdisasterguide.pdf](#)

Disaster related tax information: [Disaster Related Tax Information | Rural Tax Education | USU](#)

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

[Disaster Unemployment Assistance | Department of Labor \(vermont.gov\)](#) is where the state has directed people to go, process may still be in development:

REPORTING LOSSES TO FSA/USDA & DISASTER INSURANCE

Report crop or forage loss, and field or sugarbush damage to your [local FSA office](#), including washed out roads within your operations.

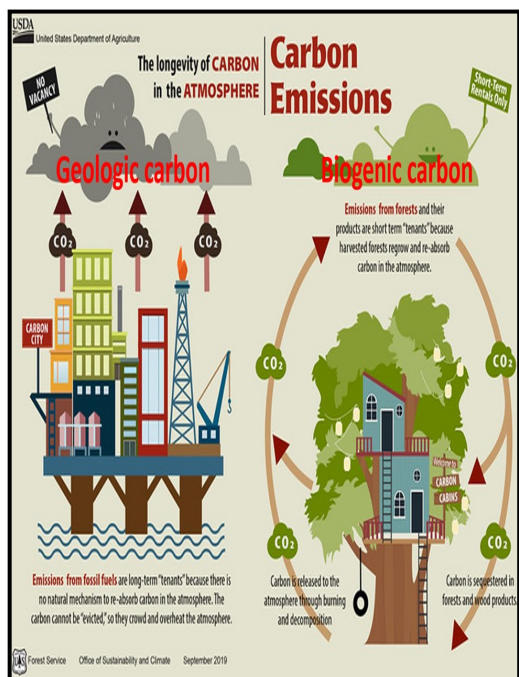
[Natural Disaster and Crop Insurance \(UVM Factsheet 2019\)](#)

Information on [USDA's Disaster Assistance Programs](#)

Forest Carbon Management, Part II

Using Timber for Energy, Buildings, and Furniture: The Myth that Cutting Trees is Bad for Climate Change

Written by: Charles Levesque, President, Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC
Green Energy Times at <https://www.greenenergytimes.org/2022/08/forest-carbon-management-part-ii/>.



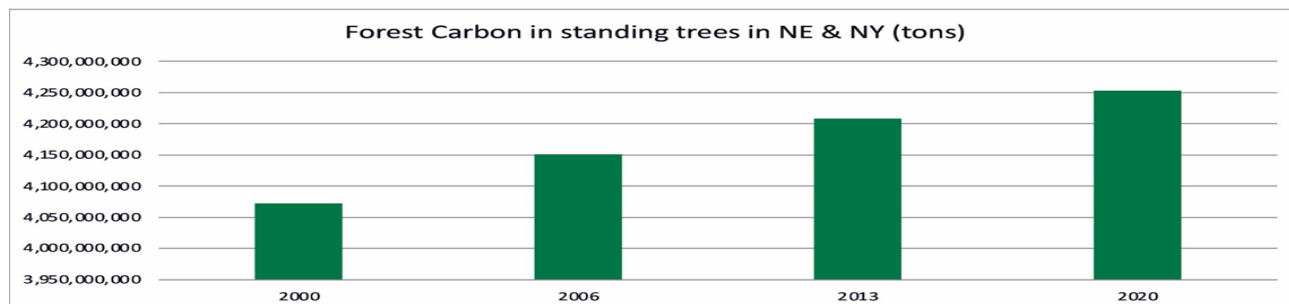
This is the second and final article in a series of exclusive Green Energy Times articles on some myths about climate change and the role trees and forests play in mitigating climate change's effects.

In the first article on forest carbon in the June 2022 issue of *G.E.T.*, we discussed why not cutting trees in the northeast, where abundant forests are located, is not the best choice for addressing climate change. We talked about carbon sequestration – the act of trees taking in atmospheric carbon as part of photosynthesis. And we discussed carbon storage in forests. Younger forests sequester more carbon per acre as compared to older forests. And older forests store more carbon per acre than young forests. This carbon represents carbon sequestration in the past. And we also discussed the fact that if we don't harvest trees in the northeast where we have abundant timber – the most forested region in the U.S. and our forests are growing way more annually than we are harvesting. That uncut timber will be harvested somewhere else, because annual use of timber for all purposes is increasing year after year here, the U.S. and worldwide.

Wood for Energy: Using wood for energy has been somewhat controversial in the northeast in recent years. Some people who don't want to see trees cut say we should burn fossil fuels for energy instead of wood because they are more energy-dense than wood. The problem with that thinking is that fossil-fuel burning is the main cause of human-induced climate change. Doing so brings geologic carbon from deep in the earth and releases it to the atmosphere for the first time, adding to what is already

there. Using wood for energy is much more carbon and climate-friendly because it is within the biogenic cycle (Figure 1) where the carbon released from burning wood is then sequestered again by trees – and the cycle can continue over and over again without a net increase in the atmosphere as long as we are growing more wood and carbon than we are using. This is what we do in the northeast. And burning it more efficiently, in modern wood heating appliances like woodstoves with catalytic converters and high efficiency fire-wood, wood pellet and woodchip boilers and furnaces, is essential to getting the most energy out of every cord of wood.

Timber as a Climate-Friendly Building Material: We have over 50 million acres of forest in the northeast region that includes the seven states of New England, and New York. That's a lot of trees. Annually these forests, owned mostly by private individuals, families and companies, and some in public ownership, grow nearly twice the amount of timber removed from harvesting and land-use change. That means that the standing inventory of timber (and thus carbon since wood is half carbon) goes up every year, and this has been going on every year since the USDA Forest Service started keeping track of this data in the 1950s. Forest carbon in the region's forests has increased by 15% just since the year 2000! (Figure 2)



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But because these forests are growing bigger and older over time, the annual sequestration rate – the amount of carbon sequestered per acre every year – has actually decreased over time. Younger forests sequester more per area than older forests. If you were standing in a forest where most of the trees are about six to eight inches in diameter, that would be the age forest that is sequestering the most carbon each year. Older forests, however, store more carbon per area because the trees are bigger. An added benefit in the northeast U.S. is that when we harvest trees here – just a small portion of what grows each year – we are blessed because they grow back naturally – we don't have to plant them. This is because our soils, climate and trees species naturally produce seed or sprouting from stumps to regrow our forests. A key part of a forester's job is to design harvests in such a way to quickly and naturally regenerate the forest.

Wood has been used as a building material for millennia. And it has been used for furniture that long, too. When Europeans and others colonized the northeast, wood was, for the most part, their only building material. First, as log homes, and later as timber frame structures, and more recently as “stick-built” structures using two-by-fours and other structural sizes as the frame and other wood materials for sheathing and roof. We still do that today in the northeast, but in commercial buildings, the increased use of concrete and steel as the main building materials has increased dramatically over the last 100 years or so. But these buildings are not climate-friendly. Cement production is one of the leading worldwide sources of greenhouse gas emissions and steel production is very carbon intensive. Using wood as the main building product is much more climate-friendly and less carbon intensive than steel and concrete. And when solid wood is placed in buildings, this serves as long-term storage of carbon so it is not released into the atmosphere. A comparison of three floor designs for buildings (Edmunds and Lippke 2004) shows that a full wood floor is five times less carbon intensive to make and install compared to steel floor designs and almost three times less carbon intensive than a concrete slab floor (Figure 3). Plus, the wood floor stores carbon for a long period of time.

Consumption of Fossil Fuels (MJ/ft ² of supported floor) Associated with Three Floor Designs			
	Floor Design		
	Dimension wood joist floor	Concrete slab floor	Steel joist floor
Fossil Fuels (MJ/ft ²)	9.93	24.75	48.32

Source: Edmunds and Lippke 2004

Timber and wood products made from trees are ubiquitous in the northeast, and the forest products infrastructure (foresters, loggers, truckers, sawmills, etc.) is very robust. Increasing wood use for building construction is entirely plausible as part of our climate solution while having our forests serve as carbon sinks as they grow. The increase in lumber prices you may have heard about recently has been due to the pandemic's effects on the economy and the supply chain for lumber. Lumber prices have already started to drop down to pre-pandemic levels. A fantastic movement, begun in Western Europe 20 years ago or so is called “mass timber.” Mass timber is a building technique coined to describe the use of solid glulam beams (stacked and glued structural lumber) and cross-laminated timber (CLT) to build tall buildings – now up to 18 stories tall with a new building code being adopted around this country. CLT is structural lumber glued into huge panels (see Woodworks for more info on mass timber at www.woodworks.org).

Mass timber buildings replace the customary use of steel and concrete as the main building components and the result is a much more carbon-friendly building – by leaps and bounds – and also provides for the long-term storage of carbon in the wood in the buildings (Figure 4). Lastly, these buildings are simply beautiful – aesthetically warm and pleasing compared to steel and concrete. This kind of building technique can also be used on smaller buildings or as part of a hybrid where CLT floors are used in a conventionally-built wood building. All of it points to more use of wood in buildings, less use of steel and concrete, with multiple benefits for the planet and for the forests of the northeast.



Leakage: We discussed the leakage issue in our earlier article, but it is so important that we need to quickly cover it again here. Simple thinking says if we don't cut trees then the planet will be better off because trees sequester carbon. The problem with that thinking is the issue of leakage. Leakage from a forest carbon perspective is that if you don't harvest a tree here for products, it will be harvested somewhere else because demand for wood products is increasing in our region, the country and the world. It is naïve to think that if we stop harvesting a tree on a property or in our region that there are only positive climate effects. In the northeast U.S., we have laws and regulations to assure that timber harvesting is done in an environmentally sound manner. If we don't harvest trees here, they will be harvested elsewhere – and maybe in parts of the world with less resilient forests like the rainforests of South America or in places where harvesting is not done in an environmentally-friendly way. This would not be better for the planet. So, the key point here is that using wood products made from trees in northeastern forests is a very environmentally and carbon-friendly practice. Not harvesting timber here, but continuing to use it for building and energy just pushes the demand for forest products to other forest harvesting elsewhere and does not result in an improvement in our global climate change situation.

Charles Levesque is President of Innovative Natural Resource Solutions, LLC – a northeastern U.S.-based consulting firm. He also serves as Executive Director of the Northeast State Foresters Association and is Coordinator of the new Securing Northeast Forest Carbon Program. He can be reached at levesque@inrslc.com or 603-588-3272.

Ryegate Power Plant Project Adds Pellet Production

By: Andrew McGregor, mcgregora@caledonian-record.com, Staff Writer



July 2, 2023

Officials from Ryegate Associates last week advanced their plans to create an auxiliary business that will improve the overall efficiency at the Ryegate Power Station and revealed their intent to produce wood pellets. Ryegate Associates, which operates the power plant, has proposed installing a multi-million dollar heat recovery system at the biomass power plant to produce clean, dry woodchips and wood pellets through Vermont Biocarbon, an affiliate company.

Last week Ryegate Associates submitted contracts and an engineering analysis of their proposal to the Public Utility Commission outlining their plans. The power plant has operated since 1993 and produces about 3% of the state's electricity demand through its 24-7 operation burning whole tree chips. The power plant benefits from a power purchase agreement that requires the state's utilities to purchase electricity from the facility as a baseload provider of renewable power. The efficiency upgrade was mandated by the Vermont Legislature as part of that PPA and the submissions were part of the timeline established by legislation mandating efficiency upgrades.

The plant intends to install equipment that would capture waste heat from the power plant operation and direct it to a new facility capable of drying 20 tons of green wood chips per hour. The chips could then be sold to facilities that heat with wood chips, like schools and hospitals, or turned into wood pellets. When first proposed, the idea was for the wood chips to be sold to outside pellet producers, but a study of the local industry has prompted developers to add pellet producing machinery into the overall project, explained Kyle Bourtelles of Ryegate Associates.

"After evaluating the dry chip market in extensive detail, it was determined that the largest market was for pellet production, and the most cost-effective option for pellet production was to produce onsite. The majority of the dried wood chips, therefore, will be used for onsite pellet production," wrote Bourtelles in the PUC filing. "However, we are open to meeting other market needs for dry wood chips in the region, such as pellet mills that have limited drying capacity as well as schools, hospitals, and small businesses with advanced-wood heating systems. In a similar vein, Ryegate Associates and its business partners are excited with how the Facility could help support heating changes anticipated under Vermont's Clean Heat Standard."

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The 109-page engineering analysis that was part of the PUC filing certifies that the proposal meets the mandated efficiency improvements and the contracts indicate a Swiss firm is slated to provide the heat capturing equipment and a Georgia firm will provide the chip drying equipment. Bourtelles said they have presented the project to the town through meetings with the select board and planning board, and are now working their way through myriad permits for air, aesthetics, noise, and more. He expects the proposals Act 250 permit application will be submitted in October and they are eyeing construction start in Spring 2024 with the facility operational by October 2024, part of the timeline from the legislation. “We are trying to stay local and trying to make sure we keep wood in Vermont and we use it for renewable energy,” said Bourtelles of the addition of pellet production into their overall plans. “We want to reduce our carbon footprint in every way shape and form.” The efficiency project is estimated at about \$20 million, said Bourtelles, who said they are interested in connecting with local partners through the pellet project. Ryegate Power Station employs 21 people earning nearly \$2 million in salary and benefits. Millions more are pumped into the local economy through the purchase of wood from local loggers and truckers.



Fairbanks Museum Home to Vermont's First Demonstration Mass Timber Building

By: Christine McGowen, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

“The old adage was large columns, large trees,” said Ricky McLain, senior technical director at [WoodWorks](#), “but we don’t need to cut down large trees to make columns and beams from wood anymore.” That was the pitch Adam Kane, executive director of the [Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium](#), heard from McLain in 2019. Intrigued by the possibility of using mass timber, which had also been suggested by Tim Tierney at the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, Kane decided to explore its use for an addition he was planning at the museum. “It was a perfect fit for a number of reasons,” said Kane. “First and foremost, part of our mission is responsibility to the natural world, so using low-embodied carbon construction materials that are sourced locally aligns well with that.” Kane adds that it was important for the 6,500 square foot addition to keep with the historic nature of the original building built in 1890, which has a primarily



wood interior and low floor to ceiling height, requiring a relatively small structure depth. “We wanted the addition to feel both current and in harmony with the original building,” he said. “Fairbanks is a gem of a building,” said Megan Nedzinski from [Vermont Integrated Architecture](#) who designed the addition in collaboration with Engineering Ventures. “Part of the motivation is the lower embodied energy, but the key driver is that it’s a local product. And it’s really, really beautiful.”

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What exactly is mass timber?

Mass timber is an umbrella term used to describe a suite of engineered wood products. Cross-laminated timber and glulam beams which are being used at Fairbanks, consist of multiple wood panels that are glued together, providing strength and stability that is comparable to concrete, steel, and heavy timber. Other mass timber products use nails or dowels to create similar structural building components made of solid wood. Traditionally, large diameter trees were used to provide structural support in buildings.

Over decades, the industry moved away from “heavy timber” toward light frame construction, using steel and concrete to provide support in tall, commercial buildings and multi-family homes. That has begun to shift as the understanding of a building’s carbon footprint expands beyond energy efficiency to include how and where materials are manufactured, and how far they have to travel. Demand for innovative low embodied carbon products has increased, bringing new thinking to how renewable resources, like wood, can replace fossil fuel intensive materials like steel and concrete.



“The built environment is responsible for 40 percent of global carbon emissions,” said Nedzinski. “It’s not just about insulation and replacing windows anymore. It’s also being conscious about the materials used from the ground up.” In addition to lower emissions in the manufacturing process, wood stores carbon for as long as it remains in use, essentially locking in the carbon it has absorbed over its lifetime.

“You’re keeping that carbon out of the environment for at least the life of the building,” said McLain, “possibly for generations.”

Particularly suited to tall buildings with six stories or more, mass timber is currently approved for use in buildings with up to 18 floors. That’s a change from a few years ago, when mass timber could only be used in buildings with five or six stories. “There’s a cost benefit analysis that doesn’t work as well in low- to mid-rise buildings with repetitive bearing walls,” said McLain. “To many developers, it’s hard to justify doing something solely for environmental benefits; the economics have to work as well. From a cost perspective, you really start to see that efficiency in post-and-beam buildings or taller buildings where lightframe construction is not utilized.” In 2013, less than a decade ago, there were only about 20 mass timber projects in the US. Today, there are close to 1,750 projects. In New England alone, there are 104 mass timber projects in design and 56 projects that have been completed. “While still a small percentage of the 17,000 building projects in the U.S. annually,” said McLain, “the trend line is growing, as is the average size of projects.”

The Vermont connection.

The mass timber demonstration project at the Fairbanks Museum takes the social and environmental benefits one step further by piloting the use of local wood. Led by Charlie Levesque, a consultant and executive director of the North East State Foresters Association, and made possible by a \$250,000 wood innovations grant from the [USDA Forest Service](#), eastern hemlock has been tested and certified for use in cross-laminated timber. An abundant and underutilized tree species in the northeast, certification opens up a new market for eastern hemlock that Levesque and others anticipate will continue to grow. Vermont currently has 28 million board feet of hemlock sawlogs cut each year. Hemlock has a net growth of 84 million board feet and is the third most abundant species in Vermont, with a growth/harvest ratio of 3:1. “In other words,” says Levesque, “we can use Hemlock for mass timber very sustainably.”

As a demonstration project, using local wood was important to Kane. “Although our project is too small to drive the supply chain to any significant extent, we were able to take some risk with a new species that we hope will pave the way for future projects,” he said.

The hemlock used at Fairbanks was sawed at White Mountain Lumber in Berlin, New Hampshire from trees harvested in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. From there, it was kiln dried and finished at Cersosimo Lumber in Brattleboro, Vermont before traveling to the SmartLam CLT plant in Dothan, Alabama for manufacturing into the CLT, since no such facilities yet exist in New England. Levesque and others hope this pilot will be the first step toward an eventual manufacturing plant in New England.

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“Vermont is set up well to be an example to other regions,” said McLain. “We have a rich history of timber frame construction that can be leveraged, the Northeast wood basket has capacity and needs a new market for softwood and, from a sustainability perspective, Vermont has always been a leader.”

New markets support sustainable forests.



As a demonstration project, every aspect of the addition at Fairbanks—from piloting eastern hemlock, to manufacturing and construction—is available to builders, architects, construction workers, and the general public who want to learn about mass timber. *“As a museum, we have the opportunity and duty to educate our visitors,” said Kane. “Just stating that we’re building a mass timber structure doesn’t convey what that means to the average visitor. So, with funding from the Softwood Lumber Board and the USDA grant, we created a mass timber exhibit constructed of CLT to give visitors an up-close experience with the material.”* The exhibit, which is open

now through fall 2023, helps visitors draw a clear connection between the building and the surrounding environment. Using local wood is not only good for climate change, but also supports rural economies and careful stewardship of forested land. Vermont is 78 percent forested, and 80 percent of that forested land is privately owned and managed. New markets for underutilized species, such as eastern hemlock, create opportunities for both loggers and landowners to generate income from the land, which Levesque and others say is critical to preventing fragmentation and development. “That’s why the USDA Forest Service was excited about supporting this project,” said McLain. “It’s helping create a market incentive for active forest management that will benefit the long term health of our forests.”

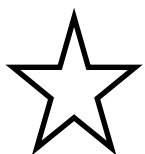
For more information, visit www.fairbanksmuseum.org and www.woodworks.org.



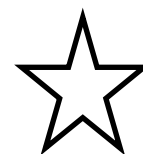
ABOUT THE VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS PROGRAM AT VSJF

Vermont’s forest economy contributes more than \$2 billion in direct economic output and provides more than 13,000 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction, wood heating, maple production, and forest-based recreation. The Forest Products Program at the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF) creates space for strong relationships and collaboration throughout the industry and promotes the development of new and existing markets for Vermont wood products. Committed to nurturing the sustainable development of Vermont’s economy, VSJF provides business assistance, network development, strategic planning, and value chain facilitation in agriculture and food system, forest products, waste management, renewable energy, and environmental technology sectors. Learn more at www.vsjf.org.

TECH CENTER NEWS



Vermont Land Trust 2023 Land Stewards Awards



Since 2005, the Vermont Land Trust has honored Vermont students who are dedicated to farming, forestry, and land stewardship with our Land Stewards Award. Juniors and seniors at farming and natural resource programs are nominated by their teachers.

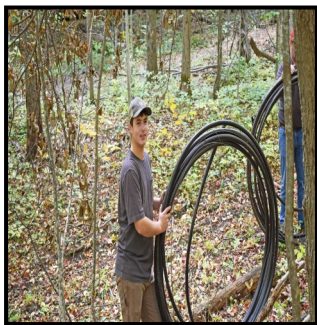
This year, 10 students were honored with \$300 checks. Rooted in Vermont since 1977, the Vermont Land Trust unites land and lives for the enduring benefit of people and the place we share. VLT has protected more than 620,000 acres of land and fosters life-long connections to farms, forests, and community spaces that define Vermont. Learn more at vlt.org.



Samantha Flint, Brookfield: Samantha was raised in a farming family and has continued to steward the land in her teens, working with cattle, horses, swine, and at a sugarhouse. In nominating the senior from the [Randolph Technical Career Center](#)'s Diversified Agriculture program, her instructor Ryan O'Malley noted that she worked hard and was fully engaged. She also looked to see where she could lend a hand. Samantha is a member of the [National Honor Society](#) as well as the [National Technical Honor Society](#). She plans to pursue a major in Natural Resources Conservation at [Castleton University](#). "I was raised around my grandparents' farm and I've always loved working outside, doing chores as well as working with all of our animals," she said. "I enjoy working outside throughout the year, whether it's sugaring in the early spring or haying in the summer. I love being outdoors, listening to the birds and watching the cows in the fields."



Morgan Foster, Hardwick: Morgan thinks we live in a beautiful state. The senior in [Green Mountain Technology and Career Center](#)'s Forestry program grew up around farming, horses, logging, hunting, and maple sugaring. Her family has a 1,000-tap sugarbush, and she has helped them with the operation since they collected sap with a horse-drawn sleigh. In nominating Morgan for the Land Stewards Award, her Forestry and Land Management instructor, Meghan Luther, called Morgan a go-getter with an impressive drive to get things done. Outside of class, Morgan has judged horses for 4-H and works for family members in the livestock, logging/sawmill and land management industries. She recently worked at [Laggis Brothers Farm](#) in East Hardwick in the calf barn and at [Hope Grows horse farm](#) in Hyde Park. Morgan plans to continue her involvement in butchering with her grandfather, as well as her work at Laggis Brothers Farm and Hope Grows. She hopes to become a large animal veterinarian and has applied to [Vermont Technical College](#)'s Veterinary Technology program. "There need to be more local farms that are family owned," she said. "I enjoy working outside and being out in the beautiful nature of Vermont. Maintaining the lands improves the lives of the animals and the state."



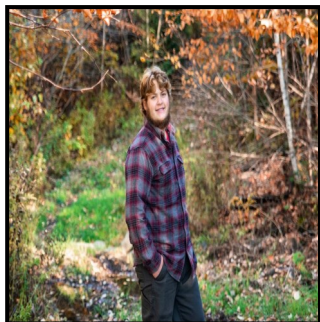
Noah Gagne, Highgate: Noah is a third-generation sugarmaker who beams with pride when talking about his family's history in sugaring, according to his Forestry and Natural Resources instructor, Joshua J. Goss. "I have been in the woods logging and maple sugaring with my dad and grandfather since I can remember," Noah said. He is a junior at [Cold Hollow Career Center](#) in Enosburg Falls, and was nominated for a Land Stewards Award by Goss who said Noah was a leader in class. Through the program, Noah has worked on multiple occasions with the [Franklin County Sugarmakers](#) and [Vermont Maple Sugar Makers](#) associations. As a member of the Cold Hollow FFA ([Future Farmers of America](#)) chapter, he was the top placing individual for the program and the state in the land judging competition. He was also the top scoring student in the program for the winter forestry competition. After graduation, Noah plans to expand his family's business and improve sustainability on their land. He also plans to look into a certificate or degree in diesel technology.

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Vermont Land Trust 2023 Land Stewards Awards



Kyle Goulette, Norton: Sam Nijensohn, Natural Resources instructor at Newport's [North Country Career Center](#), first met Kyle Goulette a few years ago through the local FFA ([Future Farmers of America](#)) club. Now a senior at the Career Center, Kyle was nominated by Sam for the award. According to Sam, Kyle is focused on quality work and doing his best, and has a thoughtful and caring personality that lends itself to wanting to be a good steward of his community, his animals, and our forests. Kyle participated in a "job shadow" last spring, joining consulting foresters in the field. He was the school's FFA president, promoting the natural resources program to incoming prospective students and travelling to the National Convention to represent the career center and state. Kyle will be attending [Paul Smith's College](#) in New York State next year, to major in Forest Operations. He plans to immerse himself in the forest products industry as a logger, trucker and sawmill operator. "With the opportunities I received and hard work I have put into the forestry program, I have found a love for the work it includes," said Kyle. "My career goal is to one day own and operate my own forestry-related business."



Cary Longley, Fairfax: Cary is a senior at the [Center for Technology](#) in Essex. He was nominated for the award by his Forestry and Horticulture Instructor, Brian Japp. In his nomination, Brian cited Cary's ability to navigate technical, academic, and social challenges, and added that Cary provided excellent peer-to-peer instruction and encouragement. During his senior year, Cary was inducted into the [National Technical Honor Society](#) and completed his OSHA ([Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#)) 30 certification. According to Brian, Cary's connection to the land is a family affair. He grew up working with his family on their sugarbush. Brian added that Cary is calm, confident, and happy when working in the woods, and that he enjoys hunting and fishing. Next year, Cary hopes to continue and expand the family sugaring business. "This business that I run along with my dad has been in my family since he was a little kid," he said. "Since I was a little kid, he has been teaching me ways to harvest and produce this product. We don't just do this for the money, we do it to better our learning and health from natural resources."



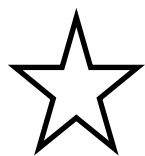
Cady Pitner, Middlebury: Cady was nominated by Aaron Townshend, her Natural Resource Management program instructor at the [Patricia A. Hannaford Career Center](#). In his nomination, Aaron said Cady was a fierce and committed advocate for wildlife and natural communities, and that she has been a passionate and capable student of natural resources who is fluent in climate change. Cady has been active with FFA ([Future Farmers of America](#)) and the [Vermont Youth Conservation Corps](#). "I want to do something meaningful with my life," she said, "and working on the land not only helps enhance ecosystems, but provides connection to place and history." Next year, the senior will enroll in the [Rubenstein School of Natural Resources at UVM](#). "Exploring the natural wonders the land holds never ceases to amaze me," she said. "Being able to help conserve and protect it [brings] so much purpose and joy into my life."



Emma Seward, Wallingford: Emma grew up sugaring and working on farms. Her family milks around 70 Holstein cows "on the rocky hillside of East Wallingford Vermont," she said. She is a junior at the [River Bend Career and Technical Center](#) in Bradford, though this is her second year in the program. She was nominated for a Land Stewards Award by her Diversified Agriculture and Natural Resources program instructor, Ian Blackmer. According to Ian, Emma helped develop the programs' tree identification materials and has been an enthusiastic sugarmaker. Outside of school, she placed first in the state for the 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl team. Emma's short and long-term goals are to work the land. Next year, she will move on to [Vermont Technical College's](#) Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) program, where she can continue in her field of study while earning a high school diploma. "I am a dedicated and determined young individual who is extremely dedicated to the agriculture industry," she said. "I have always been driven to creating a stronger agricultural community and to give back to the land we use every day!"

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Vermont Land Trust 2023 Land Stewards Awards



Trevin Shute, Hartland: Trevin has been an integral part of his family's dairy farm. He knew from a young age that he wanted to continue running the farm with his father, as his father did before him with his grandfather. Trevin was a senior at the [Hartford Area Career and Technology Center](#) in White River Junction. His natural resources instructor, Matthew Dragon, said that over the past two years Trevin has worked with the [White River Partnership](#) on water-quality monitoring and cleanup projects and also monitored for invasive species. He harvested crops for [Willing Hands](#), performed forestry work for the Hartford Town Forest, learned about maple sugaring, and assisted with a local lake trout breeding program. Trevin also worked through the school for Lemax Dairy in North Hartland, where he learned skills he hopes to bring back to his family farm, such as artificial insemination. Trevin plans to stay and work on his family's dairy farm. "We have a 130-head [herd] and growing," he said. "This is the most Shute Farm has ever had. My hope is to continue growing the farm. There's nothing better than working on your own land with your own animals every day!"



Caleb Steves, Fair Haven: Caleb was a senior in the Forestry and Natural Resources program at [Stafford Technical Center](#) in Rutland, completing his second year there. He was nominated by his instructor, Mike Stannard. Caleb represented the program in [Game of Logging](#) and [Vermont Envirothon](#) competitions this past May. He also completed two cooperative work experiences, first with [Garland's Farm and Garden](#) of Rutland and more recently with [Gagnon Lumber](#) of Pittsford. Mike cited Caleb's quiet leadership and sense of responsibility, adding that he was respected and looked up to by his peers. According to Mike, Caleb spent his childhood in Fair Haven working the land, hunting for deer and turkey, fishing for bullhead, caring for apple trees, and cutting firewood. He currently has a maple sugaring operation at home. Caleb has been accepted to [Paul Smith's College](#) in New York State and plans to study forestry there this fall. "I want to pursue forestry work in the future because I really enjoy being outside and active," he said. "I also feel that we need more people to pursue this field, to help protect and manage our forests."



Phoebe Weinberg, Putney: Errol Nelson, Forestry and Natural Resources instructor at the [Windham Regional Career Center](#) in Brattleboro, has been amazed by how much his student Phoebe Weinberg has accomplished so far. In his nomination, Errol said Phoebe handled projects with great intention, skill and a strong work ethic, and that she cares about nature while understanding the demands on natural resources. As a senior at the career center, Phoebe has been an FFA (Future Farmers of America) state champion in winter forestry, Vermont soils and land judging. In 2022, she participated in the Kroka Expeditions' Arctic to Manhattan semester. She works for Sidlands Sugarbush in Putney and has been a member of Brattleboro Union High School's environmental club. Next year, Phoebe will attend [Warren Wilson College](#) in North Carolina, where she plans to major in ecological forestry. "I am growing up in a time with an unimaginable future; one which relies on proper land management," she said. "Our fate depends on my generation's actions. For this reason, I am going to pursue a career in forestry and natural resources. By getting this degree and minoring in outdoor education or environmental studies, I will be prepared for any outdoor-based career such as working in national parks, guiding or forest conservation. I want to work amongst the trees, being one of many who push for societal and climate justice."



The Vermont Forest Products Association would like to congratulate each student on their hard work and dedication put forth to receive these awards! Your commitment and skills are truly commendable! Keep up the good work!



Vermont Housing &
Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST
VIABILITY PROGRAM

Expanded Programming for Owners of Forestland at the Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program

Since 2016, the Farm and Forest Viability Program has been working with community partners to provide in-depth ownership succession planning for forestland owners in Vermont. With new funding from the US Forest Service and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Farm and Forest Viability Program is able to expand these services with a greater number of organizational partners and is seeking to provide owners of forestland transfer planning technical assistance. The focus of this programming is to prevent forest fragmentation by providing landowners with structure and guidance as they plan for the future of their Vermont forestland.

The Farm and Forest Viability program will be working with *Vermont Coverts*, *Vermont Woodlands Association*, *Redstart Natural Resource Management*, *RJ Turner Co.*, the *Environmental Mediation Center*, and the *Vermont Natural Resources Council* to provide a range of programming to landowners: from In-Depth Transfer Planning guidance to workshops and educational events.

Please visit vhcb.org/forestland or contact m.raishart@vhcb.org for additional information about landowner eligibility, the application process, and available services.



Vermont Housing &
Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST
VIABILITY PROGRAM

Coaching Available for Forest Products Businesses!

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program is a resource that provides forest products entrepreneurs with one-on-one advising and technical assistance to help them meet their goals.

The Viability Program helps Vermont business owners work smarter, not harder.

Viability Program offers professional advising in a variety of areas, including:

- Expanding or diversifying a business;
- Improving financial record-keeping;
- Determining cost of production and increasing profitability;
- Preparing a business plan to access capital or apply for grants;
- Honing marketing and sales strategy;
- Or exploring other business developments

Get Started: Contact Calley Hastings (calley@vhcb.org or 802-828-3370) or visit our website at www.vhcb.org/viability

The Viability Program is a program of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.



VERMONT
FOREST
INDUSTRY
SUMMIT

SAVE THE DATE:

September 14, 2023

Annual Vermont Forest Industry Summit

Bolton Valley Resort, Bolton, VT

*This year's theme is
Innovation in the Forest Economy!*



Summary of Portable Logging Bridges Available in Vermont

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester

david.wilcox@vermont.gov, 802-793-0265

Wooden three-panel portable skidder bridges: FPR is currently working on a program to provide temporary wooden skidder bridges to Natural Resource Conservation Districts across Vermont. The rental program through the NRCD's has seen many of its original bridges wear out. **Starting in the spring of 2023, 15 new bridges will be available to NRCD's that are interested in continuing the rental program.** The Orleans County NRCD received a bridge from FPR this winter and has that bridge available to rent. Contact your local NRCD to see if they will be continuing the bridge rental program. These bridges will be available directly through the NRCD's.

Wood-over-steel skidder bridges: FPR has three, 25' long, two-section steel I-beam bridges with wooden decks. These bridges have engineer ratings and will hold a 30,000 lb. skidder or a 40,000 lb. forwarder over a 21-foot span. These bridges have also been used for log trucks with additional support under the bridge. They are heavy and take larger equipment to move but work very well. These bridges are located in Barre, Springfield and Rutland. Rental of the bridges is administered by the Watershed Forester. These bridges were funded through a grant from the US Forest Service. If interested in one of these bridges contact Dave Wilcox- 802-793-0265

Steel truck bridges: FPR has two temporary truck bridges that are designed for log trucks and are rated for 99,000 lbs. These are engineered bridges purchased from ADM Fabricating in Pennsylvania. FPR has a 30' and a 40' bridge. They weigh between 25,000 and 30,000 lbs. and are one piece that folds during transport. These are substantial bridges and require at least one, and sometimes two medium to large excavators to load, unload and set in place. They also require a solid abutment to be set on, so they don't twist. The monthly rental for these bridges is \$100 per month and the rental of the bridges is administered by the Watershed Forester. When not in use, these bridges will be located at the AOT yard in Williamstown at Exit 5. These bridges were funded through an agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. If interested in this one of these bridges contact Dave Wilcox- 802-793-0265.

NRCD	Contact	phone	email
Caledonia County	Emily Finnegan	802-424-3149	emily.finnegan@vt.nacdnet.net
Essex County	Sam Mayne	802-424-5353	essexnrcd@gmail.com
Franklin County	Lauren Weston	802-528-4180	lauren.weston@usda.gov
Lamoille County	Peter Danforth	631-495-9093	lcddirector@gmail.com
Orleans County	Sarah Damsell	802-334-6090x 7008	sarah.damsell@vt.nacdnet.net
Otter Creek	Pamela Stefanek	802-388-6748x 3037	pam.stefanek@vt.nacdnet.net
Poultney Mettowee	Hilary Solomon	802-558-3515	hilary@pmnrcd.org
Rutland County	Nanci McGuire	802-786-3672	nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net
Windham County	Cory Ross	517-420-6728	ross.wcnrcd@gmail.com
Winooski	Casey Spencer	802-778-3178	casey@winooskinrcd.org

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Vermont Forestry Foundation

The official education and outreach arm of

The Vermont Forest Products Association



The Mission of VFF is to educate the people within the forest products industry to improve efficiency, safety, professionalism, to increase profitability and build a positive image for the industry. In addition, VFF is engaged in outreach efforts to educate the general public about the importance of a vibrant working forest and forest products industry in Vermont.

VFF is a non-profit 501 © (3) organization that accepts grants and donations to meet its mission. Donations are tax exempt. VFF is run by a Board of Trustees that are elected for four year terms at the Annual Meeting of the Vermont Forest Products Association.

Current Officers:

President: Robbo Holleran, Chester, Consulting Forester (802) 875-3021

Vice President: Steve Hardy, Chesterfield, NH, Forester (603) 254-1644

Secretary: Bruce Shields, Eden, VT, Landowner, Sugarmaker (802) 888-5165

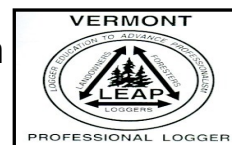
Treasurer: Brandy Inkel, Albany, VT, Sugarmaker (802) 755-9250

Current Trustees:

Dennis Allard, Springfield, VT, Logger ~ Bill Sayre, Bristol, Sawmill ~ Chris Fife, Fairfield, ME, Landowner ~ Sean Barrows, West Rutland, Sawmill ~ Bruce Shields, -Eden, VT, Landowner/Sugarmaker ~ David Grayck, Montpelier, VT, Attorney ~ Everett Thurston, N. Claredon, VT, Logger

Please contact the VFF if there are specific courses, workshops or training that will help you in your business.

Vermont LEAP~Logger Education to Advance Professionalism Submitted by David Birdsall



THE LEAP PROGRAM: The LEAP Program is a Not-for-Profit Educational Organization that strives to remain non-political. The business and affairs of LEAP are managed by a Board of Directors.

THE LEAP PHILOSOPHY: We recognize that the logging profession is an essential link between Vermont woodlands and forest industry. Along with landowners and foresters, loggers are partners in managing our forests for wood, water, wildlife and recreation. Vermont's forests have a legacy of providing these resources and are capable of sustaining these public benefits if properly managed. We see education as offering a positive approach, bringing everyone together to reach this common goal. The LEAP program is an instrument to encourage life-long learning among loggers. We will strive to promote professionalism through education and instill a stewardship ethic among loggers. The outcome of this endeavor, we envision, will be a well managed and productive forest landscape, and a positive public perception of the logging profession. Much of the Forest Industry has adopted the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) principals. One of these principals requires them to purchase wood products from loggers who have completed a Nationally SFI Accredited Logger Education Program. The VT LEAP program exceeds these requirements.

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LEAP CURRICULUM: LEAP now has a core curriculum to complete in order to become LEAP certified, along with continuing education requirements. There will be two tracks of trainings that you will need to choose from, whether you run a mechanized operation or are non-mechanized. The main difference is whether you are using a chainsaw to fell the trees, or sitting in the machine that will do this for you. For a logger who is already LEAP certified and has taken Professionalism in Forestry and Managing Forest Ecosystems (formerly called the Primary Curriculum), you will likely just need the safety workshops designed for whichever track your timber harvesting operation is on (mechanized or non-mechanized). A logger who is new to LEAP will need to join, and to complete all the curriculum requirements. Whether you are already a LEAP member, or are new to LEAP, everyone will have two years to meet these new requirements for certification.

For more information, please contact David Birdsall, VT Leap Director, at 802-235-2908 or email logger@vtleap.com



WHY BE A VFPA MEMBER?

The forest products industry is crucial to Vermont's economy and identity. The last few years have been a struggle for many in the forest products industry. Many are asking, "What can I do to bring about positive change?"

One of the most important things we can do is to support the organizations that support our industry. Our success depends on the strength of our organization, both in number of members and also in its financial health.

The mission of the Vermont Forest Products Association is to promote and defend the interests of our members.

VFPA represents all aspects of the forestry community and the member businesses and individuals that are located throughout the State of Vermont.

Your membership in VFPA is important. As a member of VFPA we can collectively seek ways to improve opportunities for our industry. Your membership gives you a place to learn more about improving your business, voice your concerns and share with others in helping Vermont remain a rural state that is proud to include a vibrant forest products industry.

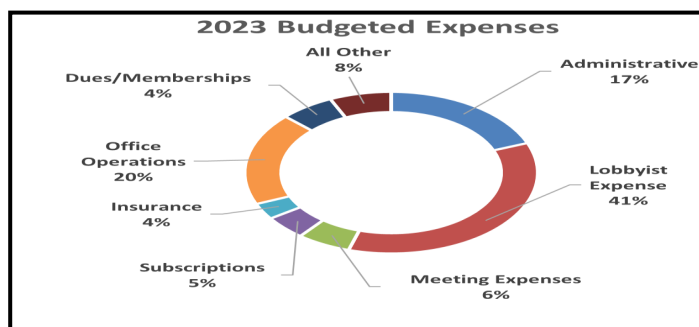
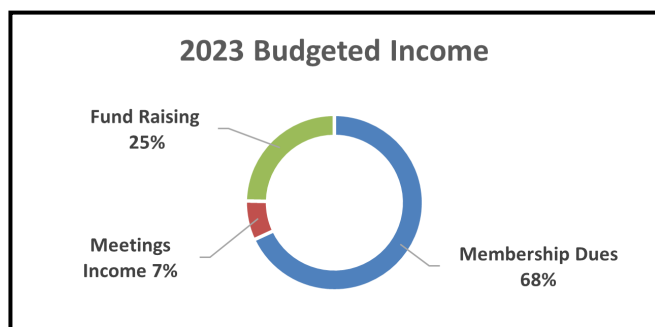
We would welcome your much needed support in the form of a membership to continue our commitment in promoting and defending our forest and wood industry.

For more information, or a membership application, please visit www.vtfpa.org or contact Brandy at vtfpa@hotmail.com



VFPA Operating Budget for 2023 is \$41,375.00

Please consider a contribution to the 2023 Annual Fund Drive or becoming a member of VFPA helping with operating costs and sharing in the important work of our industry organization.



The Vermont Forest Products Association began in 1976 as a grassroots gathering of individuals of the Forest Products Industry aimed at addressing the IRS "Independent Contractor" status, which was raising havoc within the industry.

Although there have been organizational changes since 1977, the mission of promoting and defending all sectors of the Forest Products Industry is unwavering and is as strong today as it was in its early days. VFPA represents all sectors of the Forest Products Industry— landowners, foresters, loggers, truckers, firewood processors, sawmills, secondary manufacturing and bio-mass processors and generators in Vermont and surrounding communities.

Its vision is for a strong Forest Products Industry and its mission is to promote and defend the interest of our industry.

VFPA meets its mission through providing information and continuing education and training to industry members, working with other organizations on topics and issues of common interest and continuing and increasing public outreach and education.

The Vermont Forest Products Association also meets its mission by lobbying state and federal government officials and lawmakers—

Having a strong presence in Montpelier is critical to the survival of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont.

Thanks to Ed Larson, VFPA Lobbyist, who works tirelessly on behalf of the industry— monitoring the issues, providing information to the membership, participating in discussions concerning the industry, promoting the industry and defending it when necessary.

Vermont Forest Products Association
P.O. Box 110
Coventry, Vermont 05825
Phone: 802-323-3591
E-mail: vtfpa@hotmail.com
www.vtfpa.org



Dates and Events

August 17– VFPA Directors Meeting, 4pm, zoom

September 14– VT Forest Industry Summit, Bolton Valley Resort- “Innovation in the Forest Economy”
More details to follow

September 21– VFPA Directors Meeting, 4pm,
zoom or location tbd

October 15-22– National Forest Products Week

October 19– VFPA Directors Meeting, 4pm, zoom or
location tbd

*Directors’ Meetings are open meetings and all
forest industry folks are invited to attend.
* These meetings may be subject to change**



*The achievements of an organization are the re-
sults of the combined efforts of
every individual.
We **THANK YOU** for being an essential part of our
organization’s success!*

We welcome the following new members:

~Ivan Ainsworth, Jefferson, VT
~Lou Beauchain, North Clarendon, VT
~Christopher Lindgren, Rutland, VT
~Corydon Moulton, Morgan, VT
~Dylan Moulton, Morgan, VT
~Dana Ruppert, Brattleboro, VT