



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

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK OCTOBER 15 - 21, 2023

As we celebrate Vermont's Forests for National Forest Products Week, did you know....

- Vermont is 78% forested with million acres of forest.
- 2.7 million acres of wooded land in Vermont is owned by 76,000 family ownerships.
- The average family-owned woodland in Vermont is 35 acres.
- Vermont lies within a biological transition zone between northern boreal forests and southern deciduous forests.
- Beech, birch, and maple trees make up 71% of Vermont's forest cover. The sugar maple in particular makes up 20% of Vermont forests' growing stock.
- Private Landowners own more than 80% of forestland for a variety of reasons. Based on a 2014 Vermont Department of Parks and Forests Vermont Woodland Owner Survey, the reasons given in order of priority are beauty, wildlife habitat, nature protection, privacy, water, part of home, legacy, recreation, firewood, timber products, land investment, family, hunting and fishing, and others.
- Two-thirds of the owners of family-owned woodlands have cut trees for their own use, and one-third have cut trees for sale on their property in the past five years.
- 41% of owners of family-owned woodlands have a management plan and one-third have received advice about their wooded land in the past five years.
- The number of non-industrial private landowners in Vermont has increased from an estimated 61,900 in 1983 to approximately 80,000 in 1997, correlated with a decrease in the average size of a parcel of land.
- In Vermont, the net growth of trees has exceeded removal since the first inventory in 1948. About twice as much wood has been grown than was cut or otherwise removed.
- The economic contribution of Vermont's forest-based businesses is \$1.4 billion dollars and employs 9,100 people.
- Vermont forests are often the backdrop of Vermont's active recreation and tourism industry. Forest-based recreational activities generate \$1.9 billion in sales each year in the state.
- 38% of Vermont homes heat in full or in part with wood.



HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

- Take part in the observance by attending educational seminars.
- Learn about sustainability efforts and how forests impact our communities.
- Become involved in how our forests are managed.
- Simply look around you. Consider the number of products you use that come from forest products, it's more than paper and wood.
- Visit your local forests and national forests to learn more about conservation.

Thank you to all the families, who for generations, have dedicated their lives to the forest products industry— those that work in and manage our forests and also the businesses that make the many wood products that we all use in our daily lives.

Celebrating Vermont's Forests

Vermont Forest Products Association

*~Honors the traditions of the
working forests of the past*

~Strengthens the Industry of today

*~Helps shape the future of the forest
products industry for generations to come*



“The voice of the forest products industry in Vermont since 1977”

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GOOD LUCK PAUL FREDERICK!



After 39 years of dedication to the good people of Vermont, her hills and forests, and the department... Paul Frederick is retiring. In his most recent role as the Forest Economy Program Manager, Paul has played a crucial role in the sustainable management of Vermont's natural environment and supporting the marketing and utilization of forest products. He has worked tirelessly to support the people who work in the woods and those who work with wood. Simply put, Paul has been absolutely instrumental in securing the long-term vitality of Vermont's forests and forest economy. You will be missed, Paul! Thank you for everything you have contributed over the past 39 years!

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Forests Are an Economic Engine

Written By: Eric Kingsley, Forest Resources Association, Northeast Region Coordinator

Forests are an economic engine for rural America and have the potential to do even more. Across the United States, there are opportunities to build upon the forests and supply chain to build and enhance prosperous rural communities. Of course, we know this, but the link between the products coming from our forest and the jobs they support came into focus for me recently when looking at some data from Maine, my home state. The Maine Forest Service annually publishes information on the total volume of harvested forest products – including sawlogs (hardwood and softwood), pulpwood (hardwood and softwood), and biomass. The total timber harvest in Maine dropped from nearly 14 million green tons in 2010 to about 9.8 million green tons in 2020. Last year's data is available. That makes sense because, during this period, several pulp mills and biomass plants closed, leading to reduced demand for wood.

During this same period, total employment in the forest products industry fell from over 12,500 in 2008 to just under 8,000 in 2020. These figures include forestry and logging, independent loggers, and those who work in pulp and paper mills and sawmills. There's a fair argument to be made that these figures don't capture all forest industry jobs – obviously trucking, but also any value-added manufacturing and any services that support the industry. That noted, it's a very good proxy for trendlines in forest industry jobs across the state. What becomes quickly apparent is that the harvest level and jobs follow each other. For those of you who are statistics fans, the R^2 between employment and harvest level is 0.81 – meaning that over 80% of the variation in employment can be predicted by the variation in harvest level.

Importantly, before I get a note from a professor, that doesn't mean that one necessarily causes the other, but they clearly travel together. Of course, this makes sense. As mills close, less wood is consumed. A mill closure means not only a loss of jobs in manufacturing but throughout the supply chain – foresters, loggers, truckers, and others.

These statistics – from one state – show employment and harvest levels dropping together. I would note, importantly, that the opposite is also likely to be true. In areas where forest growth exceeds harvest – which describes most places in the country – there are opportunities to create new jobs up and down the forest industry supply chain, bringing living wage jobs to rural communities. We have the forest resources in this country to support more sustainable products and can build upon the existing supply chain to get fiber from the woods to the mill. Capitalizing upon this opportunity has the potential to support rural communities across the country, and we should view forests as an economic engine that can do more.

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CURIOUS ABOUT A CAREER IN THE FOREST ECONOMY?

Written By: Christine McGowen, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

FROM LOGGING TO FURNITURE-MAKING, THE NEW VERMONT FOREST ECONOMY CAREER GUIDE DETAILS JOB DESCRIPTIONS, WAGE INFORMATION, EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, AND MORE.

Do you love to work outdoors? Enjoy making things with your hands? Love to drive big machines, or want to use technology to solve environmental problems? A career in Vermont's forest economy could be a great fit for you!

The new Forest Economy Career Guide offers detailed information on projected job openings, wage information, education and training requirements, and what to expect on the job. From logging to furniture-making, to using drones to map forest inventory and manufacturing wood pellets for heat, there are good jobs to be had in Vermont's forest economy.

Forest Health, Conservation and Consulting Careers

Individuals interested in forest health, conservation and consulting, for example, will find information on careers in forestry. Entry level jobs typically require a high school diploma, while professional foresters have at least two to four years of post-secondary education. The median annual salary in forestry is \$63,750.

Construction Careers

Construction, which has more than 3,000 projected job openings in Vermont according to Advance Vermont, provides a median hourly wage of \$22.94 and generally requires three to twelve months of on-the-job training. The Guide notes that employers will look for attention to detail, familiarity with hand and power tools, basic math skills, and excellent communication.

Sawmill Careers

Family-owned sawmills in Vermont offer numerous jobs, from production to management to sales, many of which require a high school diploma and on the job training. Trever Allard, the second generation owner of Allard Lumber in Brattleboro, shares his advice on working at a sawmill.

Woodworking Careers

Those interested in fine woodworking will find detailed information on everything from cabinet- to furniture-making, jobs that combine high levels of artistry with craftsmanship and have a starting hourly rate of \$18 per hour. The owners of Towards Nightfall and the Vermont Woodworking School, Catherine Emil and Jared Williams share what they love most about careers in the workshop.

A diverse and dynamic field, these jobs play an important role in preserving the health and productivity of Vermont's forests.



"The next generation of forest economy professionals will steward Vermont's most valued natural resource for both economic and environmental benefit," said Christine McGowan, forest program director at the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund. "As the current workforce ages and approaches retirement and new technologies and markets appear, there are opportunities for both employment and advancement in all areas of the industry."

To download a copy of the Vermont Forest Economy Career Guide:

https://www.vsjf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Vermont-Forest-Economy-Career_June-2022.pdf

BIOMASS:

CONTROVERSY AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Written By: Robbo Holleran for The Northern Logger Magazine



If you are a regular reader of this magazine, you probably know a little about biomass, and perhaps a great deal. I hope to add to that, provide some encouragement, and address some of the controversial aspects. Some say that biomass energy is bad for the environ-

ment and the atmosphere, and some say it is an important tool for forest management. The main opposition comes in three categories: the efficiency of producing heat or, more specifically, electricity from wood; forestry practices and sustainability; and emissions such as particulates and carbon dioxide.

I have been able to do some great forestry with biomass harvesting. Landowners like the clean result with the debris gone, and cull trees removed. The logging is productive, and the crews tend to be professional. We are able to remove very high proportions of cull material, and this is especially pertinent for proper regeneration harvesting in Northern Hardwood stands. We have many forest management plans that cannot be implemented without biomass markets.

Misleading Industry Terminology

Instead of “whole tree chips,” we should be using terms like “waste wood chips,” “forestry by-products,” or “logging residue.” Seldom is a whole tree chipped for biomass, unless there is not a better market for that tree. The general public is left with the impression that we are chipping the whole tree — and by implication — the whole forest to make electricity.

We use the term “whole-tree logging” when the whole tree is dragged to the roadside to be processed, instead of being processed at the stump as with conventional logging. At the landing, sawlogs, pulp, and firewood are taken as available from each tree. Each of these products is more valuable than the chips in most cases. Just the tops, scraps, and branches are chipped, so this is really a “forestry by-product.” This becomes more important when we talk about carbon accounting.

Heat and Electricity from Wood

When we speak of “biomass energy” there are several categories to include. Burning split firewood or pellets is part of this discussion and has a significant impact in the northeast region. Chips are burned for energy in several forms, including stemwood chips in medium-sized boilers for heat, and larger-scale electric generation with waste-wood chips.

Modern heating systems using pellets or stemwood chips are more than 80 percent efficient and clean burning. The controversy here relates to the perception of wood burning as dirty, and a misunderstanding of the truly renewable and sustainable aspect of modern wood heat. Many states in the region have policies that promote wood burning at small and medium scale because they recognize that these systems are clean, and that

wood harvesting promotes good forestry.

Middlebury College is one example on the larger end of the scale. They have a modern wood-gasification system that heats essentially the whole campus on about 20,000 tons of wood chips per year. They advertise the sustainability benefits of a 40 percent net reduction in emissions of carbon, the huge cost savings, and the benefits to the local economy. They also point out that the carbon is “biogenic,” meaning that it comes from carbon that was previously in the atmosphere and taken up by forest growth, and it is clearly renewable, sustainable, and carbon neutral based on forest growth in the region.

Large-scale electric generation with waste wood chips is more controversial. Part of the political scrutiny is that burning wet wood chips is inherently inefficient. If the “spent steam” is not used for another purpose, making electricity can be as low as 25 percent efficiency. While these plants are extremely clean burning for particulates and gasses, the perception is that they are “dirty.” There is a smokestack, but most of what comes out is just steam. Burlington, Vermont has a large facility that burns 400,000 tons of green chips per year, or almost two tractor-trailer loads per hour. This is enough to power most of the city, and they can boast about their clean air and renewable power. There is a proposal to use the spent steam for heat on the UVM campus, which would boost the efficiency.



Biomass and Forest Management

Biomass markets have given landowners the option of removing low-grade material: cull trees, tops, and branches, without better market options. Much of our cull material is not even suitable for pulp. The result is a much cleaner woodlot than conventional logging, which would take the round logs suitable for market, and leave this waste scattered around to rot. Whole-tree logging is extremely efficient and less dependent upon tree size for logging cost. This allows landowners to implement their management plans, especially to improve the proportion of high-quality growing stock, or to regenerate poor-quality stands, which increases the value of the subsequent growth. Having the occasional income from periodic harvesting allows the ordinary citizen the extraordinary opportunity to own forestland, improve wildlife habitat, and hopefully, to pass this on to their heirs. These forestry practices are highly controlled by the various state laws, forest management plans, and licensing of foresters and timber harvesters in some states.

Public perception of excessive biomass harvesting does not come from the official inventory figures. Opponents will say that logging for biomass is excessive and unsustainable. They do not understand that many of our forests are mature or low quality, and that regenerating these forests properly is an important part of forest - and wildlife habitat - management. Forests are growing faster than harvest in every state in the northeast. The occasional heavy cut along a well-traveled road distorts their perception. Whole-tree logging tends to have large, messy landings, and this is the “face” of our industry. They see trucks tracking mud onto the highway and slowing down traffic.

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And they hear sound-bites about “leaving forests natural” for carbon reasons.

From a practical perspective, we can do a lot to keep our landings neat, or build a hundred yards of truck road to get the landing out of sight. Try to keep mud off of the highway, and warn traffic about heavy trucks entering. Clean up and seed your landing promptly for appearance’s sake. Sometimes I will put up signs to let the visitors know that the harvest was part of a well-thought-out forest plan. I usually get great feedback from these, and if someone has a negative first impression, they are left with another way of looking at it.

The Carbon Issue

The heavy public opposition to biomass — and tree harvesting in general — comes from the carbon issue. Whether or not you think that carbon is a pollutant, this is important to public policy, which determines whether we can do our business. Forest management is carbon management. We should be ready and willing to address our neighbors with the thought that managing forests is good for the environment, and that it is good carbon management. From a carbon perspective, forestland is the very best land use, and we can make a strong argument that good forest management provides a crisp economic incentive for forests to stay forested, and not be converted to other uses.

The basic carbon cycle is fairly easy to explain. The details get complicated. As trees grow, they pull carbon dioxide out of the air and combine it with water to create sugars and release oxygen. That is wonderful. Trees also burn sugars, using oxygen and releasing CO₂. The extra sugars get converted to cellulose and other chemicals that form the wood in the tree. We measure that as the growth in the forest, in cords, boards, and tons. Of course, there are roots underground, dead trees, and partially decayed organic matter which adds to the forest’s carbon storage. When trees die, they slowly release their carbon, and use up the same amount of oxygen they produced. When we harvest trees, most of the wood is on a short cycle to be burned or disposed of in some way that returns the carbon to the atmosphere. A portion ends up as “durable wood products” like housing or furniture which might store the carbon for a century or more. Accounting for this entire carbon cycle can be incredibly complex.

From a shallow perspective, if forests store carbon, then the more they have, the better. Some people would like to see the forests dedicated to storing as much as possible. And they are correct that a well-managed forest will have slightly lower levels of carbon, which essentially means more forest carbon will be released to the atmosphere. And they are correct to state that it takes more carbon to make a kilowatt of electricity from wet wood chips than from dry coal. But there is more to the story.

To address these points, we should understand two competing issues in forestry: the current carbon storage and the rate of growth. Opponents like both of these, but don’t seem to understand how they conflict. A mature, fully-stocked forest will have a lot of stored tons per acre, but a very low rate of additional growth. Most of our forests have this situation. Crowded forests are still growing, but have a high rate of mortality, which releases carbon back into the atmosphere with little net gain. In Vermont, for example, close to a million cords dies and rots each year. This has the same carbon effect as a 30,000-acre forest fire every summer. If it burned instead of rotting, everyone would notice. Younger and middle-aged forests, especially with recent thinning, will have the highest rates of additional growth, but lower storage per acre. This is just common sense to us forestry people.

If we did not use wood products, then storing carbon in forests would be a good idea. But our forests are more valuable to carbon management than merely storage. Wood is good. We should promote the environmental and carbon benefits of using wood as a raw material. It is renewable, recyclable, biodegradable, and usually organically grown. It is often grown in diverse forests which provide a myriad of other social and environmental benefits. It takes less carbon-based energy and causes less pollution to process wood into final products compared to almost all other materials, and these durable wood products can store carbon for centuries. A true environmentalist should insist that we use more wood and not less. And certainly, we should harvest our wood locally, where the stewardship is at a high level, compared to bringing our wood from Indonesia or Brazil, where the standards are not so high.

The carbon benefits of using wood are dramatic. A steel chair needs to be mined as ore, refined, processed, painted, and shipped from somewhere far away, all based on fossil fuels. A wooden chair can be made from a tree in your town, sawn locally, and processed using far less energy. So, the carbon stored in that chair is incidental, but the alternative raw material is the main accounting item. Charles Levesque at INRS has published some numbers on this. The study compared the fossil fuel use of three types of supporting floor used in construction. It concludes that compared to traditional wood framing, a concrete floor uses about 2.5 times as much, and a steel floor uses almost 5 times as much. Aluminum is far worse.



The Case for Biomass

Once we decide that we should manage our forests wisely, and use wood where appropriate as a raw material, then the conclusions about biomass are easy. Biomass is merely a byproduct of growing and harvesting better trees. We should manage forests to minimize their natural mortality and natural carbon release. This will naturally lead us to a more balanced set of age classes, with younger forests growing fast, and healthy older forests storing carbon. We should be culturing these forests toward valuable long-lived species that are most likely to be made into durable wood products. By replacing more carbon-intensive materials with wood, we have a carbon benefit.

While tending and regenerating these forests, we will be harvesting competing trees that are best used for firewood, pulpwood, and biomass energy. The tops and branches are truly by-products or forest waste. Using them for energy, even at relatively low efficiency, replaces fossil fuels with another carbon benefit. This is a significant source of non-fossil energy in the Northeast.

By burning biomass, we provide a reliable, renewable, homegrown source of fuel without adding fossilized carbon to the atmosphere. We keep energy dollars in the community, with hundreds of family-wage jobs. We assist landowners with a substantial tool for forest management, which encourages investment in growing forests for higher-value products and keeping the land in forest use for another generation. These principles are easily integrated with other forestry goals, and forests are much more than merely stored carbon.

Robbo Holleran is a consulting forester based in Vermont and licensed in three adjacent states with 40 years of experience. He is an active writer, speaker, and teacher on a wide range of forestry issues. He shares a Leadership Award from NELA with Steve Hardy.

Timber Industry Left With No Flood Recovery Options

Written By: Laura Hardie for the Vermont Farm Bureau October Newsletter



When Sam Lincoln of Lincoln Farm Timber Harvesting in Randolph Center, Vermont, started a routine logging job at the beginning of June, it was supposed to take three weeks. After nine weeks, he had completed three days of work, thanks to wet conditions and flooding. "Loggers couldn't get to their jobs for anywhere from two days to two weeks because of washed-out roads," Lincoln said. "We've had many loggers who had extended routes to truck to the mills because of the roads washed out. The flood shut down many operations," Lincoln recalled.

Even if logging contractors could get to their jobs, many couldn't work anyway because of wet ground. Lincoln says they rely on suitable soil conditions to operate heavy equipment in the forest to avoid rutting, erosion, and damage to tree roots and the forest ecosystem. On average, loggers can operate equipment 160-180 days per year on the rich topsoil and steep slopes in Vermont's forests.

The standstill in production from June through August caused an 80 percent revenue reduction for Lincoln. It came after loggers like him were still recovering from a poor winter harvest combined with the impact of inflation and low pay for timber in the spring. "We need cold, frozen conditions to put our heavy equipment on the ground without making a negative impact. We had a winter where we had almost no periods of frozen conditions," Lincoln said. "Then, the global economy was starting to feel the effects of what I refer to as a COVID hangover, and building demand decreased very quickly." This caused the price paid to loggers by mills to drop. Timber cut by loggers in Vermont for boards or dimensional lumber is often exported globally to sawmills, pulp, and paper mills.

"Unless it goes to a local sawmill making rough-cut lumber, it frequently goes out into the global market as a commodity. That means global and geopolitical events have a huge impact on our local businesses now because it's a globally traded commodity." As loggers across the region, from Western New York to the coast of Maine, faced the double hit of low prices for their product and being unable to work due to wet ground, a shortage of timber occurred, but with no increase in the price loggers are paid. "When there is a shortage, you would expect a big spike in price, but it has continued to decrease," Lincoln said. "We have seen three months of extreme shortage on the supply side, and yet prices have not responded, so even if someone can work, they are receiving lower prices for the product."

No Options

As farmers across Vermont recover from flooding, financial assistance is available from the state and federal government, non-profits, local funds, trade groups, and more, for various situations. Farmers may also have crop insurance, which they rely on to recoup some of their damages. Lincoln says that, so far, loggers, truckers, and foresters have no options.

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"The forest products industry, particularly the logging and trucking capacity, has not been eligible for any funding because it has not been physical damages; it's been purely a revenue loss," Lincoln said. To date, loggers or truckers cannot obtain insurance to cover their lost revenue either. "Farmers have crop disaster payments...how do we include loggers, truckers, and forest products in something like that who have historically not been included in disaster declarations?" Lincoln said.

The Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation recently surveyed the forestry industry to quantify the financial impact of the wet season. The results will be available soon to help increase awareness of the industry's fragility and provide data to advocate for solutions.

"We are off in the woods, and the general public can't see the damage to our business because it's in our checkbook," Lincoln said. "It's clear the impact was severe to logging and trucking capacity." Lincoln says he's been able to find work elsewhere, but it hasn't replaced his lost income. "I parked my logging equipment, took my excavator that I normally use to build roads in the woods, and went to work for the town for five weeks. It was great some of us had that option, but I've talked to other loggers who didn't have that," Lincoln said.

Building Resilience

As ground conditions become less available for harvesting timber due to extreme weather, Lincoln says the forestry industry is coming together to figure out how to adapt. "Our techniques may have to change – it's physics...we have to spread out the weight of the equipment – and maybe this means developing higher floatation equipment to protect forest ecosystems," Lincoln said.

There are also strategies to prevent erosion on a job site, including temporary strategically placed water bars made of soil and or poles, which intercept the water and divert it into stable vegetation beside logging trails.

Lincoln says in managed forests in the New York City watershed, loggers are reimbursed for much of the costs of measures like water bars, which may have to be installed more frequently.

"Let's say I budget to install water bars two times in the summer on a job. If I've done it ten times in a year like this, I am not reimbursed for that cost," Lincoln said. "You're the shock absorber between the weather, the fixed costs of the job, and the mill. So, this program would potentially reimburse loggers for those costs."

As he looks back on the past year, Lincoln says something has to change. "There's a passion for doing good work in the woods, but people's confidence in their future has been shaken badly; some leaving the business are third or fourth-generation logging contractors – some are first-generation," Lincoln said, "and we're still not out of it yet."

Vermont's forest economy contributes more than \$2 billion in direct economy output and provides more than 13,000 jobs in forestry, logging, processing, specialty woodworking, construction, wood heating, maple production and forest-based recreation.

VERMONT FOREST ECONOMY LOSS AND DAMAGE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS



OVERVIEW

This summer, Vermont experienced a severe storm that led to significant flooding in cities and towns across the state, resulting in widespread physical and economic devastation that deeply affected homeowners, communities, and businesses. Adding to this adversity, Vermont also endured an exceptionally wet summer, further exacerbating the challenges faced by many, especially those in the forest products sector.

In response to the July storm and its aftermath, a comprehensive forest economy damage and loss survey was conducted throughout the month of August, yielding valuable insights from the ninety respondents. What emerged from this survey is a grim reality: the sector, with logging contractors at the forefront, is grappling with substantial economic losses, likely much greater than what this initial survey captured. These losses, estimated at \$2.8 million using a conservative approach based on survey parameters and data and without a multiplier added, will inevitably reverberate throughout the supply chain as logging contractors wait for better conditions to harvest timber and forest products businesses dependent on locally-sourced timber products.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Reported losses exceed \$2.8 million.

The key points:

- A very conservative lower range of the losses experienced as a result of the severe weather¹.
- The results are only a snapshot of the economic loss as the impacts were extended beyond the storm event.

County-level reported losses

- The average county-level economic loss resulting from the flood event is \$204,571.
- The median county-level economic loss resulting from the flood event is \$135,000.
- Counties w/ highest total losses: Windsor (\$662,000), Caledonia (\$502,000); Windham (\$412,000)
- Counties w/ the most reports of flood-related damage: Windsor (17); Orange (13); Caledonia (12)

Logging Contractor Losses

- Logging contractors are the most impacted business category with reported losses of more than \$1.8 million. (The average loss is \$46,125; the median loss is \$25,000), with several companies reporting losses over \$100,000.

¹ The survey asked respondents to report their losses using dollar intervals (e.g., \$25,000 - \$50,000) instead of asking for specific whole dollar amounts and the lowest dollar amount in the reported interval was used to calculate losses.

VERMONT FOREST ECONOMY LOSS AND DAMAGE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS



- 97% of the reported losses from logging contractors are from economic damage.
- The primary type of damage is business interruption (83% of reported losses).
- Only 20% of logging contractors reported applying for any type of assistance.
- Due to the survey's limitations and its specific focus on the severe storm, these numbers do not fully encompass the broader impacts of the July event and those arising from prolonged wet weather.

SUMMARY DATA TABLES

Business Category Losses

Business Category	n	%
Forest landowner	22	24%
Consulting forester	12	13%
Logging contractor	40	44%
Forest trucker	8	9%
Sawmill	4	4%
Wood energy producer	3	3%
Secondary wood products	1	1%
TOTAL	90	

Business Category	Minimum Losses (USD)		
	Physical	Economic	Total
Forest landowner	\$55,000.00	\$229,000.00	\$284,000.00
Consulting forester	\$11,000.00	\$132,000.00	\$143,000.00
Logging contractor	\$57,000.00	\$1,788,000.00	\$1,845,000.00
Forest trucker	\$0.00	\$171,000.00	\$171,000.00
Sawmill	\$0.00	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00
Wood energy producer	\$20,000.00	\$51,000.00	\$71,000.00
Secondary wood products	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00
TOTAL	\$168,000.00	\$2,696,000.00	\$2,864,000.00

County Level Losses

County	n	%
Addison	2	2%
Bennington	2	2%
Caledonia	12	14%
Chittenden	5	6%
Essex	0	0%
Franklin	4	5%
Grand Isle	1	1%
Lamoille	5	6%
Orange	13	15%
Orleans	3	3%
Rutland	7	8%
Washington	10	12%
Windham	9	10%
Windsor	17	20%
TOTAL	90	

County	Minimum Losses (USD)		
	Physical	Economic	Total
Addison	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Bennington	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$11,000.00
Caledonia	\$51,000.00	\$451,000.00	\$502,000.00
Chittenden	\$0.00	\$135,000.00	\$135,000.00
Essex	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Franklin	\$0.00	\$86,000.00	\$86,000.00
Grand Isle	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lamoille	\$11,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$23,000.00
Orange	\$11,000.00	\$385,000.00	\$396,000.00
Orleans	\$10,000.00	\$125,000.00	\$135,000.00
Rutland	\$1,000.00	\$141,000.00	\$142,000.00
Washington	\$37,000.00	\$298,000.00	\$335,000.00
Windham	\$1,000.00	\$411,000.00	\$412,000.00
Windsor	\$45,000.00	\$617,000.00	\$662,000.00
TOTAL	\$168,000.00	\$2,696,000.00	\$2,864,000.00



Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

VERMONT FARM & FOREST VIABILITY PROGRAM

Forest Transfer Planning Programming Accepting Applications!

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 Forest Transfer Program can help landowners with:

- *Developing a vision for long-term stewardship and ownership*
- *Identifying and addressing questions or needs throughout the process*
- *Creating a framework for transfer of forest to the next generation*
- *Exploring questions around conservation*

Get Started: Contact Mark Raishart, Forest Specialist, at mark@vhcb.org or 802-828-3526.

The Forest Landowner Transfer Program is a program of the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board.

Coaching Available for Forest Products Businesses!

The Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program is a resource that provides forest products businesses with one-on-one advising and technical assistance to help achieve long-term success.

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

- *Expanding or diversifying your 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 by calling 802-828-3370 visit our website at www.vhcb.org/viability

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

Forest-Focused Legacy Planning for Now and the Next Generation

Do you own forestland and hope to pass it on to the next generation? We're teaming up with the Vermont Land Trust to host a conversation about succession planning for private forestland. We'll learn about VHCB's new in-depth forestland transfer planning program that helps families develop a shared vision and make a plan for the future ownership and management of their forestland. We'll also hear from landowners who have navigated the succession planning process, and explore different conservation options that can help achieve a family's goals for long-term stewardship of the land. We will also get the chance to take a short tour of Baird Farm, and hear directly from the Baird family about the farm's history, generational transition, and their plans for the future. This event will be on Monday, October 23, 2023, 9:30am-12:30pm, Baird Farm, Chittenden, VT.

Panelists:

Bob and Jenna Baird, Baird Farm
 Bill Dell'Isola, Conservation Analyst, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
 Mark Raishart, Forest Program Specialist, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
 Tim Stout, Forest Landowner
 Liza Walker, Program Manager and Mediator, Environmental Mediation Center

This event is perfect for landowners and natural resource professionals.

Please pre-register today: <https://join.vlt.org/event/planning-for-the-future-of-your-forestland/e519436/register/new/select-tickets?ga=2.118093897.1399942734.1696254102-504772531.1691764801>



Working Lands Enterprise Initiative Opens Business Enhancement Grant Applications

Up to \$50K available for farm, forest, and local food businesses

October 10, 2023 | Montpelier, VT - The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) is now accepting applications for the Business Enhancement Grant. Vermont-based farm, food, and forest sector businesses may apply for grants for \$15,000 - \$50,000.

The application portal is open from October 6th through November 20th. There will be an optional [applicant webinar](#) on Wednesday, October 11th from 12:00–1:00 PM.

Projects eligible for funding may relate to one or more of the following categories:

- Market development
- Research and development
- Infrastructure development
- Workforce training and development

Applicants will be notified of awards in early January 2024 and the estimated project start is February 2024.

The Business Enhancement Grant expects a match equal to 100% of the grant request, meaning that for example a business applying for a \$25,000 should expect to contribute \$25,000 in their own cash and/or labor. Under limited circumstances, the matching requirement may be reduced or waived for applicants who demonstrate a clear need for this accommodation.

Visit the [Business Enhancement Grant webpage](#) for more information and to apply.

Please visit the [WLEI funding opportunities calendar](#) to see other grants available for Fiscal Year 2024. Applications for grants offering either less than \$15,000 or more than \$50,000 will open in December and January, with awards announced in the spring. Applicants can only apply to one WLEI grant during Fiscal Year 2024.

The Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) and governing board (WLEB) were created by the legislature in 2012 to stimulate economic development in the agricultural and forestry sectors. WLEI is a collaborative effort between the Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

Please follow @vtworkinglands and [sign up for the Agriculture Development Newsletter](#) for updates and application announcements.

For questions regarding WLEI grant opportunities,

Please Contact: **Clare Salerno**

Agriculture Development Specialist | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative
clare.salerno@vermont.gov | 802-917-2637



Farm Service Agency to Assist Flood Recovery Efforts on Private Forestland

October 4, 2023 | Montpelier, VT– The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that all Vermont county FSA offices are ready to accept applications for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). This program offers financial assistance to eligible forest landowners, to help restore land that has been damaged by the July rainstorms that resulted in widespread flooding and land instability across Vermont.

Various projects may qualify under this program, but its primary focus is on addressing erosion and water quality issues affecting forest roads and trails resulting from heavy rainfall.

The signup period for EFRP began on October 10, 2023, and end on October 31, 2023.

Eligible nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) forest landowners who have experienced damage due to this weather event are encouraged to apply for assistance before commencing any reconstruction efforts. However, even if restoration work has already begun, landowners may still be eligible to participate.

Prior to approval of an EFRP application for assistance, an onsite inspection of the damages will be conducted by FSA, in collaboration with a state forester. This step is crucial to verify the extent of damages and facilitate an environmental review.

To meet eligibility criteria, NIPF land must have had existing tree cover or tree cover immediately before the qualifying natural disaster occurred and must be sustainable for tree growth. Additionally, the land must be owned or leased by a nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, or another private legal entity with clear decision-making authority over the land.

For further information on EFRP or to initiate the application process, please get in touch with the Farm Service Agency county office that serves the damaged land or visit the website at farmers.gov/recover. County office contact information can be found using the Service Center Locator tool available on the [Farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov) website: <https://www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator>.

Vermont USDA Service Centers:

- **Addison** (802-388-6748) 66 Catamount Park, Middlebury, VT 05753
- **Franklin/Grand Isle** (802-527-1296), 50 S. Main Street, St. Albans, VT 05478
- **Rutland/Bennington** (802-775-8034) 170 S. Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701
- **Caledonia/Essex** (802-748-2641) 481 Summer St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
- **Lamoille** (802-888-4935), 109 Professional Drive, Morrisville, VT 05661
- **Windham** (802-254-9766), 28 Vernon Street, Brattleboro, VT 05301
- **Chittenden/Washington** (802-288-8155, 94 Harvest Lane, Williston, VT 05495
- **Orleans** (802-334-6090), 59 Waterfront Plaza, Newport, VT 05855
- **Windsor/Orange** (802-295-7942), 28 Farmvu Drive, White River Jct., VT 05001 (802) 498-5169

For questions, please contact: **Keith Thompson**,
 VT Dept FPR

keith.thompson@vermont.gov | 802-498-5169



Temporary Wooden Skidder Bridges Now Available at Natural Resource Conservation Districts



Wooden three-panel portable skidder bridges: FPR has partnered with several Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCD's) across the state to provide temporary skidder bridge rentals. These 20' long three panel Hemlock bridges are made up of panels that are 10" thick and 4' wide and use 6 threaded rods with log cabin screws in between to make them more durable. The rental program is run by the NRCD's and they can be contacted with the information below. The cost is \$100 per month, and the renter is responsible for transportation.

Contacts for the Natural Resource Conservation districts.
See map of districts here: <https://www.vacd.org/contact-nrcds/>

NRCD	Contact	phone	email
Caledonia County	Taylor Johnson	802-748-2641	taylor.johnon2@vt.nacdnet.net
Essex County	Sam Mayne	802-424-5353	essexnrcd@gmail.com
Franklin County	Lauren Weston	802-528-4176	info@franklincountynrcd.org
Lamoille County	Peter Danforth	631-495-9093	lccddirector@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	Adelaide Dumm	907-821-6373	adelaide@winooskinrcd.org





Heavy Duty Steel Logging Bridges Available from FPR

Dave Wilcox, Watershed Forester

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

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation owns and rents 5 heavy duty steel frame temporary logging bridges. These bridges are available for rent for \$100 per month, with the renter paying for mobilization of the bridge. These bridges are suitable for larger stream crossings, and can be used on larger streams of 21 feet to 35 feet from abutment to abutment. If you have a site that requires a larger bridge, give me a call to get on the schedule.

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. These bridges were funded through a grant with the US Forest Service. If interested in one of these bridges, contact Dave Wilcox, 802-793-0265.



Wood over 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 25,000 lbs. and 30,000 lbs. respectively, 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. 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.



David L. Grayck, Esq.

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57 College Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
(802) 223-0659

David@graycklaw.com

"A lawyer who knows a little silviculture"



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TECH CENTER NEWS

Albany Community School Students Construct Cedar Boxes and Learn About Forests

When Goodridge Lumber was contacted about conducting a wood-working project with the Summer Program Albany students, they felt it was an excellent opportunity to connect the students with the wood used in this project with forests.

Colleen Goodridge discussed with the students the white cedar lumber, where it came from and the many people in the supply chain that are involved in providing wood products that we all use in our daily lives.

Grandsons, Logan and Dylan, who prepared the materials for the project, led the students in the construction of the boxes.

At the end of the day, 32 cedar boxes were made and lots of stories of the forest had been shared by the students.



CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY, ESSEX

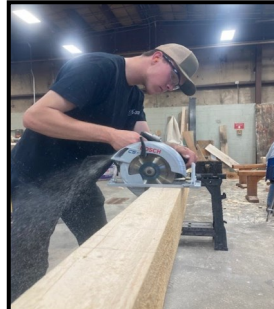
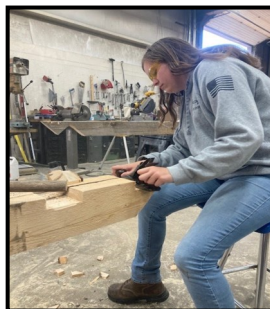
The Forestry & Horticulture students at the Center for Technology, Essex have taken on an exciting project this semester. They are building a solar kiln to facilitate the drying process of green lumber coming off of their portable mill. The kiln will be heated by passive solar collection, and will have DC solar powered vent fans to circulate the

air. The vent fan system is going to be designed and built by the Computer Systems Technology program at C.T.E.

During this project the forestry students researched existing kiln plans and designs. They then incorporated aspects of those designs they liked into their own. During the build students have learned and implemented hand and power tool safety, measuring and layout, and the square rule method of timber framing.

The first phase, building the frame, is nearly complete- only the rafters need installation. Phase two includes laying the floor, siding the building, and installing the roof system. Phase three will be the installation of the vents and the hanging of the doors.

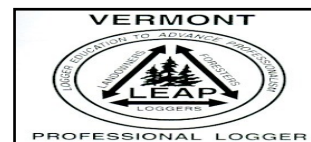
If you have questions about the project, please contact the program instructor, Brian Japp at bjapp@ewsd.org or 802-857-7945



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. Clarendon, VT, Logger

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

LEAP~Logger Education to Advance Professionalism Submitted by David Birdsall



How it works! Vermont LEAP New Requirements

For Mechanized Logging Operators

LEAP Certification Requirements – New to LEAP: Completing the following requirements within two years, meets minimum certification requirements for the VT LEAP Program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These are also the requirements for the employee training requirements for the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. (Additional steps are required for full safety certification with your insurance carrier.)

- Professionalism (1 day – 8 credits)
- Managing and Using Forest Ecosystems (1 day – 8 credits)
- Introduction to Mechanized Logger Safety (1 day – 8 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

Already LEAP Certified

For Loggers who have previously completed the LEAP program, the following workshops need to be completed to meet the new Curriculum requirements:

- Introduction to Mechanized Logger Safety (1 day – 8 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

For Non-Mechanized Logging Operators

LEAP Certification Requirements – New to LEAP: Completing the following requirements within two years, meets minimum certification requirements for the VT LEAP Program and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These are also the requirements for the employee training requirements for the Vermont Logger Safety and Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. (Additional steps are required for full safety certification with your insurance carrier.)

- Professionalism (1 day – 8 credits)
- Managing and Using Forest Ecosystems (1 day – 8 credits)
- *Game of Logging (Levels 1 through 4 – 32 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

Already LEAP certified

For Loggers who have previously completed the LEAP program, the following workshops need to be completed to meet the new Curriculum requirements:

- *Game of Logging (Levels 1 through 4 – 32 credits)
- Advanced Logger Rescue/First Aid & CPR (1 day – 8 credits)

**If completed GOL more than five years ago, must take Level 5 GOL (Refresher)*

Continuing Education Requirements

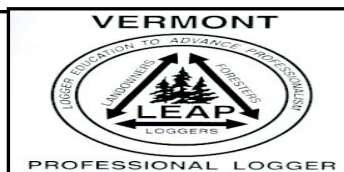
For both Mechanized and Non-Mechanized Logging Operators- Continuing education is required to maintain LEAP/SFI certification. Within every two years, except as otherwise noted, and after completing LEAP requirements, the following is required to maintain LEAP/SFI certification:

- Safety Workshop (8 hours annually – 8 credits)
- *LEAP elective (1 day – 8 credits)
- Maintain First Aid/CPR certification

Contact David Birdsall for more information:
logger@vtleap.com or visit www.vtleap.com

Northeast Woodland Training and VT LEAP

Bring Game of Logging to Local Tech Centers



Forestry Workers, were getting older! We need to get the next generation excited to work in the woods!



All of the Forestry and Natural Resource Tech Schools in Vermont have been giving their students the opportunity to get Industry Related Credentials. Northeast Woodland Training, the Game of Logging chain-saw training and VT LEAP are two of these programs.

The Game of logging is a four-day training that gives these students a feather in their cap as they get out and apply for various jobs here in Vt. They see the importance of starting these young folks out with a saw training that has been proven to be 80% safer than what we all learned from our fathers and grandfathers.

Recently most of these Tech Schools have wanted their students to graduate with having a VT LEAP certification as well. The students will graduate with the Primary Curriculum under their belt. LEAP has worked with the Teachers to have the ability to cover Professionalism in Forestry and Managing and Using Forest Ecosystems throughout their school year. Then after taking the Game of Logging and having Tim Emperor come and do his Advanced Logger Safety training, they will have completed the Primary Curriculum. After graduation from the Program, if they want to remain LEAP certified they can jump into the Secondary Curriculum with no problems.

Besides the crazy weather we are having lately, the Technical High Schools are facing another type of problem.

A huge issue seems to be brewing with getting new students to attend these Tech School programs. It seems a combination of a lack of interest and that the sending High Schools may not be steering students toward these programs as much as in the past. This is threatening the existence of these amazing Natural Resource programs.

Those of you who work in the woods are very aware of the lack of competent help out there. If we lose these programs around the state, it will only get worse.

I would encourage all woods workers to get to know their local Technical Career Centers and see what could be done to help them stay vibrant. I know that everything from offering to serve on their Steering Committee's, being available to have students visit active jobs, being able to host students with their Co-Op's – where they can intern with a logger, forester or sawmill, and just talking up these amazing programs to any young person considering working in the out doors could be a huge help– Thanks and stay safe out there! David Birdsell

Forestry and Natural Resource Technical High Schools in VT

Applied Technology Center Pat Guckin Main Street St. Johnsbury, VT (802) 751-2320	Canaan High School Chris Masson 99 School Street Canaan, VT (802) 266-8910	Central VT Career Center Ariel Lattanzi 155 Ayers Street #2 Barre, VT (802) 476-6237	Cold Hollow Career Center Josh Goss 184 Missisquoi Street Enosburg Falls, VT (802) 933-4003
Essex Career & Technical Center Brian Japp 10 Meadow Terrace Essex Junction, VT (802) 879-5559	Green Mtn Tech Center Meghan Luther 433 North Main Street Hardwick, VT (802) 851-1520	Hartford Area Career Center Matt Dragon 1 Gifford Avenue White River Jet, VT (802) 295-8630	Lyndon Institute Jerry Leonard 168 Institute Circle Lyndon, VT (802) 535-3636
North Country Career Center Sam Nijensohn 633 Upper Quarry Road Newport, VT (802) 334-2556	Northwest Career Center Jacob Holzberg-Pill 71 S. Main Street St. Albans City, VT (802) 752-1055	Patricia A. Hannaford Center Aaron Townshend 51 Charles Avenue Middlebury, VT (802) 382-1010	Randolph Tech Center Ryan O'Malley 17 Forest Street Randolph, VT (802) 728-9595
Riverbend Tech Center Dylan Kidder 36 Oxbow Drive Bradford, VT (802) 222-5212	River Valley Tech Center John Harner 307 South Street Springfield, VT (802) 885-8329	Southwest VT Regional Center 321 Park Street Bennington, VT (802) 447-0220	Stafford Tech Center Mike Stannard 8 Stratton Road Rutland, VT (802) 770-1057
Windham Regional Career Center Errol Nelson 45 Career Circle Brattleboro, VT (802) 257-7335			

VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION 2023 CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The VFPA Annual Awards Program is our opportunity to recognize Excellence in our industry and our chance to celebrate some of the best people that represent the many good people of our industry. We need you to look around the industry and send us nominations of folks who make significant contributions to our industry.

We will use the Northeastern Loggers Association (NELA) award categories: Outstanding - Logging Operator, Sawmill Operator, Wood Manufacturer, Forest Products Trucking Operator, Management of Resources, Contribution to Forest Industry Education, Contribution to Safety, Industry Advocate, Use of Wood, Service to the Forest Industry and Leadership in Industry.

Send a brief description of why you think the nominee should be given the award in the appropriate category. Along with the description, send a short biographical sketch of the nominee and letters from two individuals who will verify and support the nomination.

We are calling for nominations to be submitted to Brandy at vfpa@hotmail.com by December 13, 2023

Awards will be presented at the January 27, 2024 VFPA Annual Meeting.

We will submit our VFPA winners to the NELA competition by January 31, 2024.

NELA Awards will be presented at the Annual Logger's Banquet to be held in May 2024 in Essex Junction, VT

VFPA is asking for everyone's help in raising funds to pay for services for the 2024 Legislative Session.

This VFPA fundraiser will start on **October 20th** and will end on **November 10, 2023**. This guarantees Christmas delivery!

Wear your shirt proudly to show your support and celebrate the people who work the Working Landscape and share in the important work of our industry organization. Thank you!

To order, please go to the **Vermont Forest Products Association Facebook page** or use this link in your internet browser
<https://www.bonfire.com/vfpa-legislative-fund-campaign>



Check out the new items that are available !



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.

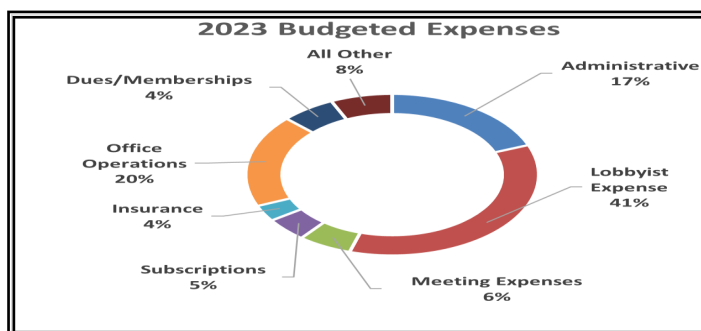
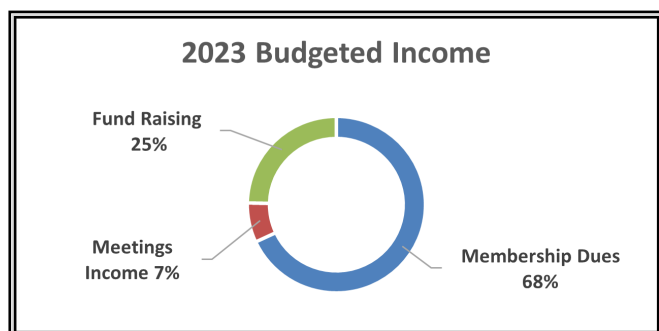
We would welcome your much needed support in the form of a membership to continue our commitment in promoting and defending our forest and wood industry.

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 2022 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.

www.vtfpa.org

E-mail: vtfpa@hotmail.com

Phone: 802-323-3591

Coventry, Vermont 05825

P.O. Box 110

Vermont Forest Products Association



Dates and Events

November 16 - VFPA Directors Meeting, via Zoom

December 14 - VFPA Directors Meeting, Zoom or
Location to be determined

January 27, 2024 - VFPA Annual Meeting, Location
to be determined.



*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
results 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 member:
Michael Brown, Moretown, VT*

*Since the July flood, we have heard many stories about
flood damage and also the immediate
response from many in the forest industry helping their
neighbors and communities in need - providing their
equipment and skills - often working into the night.*

***THANK YOU TO ALL IN THE FOREST INDUSTRY
FOR YOUR HELP -
"DARN TOUGH" AND "VERMONT STRONG."***