



Vermont Forest Products Association (VFPA)



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

National Forests Products Week	1-2
Celebrating Vermont Forests	2
National Bioenergy Day	3-5
Biomass Developer Stands By Fast Track Permit Application	6-7
Annual Vermont Forest Industry Summit Highlights	7
Ryegate Power Plant Receives Grant Award	8
VT FPR Worcester Range Update	9
VT FPR Jay State Forest Update	10
VFPA Lobbyist, Gwynn Zakov Visits the NEK	11
Register for VFPA Southern Regional Roundup	11
Ethan Tapper: How to Love a Forest	12
VT Forest & Viability Program Updates	13
Maple Landmark Celebrates 45th Anniversary	13
VT FPR Wooden Skidder Bridge Rentals	14
VT FPR Steel Logging Bridges Available	15
Tech Center News	16
VFF and LEAP News	17
2024 VFPA Call for Awards Nominations	18
VFPA Info	19
Dates and Events	20

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 20 - 26, 2024



October 20-26, 2024 is National Forest Products Week to recognize the importance of products from our forests. The Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 123), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week each year.

During National Forest Products Week, we celebrate the value of America's forests and the products they provide while we recommit to sustainably managing these splendid natural resources to meet our Nation's needs, both now and in the future.

Expanding wood products markets reduces forest restoration costs and creates an alternative to burning or land filling the leftover woody material. A diversified wood products industry enhances resiliency of our ecosystems, sequesters carbon, and creates jobs in rural communities.

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

Vermont's forest-based businesses are an important part of the state's rural economy. The forest-based industry (forestry, logging, solid wood products, maple syrup production, wood furniture, and paper/paperboard contributes \$1.4 billion in sales to the state economy annually and provides direct employment for more than 9,100 Vermonters. However, these figures do not account for the ripple effect the industry has on other parts of Vermont's economy. Economic models used to account for this multiplier effect in other segments of the economy estimate that the forest products industry actually contributes almost 14,000 jobs and \$2.1 billion in economic output.

Forests also provide a backdrop for the Vermont tourism industry. Forest-related recreation and tourism, in fact, provide an additional \$1,936 million per year to the state's economy.

Vermont's forest-based economy supports employment and provides forest landowners with solid financial



"The Voice of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont Since 1977"

returns through planned timber harvesting while promoting value-added manufacturing and tourism.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

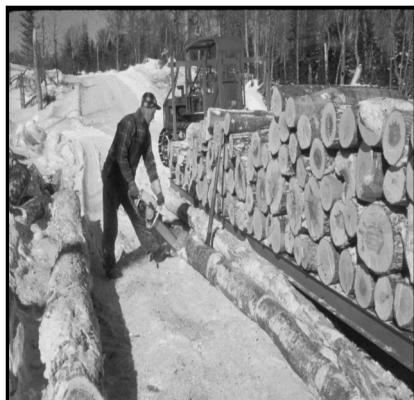
- Take part in the observance by attending educational seminars.
- Learn about sustainability efforts and how forests impact our communities.
- Become involved in how our forests are managed.
- Simply look around you. Consider the number of products you use that come from forest products, it's more than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

VFPA would like to thank 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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NATIONAL BIOENERGY DAY OCTOBER 23, 2024

WHAT IS BIOENERGY

“Bioenergy” is use of any organic material, such as forest thinnings, residues, agricultural waste or urban wood waste, to generate heating, cooling and/or electricity. Many independent power producers across the United States and Canada produce electricity for the grid using bioenergy. Hospitals, college campuses, school districts and government buildings also use bioenergy for heat and electricity. Thousands of American homes and businesses have installed stoves and other appliances powered by wood pellets, reducing their heating costs. Working farms and other businesses with organic waste products recycle their “leftovers” to power or heat their facilities.

In addition to serving as a domestic energy source, bioenergy is responsible for sustaining tens of thousands of jobs, many of them in rural communities where they are most needed. Bioenergy’s many stakeholders work closely together to keep American forests healthy and put organic byproducts like forest trimmings, industry byproducts and agricultural residuals to good use.

BIOENERGY COMES IN MANY FORMS, INCLUDING:

BIOMASS POWER



Power plants across the country use wood residues as a fuel to generate electricity. These plants are often found in heavily forested areas with a local timber industry. In addition to wood chips, they also use other organic materials that have a low value and cannot be used in the forest products market, such as urban wood waste, which in many cases would be landfilled if not used for bioenergy. Biomass power facilities can be large enough to power tens of thousands of homes and businesses in an area, or small enough to power a college campus. Learn more at www.usabiomass.org

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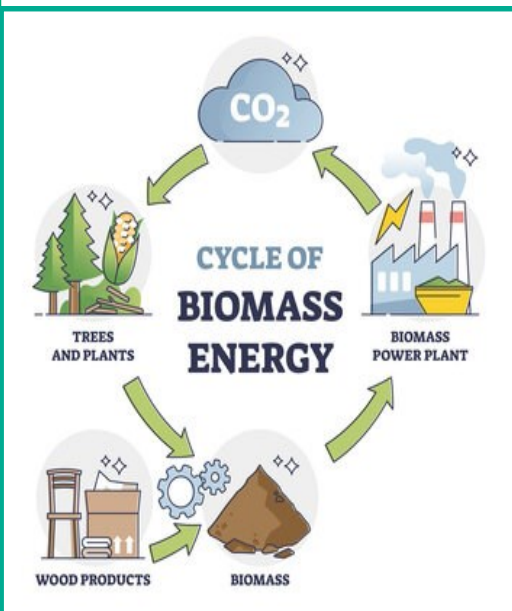


RESIDENTIAL HEATING AND OTHER APPLIANCES

Pellet mills, also located in heavily forested areas, produce a small, densified product called wood pellets that can be used as fuel for residential home heating stoves and other appliances. Wood pellets can also be used as a fuel source to heat larger areas like school campuses or even federal buildings like the Washington County Courthouse in Barre, Vermont. Learn more about residential pellets at the Pellet Fuels Institute. Visit the Hearth Patio and Barbecue Association to learn more about pellet appliances.

(Continue on page 4)

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What is biomass?

Biomass is organic solid matter. If you're outdoors, biomass is trees, grass, leaves, even dirt. If you're inside, biomass could be wood, food scraps, human waste.

What is biomass energy?

Biomass energy is energy derived from organic solid matter.

How?

Biomass energy providers typically collect waste wood, agricultural residues, nut shells, and similar "feedstocks" that they feed into an air-tight steel chamber where it is burnt at a very high temperature and the resultant energy is converted into renewable electricity.

Is that good for the environment?

Biomass power plants use a series of advanced filtration technologies to ensure that they do not emit smoke or any harmful emissions into the atmosphere. By regulation, biomass energy plants have a stack, but the only thing coming out of it is steam. If smoke or carcinogens of any sort are detected in the stack by industry-standard sensors, work will stop and any leaks will be identified and addressed.

What is renewable electricity?

Renewable electricity is the same as any electricity, except it is derived from renewable materials (in this case biomass). When you flip a light switch or charge your phone, you can't tell if the electricity is from a renewable source like biomass, or from fossil fuels (which have a negative environmental impact).

What are the benefits of biomass power?

Biomass energy companies take organic matter that has no other marketable purpose and change its fate from rotting in a landfill, getting burnt in a giant pile in the woods, or just left on the forest floor as kindling for wildfires. Instead, these feedstocks are collected and converted into electricity that does not require coal mining or other actions that create new carbon emissions. In addition, in wildfire prone areas of the country biomass power operations literally save lives. When waste wood is collected from forests, vital fuel that feeds horrific fires is removed from the equation. Also, biomass power companies typically operate as the center of a 75 mile radius from which biomass feedstocks are sourced. This creates an economic and energy ecosystem that circularly supports many rural American communities. Forest or agriculture waste is collected (local jobs), it is chipped and loaded into a big truck (local jobs) that are driven to the local biomass power facility (local jobs), where the truck's contents are offloaded and processed through the biomass plant (local jobs), thereby creating renewable electricity that is placed on the local electric grid and used locally. No other form of energy hits the nexus of local and environmentally responsible like biomass power.

What are the downsides?

Almost all criticism of biomass energy is a result of not understanding what it is and what it isn't. First, biomass energy companies don't cut down trees to get fuel for their power plants. Yes, they use wood, but it's waste wood. When trees are harvested in forestry operations, the tops and limbs are of no use – they are too small for use in construction or furniture. They are typically burnt or taken to a landfill. But sometimes they are left on the forest floor to rot or catch fire. That's the wood biomass energy companies use. Similarly, when natural disasters like tornadoes or hurricanes leave a path of destruction in their wake, biomass companies collect that mangled waste wood and convert it into electricity. Second, biomass energy companies are often inaccurately associated with export pellet companies. There is a significant market in Europe and other parts of the world for wood pellets that are used for home heating. The wood pellets are created by pulverizing wood into a sawdust, and then modifying it into a solid pellet shape. This process tends to produce sawdust that can be difficult to contain. Then the pellets are transported to a port and loaded onto shipping containers for other parts of the world. The carbon footprint for all of the logistics is massive and cancels out any other benefits that may be associated with pellets. Compare that biomass power companies who work with wood chips (think fresh mulch) that are used within 75 miles of where they are collected. It's a massive difference.

What's the outlook for biomass energy?

It's tough. Biomass energy companies provide a valuable environmental service and are part of a national energy solution that prioritizes renewables, but execution is comparatively expensive. Solar panels and wind turbines are stationary and though they have workforce impacts, biomass power is more expensive to produce because it requires more boots on the ground and in many cases biomass energy companies are bound by long-term contracts with local utilities that are less profitable than what solar and wind have. Biomass energy companies are constantly on the edge of potential shut-down. When they close, local jobs are lost and local renewable energy is sometimes entirely eliminated. In addition, methane emissions from unused waste wood increase, as does the threat of wildfires.

(Continue on page 5)

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Why is Bioenergy important?

Woody biomass is a sustainable substitute for fossil fuel-intensive products – and can play a key role in maintaining forest health. Our Nation's forests are a sustainable and strategic natural resource that can help America achieve and enhance U.S. energy security, economic opportunity, environmental quality, and global competitiveness. Bioenergy produces about 5.75% of the nation's total energy, and supplies full-time jobs for tens of thousands of Americans. It is clean, renewable energy made from materials that are of low value or would often otherwise be discarded. Bioenergy creates new markets for low value wood fiber, which incents sustainable forest management, while supporting vibrant rural economies.

Why is Bioenergy considered renewable?

Bioenergy is a sustainable, renewable, and carbon-friendly energy source for many reasons. For an illustrated guide to bioenergy's role in the carbon cycle, please visit the website for the [National Alliance of Forest Owners](#).

1. The organic materials used for bioenergy often have few or no other productive uses. If these forest by-products were not used to produce heat or electricity, the materials would either be open or pile burned, or they might be left on the forest floor to decompose – a process that releases CO₂ and methane, potent greenhouse gases. Also, when these residues are left on the ground, they contribute to the accumulation of hazardous fuels which lead to a greater risk of catastrophic wildfire. Wood energy is often generated using the byproducts of forest restoration activities, making restoration more economically feasible and creating a market for small diameter wood that would have otherwise been pile burned or contribute to uncharacteristic wildfire.
2. The use of organic materials to produce energy does not introduce new carbon into the atmosphere, unlike the use of fossil fuels for energy.
3. Bioenergy is a key part of sustainably managed forests and farms. The removal of lower value wood from forests is a sustainable practice that can enhance the health, productivity, and value of these lands. Bioenergy provides a beneficial, productive use for the lower value wood removed during forest thinning operations. Bioenergy is diversifying the forest products industry by providing new markets for lower value wood fiber, in addition to traditional timber markets.

How else does Bioenergy help the environment?

Bioenergy is renewable and offers a sustainable, dependable supply that results in very low levels of fossil carbon emissions. It can also be significantly less expensive than some fossil fuels, creating cost savings for users. Institutional buildings including hospitals and schools have successfully converted to wood energy projects and found it beneficial. It is also regionally accessible, providing local energy security and often enhancing economic development by creating jobs in rural areas. "Building stronger markets for innovative wood products supports sustainable forestry, reduces wildfire risk, and helps us treat more land and reduces air pollution," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell.

Since bioenergy uses the byproducts of forest restoration treatments such as small-diameter trees, among other organic sources, it can be an effective way to reduce the risk of wildfires. (Please visit www.bioenergyday.org to learn more about the role of bioenergy in forest restoration treatments.) Public-

private partnerships across the country maintain federal forestlands while fueling clean energy projects. By combusting fire-prone materials for fuel, woody biomass production turns a hazard into an asset, preventing wildfires and contributing to forest health while augmenting our nation's renewable energy supply. A 2014 U.S. National Climate Assessment specifically highlighted woody biomass production as an effective tool for both forest management and carbon emissions reduction. Similarly, markets for bioenergy provide private forest owners with the opportunity to invest in forest improvement and thinning that make forests healthier and more productive while improving biodiversity. These markets contribute to forest owners' decisions to keep forests as forests.

How does the use of Bioenergy contribute to the Nation's energy supply and forest health?

Wood is an abundant, sustainable, and local resource that can contribute to reducing our dependence on petroleum. Bioenergy can help create a more stable energy future, improve environmental quality, and increase economic opportunities. Our Nation's forests are a sustainable and strategic natural resource that can help America achieve and enhance U.S. energy security, economic opportunity, environmental quality, and global competitiveness. Woody biomass is a sustainable substitute for fossil fuel-intensive products. Most Americans are familiar with other forms of renewable energy, like wind and solar. However, of the energy consumed by the nation, bioenergy from wood and wood-derived sources contributes about 2.3%. In 2016, approximately 19% of all renewable energy consumed was from wood (EIA, 2016) — that's more than wind and solar combined and second only to hydroelectric energy. In addition, bioenergy complements wind and solar by providing a baseload renewable energy source that is available when the wind doesn't blow or the sun doesn't shine.

How does Bioenergy create jobs?

The many steps involved in bioenergy production require that workers be employed to operate each link of the supply chain, from source to sink. Even beyond the thousands of jobs created for the construction and operation of biofuel plants, higher demand for bioenergy means higher demand for raw agricultural products, which accordingly creates jobs across rural America for farmers and foresters alike. In 2015 alone, the ethanol industry created an estimated 238,000 direct or indirect agricultural jobs according to a report by ABF Economics (ABF, 2015). The same report estimates that the bioenergy industry increased the average wages of workers in agriculture by at least \$9,100, showing the immediate positive feedback felt by farmers and foresters due to the increased demand for raw agricultural products and associated higher prices. Because biofuel production involves the interdependence of many distinct industries, the scale and breadth of economic benefits realized by ethanol exceed what's possible in other energy industries.

During his tenure as governor of Georgia, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue promoted the use of biofuels by establishing the first cellulosic (plant-based) ethanol plant in the country. Perdue understood the wide-ranging economic benefits of bioenergy production for workers at the plant as well as for Georgia's foresters, as the cellulosic ethanol plant alone was slated to produce a total of 420 direct and indirect jobs (Georgia.gov). Now, as USDA Secretary, Perdue has reiterated his support for expanding and improving the bioenergy industry, assuring Americans that "renewable energy, ethanol, is here to stay. We're going to look for new technologies to be even more efficient."

To learn more, please visit <https://bioenergyday.com>

BIOMASS DEVELOPER STANDS BY FAST-TRACK PERMIT APPLICATION

Grassroots Opposition to Push for 'Slowed Down' Process

Written by: Paul Hayes, Caledonian-Record, October 3, 2024



LYNDON — The developer of a controversial wood-fueled electric plant met with the public on Wednesday. Vermont Renewable Gas (VRG) seeks to build a \$10 million, 2.2-megawatt biomass plant in the St. Johnsbury/Lyndon Industrial Park. In a move that has drawn criticism, VRG seeks fast-track state approval for the facility. It would be the first in the country to use High-Temperature Ablative Fast Pyrolysis (HTAP), a process where wood-converted-to-methane fuels generators to create electric power. During a 90-minute event at VSU-Lyndon, VRG manager Evan Dell'Olio addressed municipal officials and area residents who worry that HTAP is an unproven and potentially harmful technology — and want the project removed from the fast track to allow for a more thorough, transparent review. Dell'Olio offered assurances that HTAP was heavily vetted, had been approved for use by state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) regulators, and was already deployed in Europe. While HTAP was new, he said, biomass plants using similar technology were operating elsewhere in the country without incident. Not everyone was persuaded. Said resident Alison Despathy, “There’s a lot of details here that aren’t being addressed.”

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD

In Vermont, energy generation projects require Section 248 permits — also called certificates of public good — from the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to ensure they do not adversely impact the surrounding community. VRG is going through the expedited Section 248 (j) process, for smaller projects of “limited size and scope,” which does not include a public hearing. Although the Lyndon Select Board, multiple statewide environmental groups, and others have called for Vermont Renewable Gas to go through the standard Section 248 process, Dell'Olio stood by the decision to go through Section 248(j), saying it was not done to circumvent public scrutiny. He argued the 248(j) process is robust and requires the applicant to submit even more detailed project info (engineering, construction, operations, emissions, etc.) than the standard process. Even though 248(j) does not require a public hearing, Dell'Olio said, the public comment window was open through Oct. 8 and VRG was willing to discuss the matter with the public. He said VRG would “cooperate” if PUC removed the project from the fast track. However, when asked on Wednesday if the company would voluntarily withdraw from 248(j), Dell'Olio replied, “I can’t make a decision by myself here at the podium tonight. These decisions are being made in consultation with all of those that are involved in the project.”

PUBLIC SUPPORT

The meeting hosted by the Northeast Kingdom Chamber of Commerce drew 35 people in person and dozens more online. Some spoke in favor of VRG and its fast-track application, others against it. Evan Carlson, who has worked in economic development in various capacities and was co-founder of Do-North Co-Working and NEK Community Broadband, was among those who expressed support for the project. He said the biomass plant could generate jobs and economic activity in the cash-strapped Northeast Kingdom. VRG officials claim the proposed facility will (1) Bolster the Northeast Kingdom’s forestry and agricultural industries through the purchase of up to 1,800 truckloads of locally harvested wood fiber each year, (2) Create up to 12 “well paying” operations jobs, and (3) Generate new property tax revenue, and (4) Have \$1.4 million in local economic impact in the first year. Delivering a sobering message to project opponents, Carlson said about VRG, “We can either leave it there and let our economy die, or we can take advantage of an opportunity that actually transforms our region and give ourselves a future.” Meanwhile, licensed forester David Senio of Passumpsic said facilities like VRG were key to preserving the region’s rural character. “The working landscape is vital to this area,” Senio said. “There’s many, many acres of forested land. And without a viable working forest economy, I don’t see an avenue for people to hold onto their land as large forested chunks.”

HEALTH & SAFETY

Those against fast-track approval for VRG pointed to the potential safety impacts of HTAP. John Ling, whose business NEK Collision Repair borders the proposed biomass plant, has questions about its effect on his employees’ health and well-being. He worried that the HTAP emissions may carry elevated levels of hazardous materials and known carcinogens, a concern shared by environmental organization 350 Vermont. “I have serious concerns about the health and well-being of everyone that works for me so close to a facility like this,” he said. Resident Laura Simon noted VRG would also be located near the Little Dippers Doodle Childcare Center (which serves over 100 children a day), NVRH Corner Medical, and multiple residences. “How can we be sure, without having any time in this expedited [248 (j)] process, that [VRG] is right for the Northeast Kingdom?” she asked. Responding to those comments, Dell'Olio disputed claims that HTAP was potentially dangerous. He said the state Department of Environmental Conservation had already “heavily vetted” HTAP technology. In June, after a months-long review, DEC’s Air Quality and Climate Division granted Vermont Renewable Gas permission to build and operate the state’s first HTAP electric plant. Dell'Olio said the facility would produce “no emissions” and added that the Selective Catalytic Reduction air filtration system planned for the exhaust stacks was “a proven best-available control technology [...] It’s being used in the field throughout the United States. It has been proven to reduce carbon monoxide and nitric oxide levels to levels that are acceptable for human health.”

(Continue on page 7)

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

VRG-Lyndon is a partnership between two companies, Clean Energy Technologies and Synergy Bioproducts Corp. Dell'Olio said he founded Synergy to “invest in the rural economy of Vermont, purposefully to develop a project of this type.” He said the proposed facility would fill the void in the wood chip market left by the shutdowns of biomass plants in Bethlehem and Whitefield, N.H. He said it would also contribute to Vermont’s goal of obtaining 90% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050. The proposed facility would yield approximately 18,000-megawatt hours of renewable electricity and 1,500 metric tons of biochar fertilizer annually. Vermont Renewable Gas has a purchase and sales agreement with the Northeastern Vermont Development Association to buy an eight-acre parcel in the industrial park. The facility would cover approximately three acres of the site.

Evan Dell'Olio is founder and principal of Synergy Bioproducts Corporation, a Vermont company contributing to a more sustainable future for both the global climate and the state's signature working lands economy. As the owner of Synergy, he is also a member of the Board of Managers of Vermont Renewable Gas, LLC. Evan has extensive experience in renewable energy, power transactional matters, facilities management, and forest products manufacturing. Professionally, over the last 13 years, he has advised commercial and industrial clients on energy matters, guided operations of a vertical integrated forest products company, and served on the staff of United States Senator, John F. Kerry. He is well versed in the unique needs of sustainable businesses at the intersection of government affairs, finance, and the clean economy and looks forward to applying this acumen to the success of his company's new venture, VRG-Lyndon based on a triple bottom line philosophy of people, profit, and planet. As a project owner, Mr. Dell'Olio's vision for VRG-Lyndon is the development of a profitable, highly functioning operation that repurposes organic waste for higher community value. Evan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Saint Anselm College and a degree of Juris Doctor from Suffolk University with a focus in energy and environmental law. He is respected as a leader in public advocacy for the regional working lands economy. Evan presently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance and chairs the group's Policy committee. He is a member of the International Biochar Initiative, the Vermont Farm Bureau, the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, the Vermont Woodlands Association, and the Vermont Forest Products Association.

Annual Vermont Forest Industry Summit Highlights Innovation in Regional Forest Economy

Written by: Christine McGowen, VSJF

The 2024 Vermont Forest Industry Summit offered a glimpse into the world of forest products innovation that is beginning to take shape in our region. This year, more than 125 forest products leaders from Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and Quebec gathered at Bolton Valley Resort on June 6 to learn and network.



Among the highlights was the keynote address by Melissa LaCasse, CEO of Tanbark, a start up that makes molded fiber products out of woody

biomass, who shared her vision for what startups like hers can do to contribute to climate solutions. “Many of the solutions to (the climate crisis) lie in the vast potential of the forest industry. From legacy methods to modern innovations, the forest industry holds the keys to a sustainable future, ready to be unlocked and revitalized for the modern world,” LaCasse told the crowd. “As we stand on the brink of a new era in sustainable industries the possibilities for forestry-based solutions to transform our world are vast and already taking shape.” LaCasse’s presentation is one of several that were recorded and available for viewing now at the Vermont Forest Industry Summit page. The Summit featured several sessions focused on innovation.



Notably, we hosted two researchers from Quebec to join Dr. Tony D’Amato from the University of Vermont and Vermont entrepreneur Donn Downey to talk about how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies are helping to improve forestry and forest operations.

Another session hosted by UNH Extension Forest Industry Specialist Andy Fast explored the use of local species in glulam construction. Glulam beams are used in mass timber, construction. Mass timber is an umbrella term used to describe several engineered wood products transforming the way we build.

The event also featured sessions that tackled how best to advance strategies in the new [Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap](#), a 10-year plan to modernize, strengthen and promote Vermont’s forest products industry.

Ryegate Power Plant Getting \$1 Million To Capture Waste Heat

Round of REAP Dollars Also Benefits Greensboro Farm and Bath Lumber Mill

As written in the Caledonian-Record, October 4, 2024



The Ryegate Biomass Power Plant was granted a million dollars in federal funding to capture waste heat in its power generation process.

The grant award was announced on Thursday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as part of a distribution of \$2,698,024 through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). “Under the historic, bi-partisan Inflation Reduction Act, the Rural Energy for America Program has doubled its economic impact on small businesses throughout the Twin States and across the country,” said State Director for Rural Development Sarah Waring.

Since President Biden took office, USDA has invested more than \$2.3 billion through REAP in 7,923 renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements, information from the USDA notes. The distribution announced

on Thursday included three local recipients of funding, with the Ryegate plant receiving the biggest amount.

The million dollars will be used to install a Waste Heat Recovery module at the biomass power plant to capture waste heat. The module will be installed at the base of the plant stack and increase the amount of energy generated by the plant by an additional 315,466 mmBtus annually, for which Ryegate has an off-take agreement. The Ryegate plant has been in operation since 1992, producing 22.5MW/19.6 MW (Net) to the Vermont electric grid from 250,000 annual tons of wood chips. This project will retrofit the operation, converting it into a combined heat and power plant. The annual value of this additional energy generation is \$1,892,676, noted the USDA.

Other grants given locally are for projects in Greensboro and Bath, N.H. Gebbie’s Maplehurst Farm in Greensboro was granted \$91,395 to install a 67.2 kilowatt (kW) direct current (DC), roof-mounted solar array on a new storage shed. The project is set to produce 77,315 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity, offsetting 88 percent of the farm’s annual energy usage and saving over \$15,000 annually.



The Britton Lumber Company LLC in Bath was awarded \$581,995 to install a 300HP biomass boiler system in a new boiler building. Britton Lumber Company is a softwood processing mill. The new wood gasification steam-boiler system will generate approximately 95 percent of the site’s thermal energy needs from wood residues that are already produced on-site as byproducts of its lumber production process. The company’s annual savings are estimated to exceed \$225,000.

USDA continues to accept REAP applications and has set aside a portion of the program funds to support underutilized renewable energy technologies, like wind and geothermal power. For additional information, contact USDA at 802- 828-6070 or BP.VTNH.Inquiry@usda.gov.

Agency of Natural Resources Releases Long Range Management Plan for Worcester Range Management Unit



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
09/30/2024

Montpelier, VT – The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) has finalized the long range management plan for the Worcester Range Management Unit (WRMU), 18,772-acres of state-owned land in central Vermont. This unit includes popular landmarks such as Mt. Hunger, Elmore State Park, Perry Hill Trails, Stowe Pinnacle, Middlesex Notch Wildlife Management Area, and Brownsville Forest.

The WRMU plan establishes the management direction for these lands, based on expert assessments by ANR and extensive public feedback. Community engagement was strong, with over 1,350 comments received during public scoping and the draft plan's comment period. This highlights widespread interest in the future stewardship of this ecologically significant and beloved landscape.

As one of Vermont's largest contiguous habitat blocks, the WRMU plays a vital role in maintaining critical ecological and wildlife connections between the Northern Green Mountains and the Northeast Kingdom. The management plan aims to protect and enhance the area's ecological functions while promoting forest health and climate resilience, offering diverse recreational opportunities, supporting the sustainable harvest of forest products, and maintaining high-quality habitats to bolster biodiversity.



Key management strategies include designating 9,961 acres (54% of the WRMU) for mostly passive management, allowing natural processes to shape the landscape. The plan also expands recreational access, formalizing winter mountain biking at Perry Hill, improving trail connectivity, identifying areas for managed backcountry skiing, and enhancing accessibility for a wider range of users. Additionally, 1,928 acres are designated for timber harvesting using sustainable forest management principles over the next twenty years, with strategies aimed at increasing forest complexity, improving wildlife habitat, and enhancing forest resilience and health.

"This plan is a demonstration to our commitment to responsible stewardship of public lands, balancing the needs of both people and nature. By protecting sensitive habitats, enhancing public access, and promoting sustainable, ecological management, we are ensuring these lands remain resilient and productive for all Vermonters for generations to come," said Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner of the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation.

The planning process began with public scoping in 2020, followed by an eight-week public comment period on the draft plan in 2023.

The [final Worcester Range LRMP](#), along with a summary of public comments and ANR's responses, is now available.

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Public Scoping Meeting Announced for Jay State Forest Long-Range Management Plan



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
10/01/2024

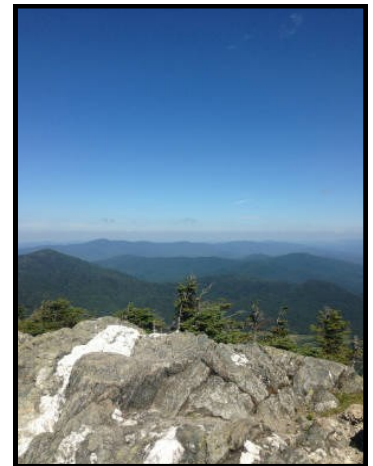
St. Johnsbury, VT- The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) is initiating the development of a new Long-Range Management Plan for Jay State Forest and invites Vermonters to participate in the public scoping process. A public meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2024, at 6:00 PM at the Montgomery Town Hall on 57 Main St in Montgomery Center, offering an opportunity for the public to share feedback on how these lands are used and valued.

Long-Range Management Plans, typically covering a 20-year period, serve as comprehensive guides for managing Agency of Natural Resources lands.

To ensure the plan reflects the needs and interests of the public, FPR is seeking input early in the planning process. Community members are encouraged to attend the meeting and [provide input via an online survey](#). The survey will remain open until Friday, November 15, 2024.

"Public input is vital to our management planning process," said Oliver Pierson, Forests Division Director. "It helps us understand how people use and value these lands and contributes to the initial draft of the plan, which we will share for public comment before finalizing."

Jay State Forest is comprised of 8,242 acres of conserved land in the towns of Jay, Montgomery, Richford, and Westfield. The forest features a diverse range of natural communities, terrains, and recreational opportunities, including its association with skiing and the Long Trail. It is home to unique wildlife habitats and high-elevation natural communities of significant ecological value.



The Long-Range Management Plan for this parcel will address public access, recreational resources outside of the ski lease area, wildlife and fisheries habitats, forest health and management options ranging from sugaring licenses to commercial vegetation management. This Long-Range Management Plan will not cover the operational aspects of the Jay Peak Ski Resort, which are addressed under a separate lease agreement.

For more information on the public scoping process and to access the survey, visit the [Jay State Forest webpage](#).

Contact:

Louis Bushey, Stewardship Forester
Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
Louis.Bushey@vermont.gov, 802-357-5100

Our Commitment to Vermont's Forests

At the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, we are dedicated to promoting healthy forests and managing resilient landscapes on both public and private lands. Our mission at the Division of Forests is to protect and sustain Vermont's forests in partnership with its citizens by promoting best practices, sustainable use, and respect for the land.

VFPA LOBBYIST, GWYNN ZAKOV, VISITS THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM



As I take over as a lobbyist for the VFPA I need to learn about the various components of the forest products industry from our members. Recently I've had the opportunity to visit several members and learn more about their businesses, hear about their experiences in the industry, and listen to their concerns about its future.

In early October Colleen Goodridge played tour guide for me in the Northeast Kingdom as we met with various VFPA members to tour their operations. We began at Goodridge Lumber in Albany and LaBranche Lumber in Newport, where I learned more about the operations of their sawmills and listened as they voiced various concerns about what they see ahead for the industry. We then headed over to Cass Insurance, Inc. in

Newport to hear about the American Loggers Insurance Program and get updates on trends they're seeing from an insurance perspective. After a quick pit stop for lunch, we headed over to Columbia Forest Products to tour their impressive veneer manufacturing facility. We ended the day at North Country Career Center Land Lab Campus to learn about their impressive forestry program.

I was also fortunate to get an invitation from VFPA board member Jason Lowell to watch him in action on a logging job in Orange County.

There were many takeaways from these field trips but what impressed me the most was how hard-working and professional you are, how invested you are in your communities and the industry at large, and how vital you all are to keeping Vermont's rural economy alive. There are certainly challenges ahead for the forest products industry at large, but I will do my best to lighten the load and deliver your message to a larger audience to keep the industry vibrant and healthy.

I'd like to continue meeting with VFPA members 1-on-1 and visit sawmills, working forests, manufacturing facilities, firewood processors and biomass processors, and generators if possible. Additionally, if you are a landowner, forester, logger, or trucker who's interested in hosting me for a bit, please reach out to me at gwynn@garnet-vt.com or give me a call at 802-829-8297.



REGISTER NOW FOR THE VFPA SOUTHERN REGIONAL ROUNDUP



Please join us on Saturday, November 9th at the Mount Ascutney Resort in Brownsville, VT from 8am-11:30am for the Southern Regional Roundup Complimentary Breakfast Meeting.

*What is the future of the Forest Products Industry in Vermont?**

The economic conditions of recent years have made it extremely difficult for all in the wood industry. The Vermont Forest Products Association (VFPA) is planning to use this time as an opportunity to reconnect with folks in the industry, discuss their challenges and needs and determine how the VFPA, their industry organization, can best serve their membership.

Photos from past Regional Roundups



AGENDA

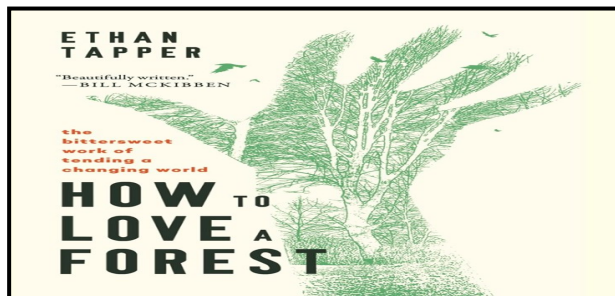
- 7:30-8:00am Registration
- 8:00-9:00am Hearty Breakfast Buffet (no charge)
- 9:00-9:30am Welcome- Steve Hardy, VFPA President
Colleen Goodridge, VFPA Vice-President
- 9:30-10:15am "Status and Prospects for the Northeast Forest Industry: Harvest, Markets and Labor"- Charles Levesque, Innovative Natural Resources Solutions
- 10:15-11:15am "Seeing the Forest for the Trees-Vermont's Working Landscape and the Forest Economy"- Documentary-Jake Cunavelis, Mount Mansfield Media
- 11:15-11:30am Legislative News- Meet our new Lobbyist, Gwynn Zakov

SAF Continuing Education and LEAP Education Credits will be given for the half day event

Reserve by calling VFPA at 802.323.3591,
Colleen Goodridge at 802.755.6298 or emailing
Brandy at vtfpa@hotmail.com

What Does it Mean to Love a Forest?

*Only those who love trees should cut them, writes forester Ethan Tapper. In *How to Love a Forest*, he asks: what does it mean to love and to care for a forest at this moment in time? How do we use our species' incredible power to heal rather than to harm? How do we reach towards a better future?*



How to Love a Forest walks us through the fragile and resilient community that is a forest, introducing us to wolf trees and spring ephemerals, to the cryptic creatures of the rhizosphere and the necrosphere. It helps us reimagine what forests are and what it means to care for them. Our forests, Tapper writes, can be degraded both by people who do too much and by those who do nothing. As the ecosystems that sustain all life struggle, as they need our help and our action more than ever, many people mistakenly believe that the only true expression of love for the natural world is to leave it alone.

In his tender and fearless literary debut, Tapper proffers a more complex vision. He writes that we must take action to protect ecosystems, and that the actions we must take will often be counterintuitive, uncomfortable, even heartbreaking. In striking prose, he shows how acts—like cutting trees—can be radical expressions of compassion. In this poetic and visionary book, Tapper weaves a new land ethic for the modern world, reminding us that what is simple is rarely true, and what is necessary is rarely easy.

Countless decisions await. There are no perfect solutions; only endless bittersweet compromises. *How to Love a Forest* offers a clear-eyed, hopeful vision of a world in which so much is wrong and so much is worth saving.

How to Love a Forest is Out Now!

Order it today on hardcover, eBook, or audiobook, anywhere books are sold!



Ethan Tapper: Forester and Author from Bolton, VT



Ethan Tapper is a consulting forester, author, and digital creator from Bolton. Prior to starting his consulting business - Bear Island Forestry- Ethan served as the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation from 2016 - 2024.

As the Chittenden County Forester, Ethan advised private landowners, municipalities, conservation organizations, foresters and loggers on the responsible stewardship of privately-owned forestland, managed over 4,500 acres of Community Forests, administered Vermont's Use Value Appraisal ("Current Use") program, wrote a monthly column for community newspapers and a quarterly column in Northern Woodlands magazine and lead hundreds of public events in Vermont and throughout New England that reached thousands of people. Ethan is a Vermont-licensed forester and an Audubon-endorsed forester, and has received numerous awards and distinctions for his work — most notably, he was named the Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance's Forester of the Year in 2021, and the American Tree Farm System's National Outstanding Inspector of the Year in 2024.

Ethan grew up in Saxtons River, a rural village in Vermont's Connecticut River Valley. After graduating high school in 2007, Ethan accepted a scholarship to attend the University of Vermont. After two semesters at UVM, still unsure of what he was interested in studying, he left school to go on a six-month wilderness expedition in Vermont and New Hampshire. Following this transformative experience, Ethan spent the following year in the woods: working as a wilderness guide, living on a primitive homestead in rural Maine and apprenticing with a draft horse logger in Maine. After nearly two years, Ethan needed to return to UVM or else lose his scholarship. He picked forestry out a list of degrees on a whim, as he says: "because it had the word 'forest' in it." He completed his Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree from the University of Vermont in 2012. After graduating from UVM, Ethan worked as a consulting forester on family forests and industrial timberland in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York and Maine, before becoming the Chittenden County Forester in 2016.

Ethan started writing *How to Love a Forest* in 2018, after realizing that there was no book that captured his understanding of what forests are, how they work, and what it means to take care of them. He spent the next six years working on the book each day shaping it into what it eventually became: "a tender and fearless reimagining of forests and our relationship to them." It was published on September 10, 2024. The book has been endorsed by prominent environmental authors including Doug Tallamy, Ben Goldfarb, and Tom Wessels (as well as Vermont's own Dr. Tony D'Amato), and has been listed as a regional bestseller. Today, Ethan manages Bear Island Forestry, publicizes *How to Love a Forest* (his fall 2024 book tour includes more than 60 readings and other events), manages Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and TikTok channel with tens of thousands of followers, and is working toward his masters degree in forestry at the University of Vermont.

Learn more about Ethan at [EthanTapper.com](https://ethantapper.com)!



**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.



**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 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



Photo Credit: Eada Myers

Maple Landmark Celebrates 45th Anniversary of Making High-Quality Wooden Products

Vermont Business Magazine 1979 saw the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, and the election of Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, in Vermont the first modern snowboard was going on sale, and in Lincoln, Vermont, Maple Landmark Woodcraft was founded by Mike Rainville. Rainville came by his attraction to create things out of wood naturally, as he often helped when his grandparents were building houses or sheds. Their keen minds, Yankee Ingenuity, and frugality taught Mike the importance of focusing on local resources. While the last 45 years have brought an abundance of changes, the importance of local resources is even stronger than ever. Utilizing local raw materials, employing local craftspeople and being as self-reliant as possible, "...helps to insulate us from supply chain issues, world and national disruptions like COVID, and puts us closer to our customers both locally and nationally," commented owner Mike Rainville. During this anniversary month Maple Landmark is celebrating local by offering 25% off everything in the factory store in Middlebury. Shoppers can also stop by and nominate their favorite pre-school, library, or day care center to win \$200 of Maple Landmark products. Currently Maple Landmark employs over 40 people and sells product to a couple thousand gift shops and toy stores throughout the country and abroad. Our product is readily available on the internet as well. We have become the pre-eminent wooden toy manufacturer in the United States. We were never only about toys and that holds true today. The fastest growing portion of our business is custom work. We use our capabilities to meet the needs of a couple hundred companies and institutions. Custom products start with items like you'll see in the custom section on this site and extend into completely custom built store displays, component parts, tap handles and other items that fit our processes. The next chapter of Maple Landmark began in 2014 when Mike and Jill's older son Adam joined the company after graduating from Clarkson University. Younger son Andrew joined in 2017 after graduating Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Adam specializes in production management and Andrew is responsible for communications. Both have a short learning curve as they have been involved ever since they were born.

Source: 7.22.2024. Middlebury, VT – Maple Landmark <https://www.maplelandmark.com/>



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	802-424-3164	caledoniacountynrcd@gmail.com
Essex County	Sam Mayne	802-424-5353	essexnrcd@gmail.com
Franklin County	Lauren Weston	802-528-4176	info@franklincountynrcd.org
Lamoille County	Peter Danforth	802-521-3004	lccddirector@gmail.com
Orleans County	Sarah Damsell	802-624-7008	sarah.damsell@vt.nacdnet.net
Poultney Mettowee	Nanci McGuire	802-775-8034 X 117	nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net
Rutland County	Nanci McGuire	802-755-8034 X 117	nanci.mcguire@vt.nacdnet.net
Windham County	Cory Ross	802-689-3024	windhamcountynrcd@gmail.com
Winooski	Daniel Koenemann	802-778-3178	Daniel@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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David@graycklaw.com

"A lawyer who knows a little silviculture"



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TECH CENTER NEWS



NCCC welcomes Meghan Luther-DeGreenia Natural Resources Instructor

NCCC is thrilled to introduce Meghan. She brings a wealth of experience and energy from her prior position at Green Mountain Career Center as the Forestry & Land Management Instructor. She is a big proponent of FFA and will be concurrently teaching two college classes to her NCCC students. Meghan has a BS in Biology with a Wildlife concentration.



Welcome Meghan!



Green Mountain Tech and Career Center WELCOMES Corey Hathaway Natural Resources Instructor



My name is Corey Hathaway. I recently accepted the job as the new Forestry instructor at GMTCC. I'm honored and excited to be carrying on this important role within our community. I have been an Arborist for 26 years on the east coast working for companies such as Asplundh in the Allegheny National forest in Pennsylvania, the Care of Trees, and Congressional Country Club which are both located in the Washington, D.C. area. In 1998 my wife and I traveled to the Adirondacks for a camping trip and decided it would be nice to live somewhere like that. Six months later we moved to Morrisville VT. In 2001 I started my own business, Lamoille Treescapes, Inc. I spent over 20 years caring for trees in our surrounding areas. I recently began looking to share the knowledge and skill I have gained throughout my lifetime and I am grateful for this unique opportunity to instruct students in the local forestry program. I look forward to meeting many new people and students in this new career.



Cold Hollow Career Center Enosburg Falls, VT Forestry I and II

CHCC Forestry students teaming up with NCCC for logger first aid and rescue. Also receiving chainsaw safety training.

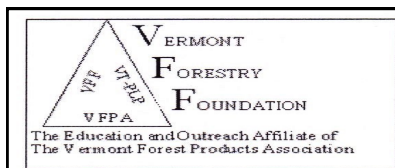


CHCC Forestry students teaming up with NCCC for logger first aid and rescue. Also receiving chainsaw safety training



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

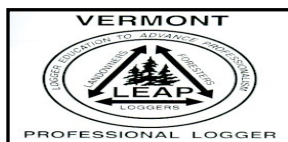
Secretary: Bruce Shields, Eden, VT, Landowner, Sugarmaker (802) 888-5165

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 ~ David Grayck, Montpelier, Vermont Attorney ~ Everett Thurston, N. Claredon, VT, Logger ~ Ben Kerstetter, Ira, VT, Forester ~ Normand Inkel, Albany, VT, Logger, Sugar Maker

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, Coordinator

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



VERMONT FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION 2024 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 11, 2024

Awards will be presented at the January 25, 2025 VFPA Annual Meeting.

We will submit our VFPA winners to the NELA competition by January 31, 2025.

NELA Awards will be presented at the Annual Logger's Banquet to be held in Bangor, Maine, May 2025.

VFPA is asking for everyone's help in raising funds to pay for services for the 2025 Legislative Session.

This VFPA fundraiser will start on **October 23** and will end on **November 13, 2024**. 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>



**Kids T-shirts and Sweatshirts
Now 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.

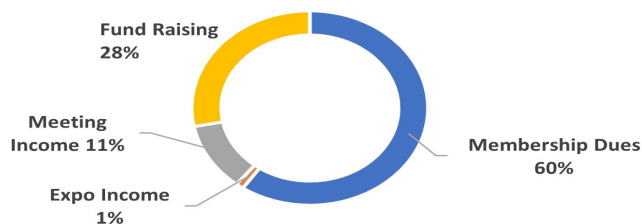
We would welcome your much needed support in the form of a membership to continue our commitment in promoting and defending our forest and wood industry.

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

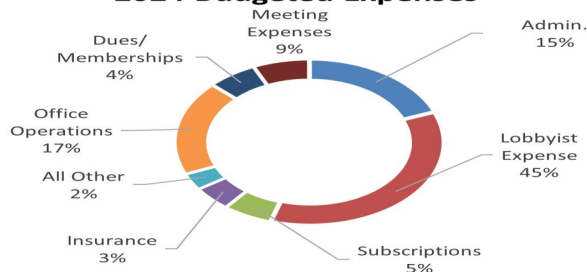
VFPA Operating Budget for 2024 is \$46,975.00

Please consider a contribution to the 2024 Annual Fund Drive or becoming a member of VFPA helping with operating costs and sharing in the important work of our industry organization.

2024 Budgeted Income



2024 Budgeted Expenses



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

November 9- VFPA Southern Regional Roundup,
8am-11:30am, Mount Ascutney Resort,
Brownsville, VT

November 21 - VFPA Directors Meeting, Zoom

December 12 - VFPA Directors Meeting, Zoom

January 25, 2025 - VFPA Annual Meeting,
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
results of the combined efforts of
every individual.

We *THANK YOU* for being an essential part of
our organization's success!



*Remember to **VOTE** on
Tuesday, November 5, 2024*