



Community Wood Grant Program

Program Overview

The USDA Forest Service Community Wood grant program supports projects to install a thermally led community wood energy system or build or expand an innovative wood product facility. This grant program supports forest health and stimulates local economies by expanding renewable wood energy use and innovative wood products manufacturing capacity.

- Promote renewable wood energy in a location with limited access to natural gas pipelines.
- Benefit communities that are historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality (pursuant to [Executive Order 13985](#), Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government).

Program Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- Non-profits
- Local, state, and tribal governments
- Businesses, companies, corporations (for-profit)
- Institutions of higher education
- Special purpose districts (public utility districts, fire districts, conservation districts, school districts and ports)

Funding Priority

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Expand markets for low-value or low-quality wood and aid forest restoration.
- Support an existing sawmill facility where the [average annual unemployment rate](#) exceeded the national average unemployment rate by more than one percent in [calendar year 2022](#).
- Use the most stringent emissions control technology for a wood-fired boiler.

Funding Requests and Limitations

Each award is a maximum of \$1 million to pay for up to 35% of total capital costs. An award of up to \$1.5 million (and up to 50% of total capital costs) will be considered in limited special circumstances **only with advanced approval** from a Forest Service Regional Coordinator before submitting a proposal. The funds cannot be used to acquire a community wood energy system that exceeds nameplate capacity of 5 megawatts of thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy.

Construction

Forest Service funds cannot be used for capital costs that would create a federal interest in real property, but may be used for architecture and engineering design, inspections, legal work, and permitting costs associated with real property.

Equipment

Forest Service funds can be used to purchase stationary equipment but not mobile equipment. The purchase of equipment with Forest Service funds creates a federal interest in the equipment, and an additional reporting burden on the grant recipient subject to the regulations at [2 CFR §200.310](#), [200.313](#), and [200.316](#).

Operating Costs

Forest Service funds cannot be used for operating costs, which are expenses associated with maintenance and administration of operations on a day-to-day basis.

Other Limitations and Prohibitions

Forest Service funds cannot be used for basic research or federal employee involvement in the project. Project income will not be considered for these awards and should not be included in the budget or to calculate total capital costs. Expenses for self-marketing or self-promotion are not eligible.

Application Information

The Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected to be announced during National Forest Products Week (Third week in October every year).

Application information and forms will be available on grants.gov.

Applicants must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), which is located at <https://sam.gov/>. DO NOT go through a third party that may charge for registration. There is no charge for registering at SAM.gov. This process will take time, so please register immediately.

Proposal Submission

Proposed Deadline: December following the October announcement. Applications will be emailed to your Forest Service Regional Wood Innovations Coordinator. No proposals will be accepted by fax or hard copy. Incomplete proposals and those received past the official deadline will not be accepted.

Regional Program Contacts: Questions that arise should be addressed to USDA Forest Service Regional Wood Innovations Coordinators. Contact information for the Regional Wood Innovations Coordinators, by state, can be found at the following weblink:

[USDA Forest Service Regional Wood Innovations Coordinator Contacts](#).

Award of Funding Notice: Award announcements are anticipated for April/May after the application deadline. Successful applicants will receive notification from the appropriate Forest Service Wood Innovation Coordinator.

National Grant Manager Contact

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