



Community Wood Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2024 Overview

The USDA Forest Service is announcing the availability of funding 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. Up to \$6 million of funding will be available from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Additional funds from annual agency appropriations will be subject to availability.

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.

- 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).

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 (October 15-21, 2023).

Application information and forms will be available on grants.gov and the [Wood Innovations website](#)

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

Proposal packages (including application materials and required financial forms) must be emailed in a PDF format to the corresponding Regional Wood Innovation Coordinator, as outlined in the Application Instructions.

Deadline: December 15, 2023, at 5:00 pm local time for your Forest Service Regional Coordinator. No proposals will be accepted by fax or hard copy. Incomplete proposals and those received past the official deadline will not be accepted. If any part of the application is missing, the proposal will not be accepted.

Award of Funding Notice: Applicants will be notified by email about funding decisions in May 2024. Successful applicants will receive notification

from the appropriate USDA Forest Service Grants and Agreements Office.

Regional Program Contacts: Questions 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](#).