

# ESFPA news & updates

October 22, 2020 | Issue 20

## **ESFPA Call to Action – on the DEC Greenhouse Gas Regulations**

ESFPA has prepared an [Action Alert](#) for our members to participate in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions regulation discussion. The letter is pre-written, HOWEVER, participants must fill in a few lines of personal information! Please take note of the first paragraph request!

This call to action campaign is key to ensuring that our industry is acknowledged as a partner in the Climate Change discussion. We must convey the importance of keeping forests as forests – and more specifically, as working forests. Unintended consequences of the proposed regulations may make it difficult for private forest landowners to maintain their lands as sustainable forests.

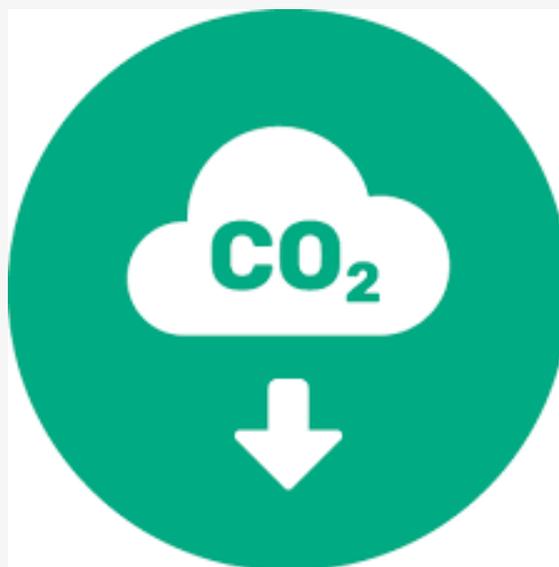
This process should not take more than 10 minutes. **The deadline for this submission is 5pm on October 27, 2020**

We have provided a letter, **WHICH NEEDS YOUR PERSONALIZATION ON THE TOP PARAGRAPH**. Please take a few minutes to ensure our voices are heard.

**Action Alert**

## **ESFPA Joins 176 Groups to Urge Leaders to Maintain Support Environmental Funding**

As a member of the Environmental Protection Fund coalition, ESFPA signed on to a letter last week to Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie calling environmental programs critical to New York's recovery and prosperity in our post Covid-19 pandemic economy. The group is seeking to maintain funding for environmental programs to help efforts in the climate crisis and the demanding goals of the CLCPA. By funding these programs, the group



## **ESFPA Testifies on DEC Greenhouse Gas Regulations**

On Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> ESFPA Executive Director John Bartow testified at DEC's virtual public hearing on the proposed Greenhouse Gas (GhG) Emission regulations (6 NYCRR Part 496). The proposed regulation establishes the 1990 GhG emission levels as a base for calculating required emission reductions of 40% by 2030 and 85% by 2050. The CLCPA requires DEC to include all anthropogenic (i.e. man induced) GhG emissions in developing a gross 1990 emission level and in doing this DEC has included biogenic emissions in the base emission for 1990. Although the regulation as drafted is strictly prescribed in the CLCPA, which includes biogenic carbon, ESFPA's testimony spoke to the need to reconcile biogenic carbon going forward and determining "net emissions" in achieving "net zero by 2050" in addition to 85% emission reductions. The regulation identifies a 40% reduction by 2040 and an 85% reduction by 2050. There is a remaining balance of 15% to bring New York State to the CLCLP requirement of net zero emissions. In that 15% is where the need to include the carbon sequestration role of forests and harvested wood products.

hopes that jobs will be created, and local economies will be fortified. Currently, the \$3Billion Environmental Bond Act has been removed from the November 2020 ballot and public funding is needed for environmental programs. Specifically, the group is calling for support for the following programs: The Environmental Protection fund; Parks 2020 and the DEC NY Works Programs; Clean Water Infrastructure Act; and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Program.

Please follow this [link for the full letter](#).



## US Forest Service Offers Funding for Wood Energy/Innovation

### Projects

The U.S. Forest Service announced on October 20<sup>th</sup> that it is accepting applications for 2021 Wood Innovations Grants and 2021 Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grants.

Approximately \$10 million in funding is available. For more information, please follow this [link](#).

Bartow's testimony ([click here for full testimony](#)) noted that our forests store and sequester carbon and can substantially fill the 15% gap and bring the state to net zero emissions. ESFPAs testimony pointed out the challenges going forward and potential unintended consequences on the industry and pressures for landowners to keep their forests as forests. The current forests in NYS are capable of providing substantially more carbon sequestration that will be needed and will ensure markets and a future for the industry. These points need to be made clear by members of the industry. Please take a moment to send your comments to the DEC in our Action Alert ([link](#)). **Comments are due by Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 5 pm!** For more background information, [click here for a link to SUNY ESF Professor Robert Malsheimer's CLCPA presentation](#) which provides an excellent summary of the proposed regulation and potential consequences going forward.



Department of Labor

## NYS DOL Releases New Guidelines on Paid Sick Leave

On Monday evening, the New York State Department of Labor released guidance and a FAQ regarding the new

paid sick leave law that applies to all private sector businesses in the state. You can find the [guidance here](#) and [FAQ's here](#).

In addition to the guidance/FAQ's, the Department has indicated that they will soon be publishing proposed regulations regarding certain aspects of the new law. Specifically:

- Determining employer size when deciding how much paid sick leave is to be provided.
- Determining employer 'net income' when deciding whether leave should be paid or not (for employers of 4 or less);
- What kind of documentation can be requested of an employee using paid sick leave.

These will not be published as 'emergency regulations,' so it will take several months for proposed rules to move through the SAPA process, and to fully resolve these issues. We will keep you informed as we receive information.

## NYLT Looking for New Board Representative

The New York Logger Training, Inc. Board of Directors is currently looking for a new Logger Representative. NYLT's The Trained Logger Certification (TLC) program was developed to recognize loggers who complete a training schedule involving three "core" areas of



## ESFPA and NAFO Representatives Meet with the Executive Chamber

On Wednesday this week, ESFPA Chairman Michael McLarty, Executive Director John Bartow and Communication Director Muriel Church along with Anne Clawson of the National Association of Forest Owners and Robert Malmshaimer from SUNY ESF participated in a Zoom meeting with Staff from Governor Cuomo's office – Amanda Lefton, First Assistant Secretary for Energy and the Environment and Ali Zaidi, Deputy Secretary for Energy and the Environment. The meeting, which was held on zoom, provided the Governor's office with some general information on the State of the forest in NYS, the importance of the small, family forest owner, and the role well managed forests can play in Climate Change solutions. Follow this link to find a copy of the [PowerPoint Presentation from the call.](#)

knowledge and skills. During the three-year certification period of TLC, these individuals make a commitment to continuing their education for them to improve themselves and maintain their TLC status. Board members participate in 4 meetings a year and help guide the program to ensure the mission of the organization is maintained and the needs of the loggers are met. For more information, contact Muriel Church at [mchurch@esfpa.org](mailto:mchurch@esfpa.org) or (518) 330-7684.



## USDA Revises RCPP to Include Forest Lands

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cleared up [concerns](#) raised by national forest associations and businesses (including ESFPA member companies Lyme Timber and Molpus Woodlands Group) over forest land eligibility for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). NRCS has since removed the problematic language and extended the deadline for [RCPP applications](#) to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.



## Trump Signs Trillion Trees Executive Order

Last week, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) establishing the One Trillion Trees Interagency Council. The Trillion Trees initiative was launched earlier this year at the World Economic Forum aiming to plant and conserve one trillion trees to sequester carbon. The council is co-chaired by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Interior Secretary David Bernhardt with representation from various other federal agencies tasked with tracking the country's progress toward meeting the initiative's carbon reduction goal.

## ESFPA Membership Directory is Now Available – Email Survey Sent!

Over the past week and week ahead, all ESFPA members should be receiving their 2020 ESFPA Membership Directory. It definitely got a late start due to the CoVid pandemic as well as a major electrical shutdown at the Naylor Facility, the company that produces the publication. We do apologize for the delay.

In addition, Naylor has sent out a readership survey to our members via email. This survey assists Naylor to sell ad space and ultimately assist our Association. Please take a moment to answer the survey via your email. Or, please follow this link to [answer the survey here](#). We are sincerely grateful for our advertisers!!!

You may also view our membership directory digitally, by following the following link:

Link to digital edition: <https://www.nxtbook.com/naylor/EFPR/EFPR0020/index.php>

As we have mentioned in previous communications, we are currently updating our website and database. All members will have the opportunity to update their company and contact information within the next few weeks.

Thank you to our members for their continued support!!!!