



## 2023 FOREST ECONOMY PROGRAM TIMELINE

For both Spring and Fall applicants: 2023 Forest Economy Program materials will be made available on the [NBRC website](#) in January 2023.

### **Spring 2023 Application Timeline**

Forest Economy Program Information Sessions	January/February 2023
Letters of Interest (required)	March 10 by 5pm EST
Responses to LOIs including invitations to apply	Week of April 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Applications Due (by invite only)	April 28 by 5pm EST
NBRC Selection Meeting	June 2023
NBRC notice of awards & notice to unsuccessful applicants	By June 30

### **Fall 2023 Application Timeline**

Forest Economy Program Information Sessions	July/August 2023
Letters of Interest (required)	Sept. 22 by 5pm EST
Responses to LOIs including invitations to apply	Week of October 16 <sup>th</sup>
Applications Due (by invite only)	Nov. 13 by 5pm EST
NBRC Selection Meeting	January 2024
NBRC notice of awards & notice to unsuccessful applicants	By January 31, 2024



## 2023 FOREST ECONOMY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**AVAILABLE FUNDS:** \$7,000,000 (After spring awards, approximately \$4.4MM is available for the fall grant round.)

**AWARD SIZE:** The maximum award size is \$1,000,000.

### FOREST ECONOMY PURPOSE AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this program is to support the forest-based economy, and to assist in the industry's evolution to include new technologies and viable business models across the 4-state NBRC region.

For those potential applicants familiar with the NBRC's core Catalyst funding opportunity, the Forest Economy Program is distinct in two important ways:

- The Forest Economy Program emphasizes the potential for impact across the entire NBRC region.
- Infrastructure projects (defined by Congress in NBRC's authorizing language to be inclusive of transportation, water and wastewater, telecommunications, and energy) must directly support the forest industry.

Whether funded directly or through partnerships, funds will be awarded to support projects in the forest economy, which may include one (or multiple) of the following:

1. **Community development projects** that support the diversified use of forests within the Northern Border Regional Commission's service area for economic activity to include wood products and advanced materials manufacturing, as well as for other economic activity that utilizes northern border forests sustainably and demonstrates planning for climate resiliency.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Utilization of wood-based heating technologies and/or "Mass Timber" products (e.g., Cross-laminated timber) in public use projects (prioritizing locally sourced\* wood products where possible)
- Collaborative efforts to support communities negatively impacted by the decline in the forest-based economy to attract new wood-utilizing enterprises

\*For the purposes of this program, "locally sourced" means sourced, where possible, within the [four state NBRC region](#).

2. **Workforce [re] training and development projects** for the purpose of building the skills and recruiting and retaining the workforce needed for forest businesses.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Development and marketing of targeted workforce programs to support identified employers' needs for a skilled workforce (i.e., new technology, safety, apprenticeship, etc.)
- Training and recruitment programs that prepare participants for careers in logging, forestry, and related businesses

3. **Marketing/communication and education projects** that promote the environmental and climate benefits of forest management and forest products in ways that strengthen markets for wood products.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Marketing and communications projects that promote the benefits of northern border forests
- Forest resource planning and industry supply chain analysis projects
- Carbon storage, carbon footprint, and/or life cycle analysis projects for wood products

4. **Business planning and technical assistance projects** that enhance the viability and sustainability of new and existing forest businesses

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Technical assistance, training in business skills, and access to financing to local forest industry businesses

5. **Public infrastructure projects** that directly support the forest industry, and/or that demonstrate the use of wood-based products in public infrastructure

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Revitalization of publicly owned transportation systems that serve forest industry operations
- Energy sourcing or supply upgrades that reduce costs for industry and/or create new markets for residuals
- Pilot projects that demonstrate the capabilities of wood-based infrastructure projects

## **INVESTMENT PRIORITIES:**

**(Numbered for ease of reference in LOIs and applications)**

1. Invest in the development and commercialization of technologies that create new markets for forest product residuals.
2. Invest in workforce recruitment, development, and training to increase job placement across the forest product continuum.
3. Support for eligible entities helping to sustain and grow existing forest industry businesses and operations, such as through technical assistance.
4. Revitalization of rural communities through the diversified use of northern border forests for economic activity to include wood products and advanced materials manufacturing, as well as for other economic activity that utilizes northern border forests sustainably for the production of wood products and advanced materials manufacturing.
5. Encourage projects that leverage existing (or, in some cases, new) partnerships to impact multiple counties, states and/or the entire NBRC region, and/or have the potential to do so.

## **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:**

- State governments of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York
- Local governments and secondary and career technical centers (village, town, city and county);
- Other political subdivisions of States (regional planning commissions, authorities of the state);
- Indian Tribes; § 200.54 Indian tribe (or “federally recognized Indian tribe”). Indian tribe means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. Chapter 33), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)). See annually published Bureau of Indian Affairs list of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services
- Non-profit entities. The term ‘nonprofit entity’ means any organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code. The non-profit entity must be able to demonstrate they have federal grant experience related to economic development.
- Institutions of Higher Education (must be able to demonstrate existing industry partnerships)

## **SUBMISSION INFORMATION:**

**LETTERS OF INTEREST:** Letters of Interest (LOIs) are required for funding consideration and must be submitted to [FEP@nbrc.gov](mailto:FEP@nbrc.gov). LOIs will be accepted from all eligible applicants on a rolling basis, with two hard deadlines for summer and

winter award consideration. Applicants submitting for summer award consideration must submit LOI's no later than 5:00 p.m. EST March 10, 2023. Applicants submitting for winter award consideration must submit by 5:00p.m. EST September 22, 2023.

FULL APPLICATION: Full applications will only be accepted from those entities expressly invited to apply based on the review of the Letters of Interest and must be submitted to [FEP@nbrc.gov](mailto:FEP@nbrc.gov) no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, April 28, 2023, or November 13, 2023, for summer or winter award consideration respectively.

NBRC may award up to \$7,000,000 during the 2023 Forest Economy Program funding rounds. Please refer to the 2023 Forest Economy Program Manual for detailed submission instructions. (The Program Manual will be made available on NBRC's website at [www.nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov) by January 2023.)

## CONTACTS:

For those considering applications in 2023, please contact NBRC Forest Economy Program Manager Marina Bowie, the NBRC Program Manager in the State(s) where the proposed project will take place, and/or a Forest Economy Program Advisory Board member. These individuals will be happy to assist you as you develop your projects and applications:

### NBRC Forest Economy Program Manager:

Marina Bowie, [mbowie@nbrc.gov](mailto:mbowie@nbrc.gov) 603.724.5802

### NBRC State Program Managers

**Maine:** Charlotte Mace, [charlotte.mace@maine.gov](mailto:charlotte.mace@maine.gov) 207.624.7448

**New Hampshire:** Steven Fortier, [steven.j.fortier@livefree.nh.gov](mailto:steven.j.fortier@livefree.nh.gov) 603.688.5918

**Vermont:** Kristie Farnham, [kristie.farnham@vermont.gov](mailto:kristie.farnham@vermont.gov) 802.398.5268

**New York:** Kyle Wilber, [kyle.wilber@dos.ny.gov](mailto:kyle.wilber@dos.ny.gov) 518.473.3694

### Forest Economy Program Advisory Board

**Commission Representative:** Joe Short, [jshort@northernforest.org](mailto:jshort@northernforest.org) 603.491.2651

**Maine:** Dana Doran, [executivedirector@maineloggers.com](mailto:executivedirector@maineloggers.com) 207.688.8195

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Jasen Stock, [jstock@nhtoa.org](mailto:jstock@nhtoa.org) 603-674-8148

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**New York:** Michelle Capone, [mcapone@danc.org](mailto:mcapone@danc.org) 315.661.3200

Daniel Berheide, [dberheide@westelcom.com](mailto:dberheide@westelcom.com) 518.461.3614

Note - If your project does not fit within the investment objectives outlined here, it may qualify for another source of NBRC funding. Please reach out to [admin@nbrc.gov](mailto:admin@nbrc.gov) for more information about our various programs.

Additional Forest Economy Program information can be found on NBRC's website [www.nbrc.gov](http://www.nbrc.gov)