

FPL NEWS

Recent developments from the Forest Products Laboratory



License Option Agreement Signed for FPL Technology

CatchLight Energy LLC, a joint venture of Chevron Corporation and Weyerhaeuser Company, has concluded that the SPORL technology developed by FPL researcher JunYong Zhu is very promising, and has signed a license option agreement with Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), the owner of SPORL technology. The agreement enables the evaluation of commercializing this technology and allows the opportunity to invest in a closer collaborative relationship among the Forest Products Laboratory, CatchLight Energy, and WARF for further research and development leading to large-scale demonstration. SPORL is a sulfite pretreatment to overcome recalcitrance of lignocellulose, which is the inability to efficiently convert cellulose to glucose, a necessary step in ethanol and butanol production. The technology also addresses other critical issues associated with converting woody biomass to ethanol, including energy consumption concerns and utilizing existing equipment and processes common to the pulp and paper industry.

Updated *Wood Handbook* Now Available

The Forest Products Laboratory is proud to present the centennial edition of the *Wood Handbook—Wood as an Engineering Material*, updated and released in celebration of FPL's first 100 years of service to the public. First published in 1935, this is the seventh edition of the *Wood Handbook*. It can be found in full text online at <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/woodhandbook>

FPL Centennial Video Available Online

A Century of Innovation, a 12-minute video summarizing the history of research at the Forest Products Laboratory, is now available for viewing online. The video features historic footage from FPL's early days, highlights many FPL innovations that have had a lasting impact on society, and introduces our newest research facility. Visit our website to look back over a century of accomplishments and learn what's on the horizon as FPL begins a new era of forest products research. <http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/centennial/video.php>

FPL Highlighted at Boy Scout Jamboree

Both the Forest Products Laboratory and the Boy Scouts of America celebrated 100 years of service in 2010. Representatives from FPL attended the annual Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree and staffed a booth at the head of the Forest Service "Decision Trail" to teach visitors about the vital role of research in the Forest Service. More than 25,000 people came through FPL's exhibit, and more than three hundred Boy Scouts earned their Pulp and Paper merit badge guided by FPL staff. The Forest Service has participated in the Jamboree since 1967.

LCA Workshop Defines Opportunities for Coordinated Industry-Government Effort

Experts in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Green Building gathered July 14 at the U.S. Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin for a Wood Products Industry LCA Workshop. The workshop was organized under the auspices of the Green Opportunity Task Group, an industry group formed last year to develop and execute a plan that capitalizes on green opportunities for North American wood products. Following the development of strategic and tactical plans, the Green Opportunity Task Group has been working to build further alignment with industry groups and organizations and work with these groups to gain funding support for a broad-based industry plan. The industry initiative is built around four interest areas

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that address green building activities related to research, codes and standards, marketing, and policy.

A key tactic for the research segment, formation of an LCA working group, was initiated with the LCA workshop. Participants in the full-day workshop included representatives from the Athena Institute, Dovetail Partners, the U.S. Forest Products Lab, CORRIM, the Canadian Sustainable Building Coalition, American Wood Council, and APA. Workshops discussions focused on how LCA research work and results can be applied to support wood product industry green building initiatives. Current and future LCA research efforts were reviewed and prioritized, with emphasis on the need to further ongoing efforts to input wood data to the LCI data bases, fill gaps in the CORRIM research that is the basis for much of the industry's LCA data, and document existing and new opportunities to broaden use and acceptance of LCA by key building professionals. The event was organized and coordinated by APA, in cooperation with the Forest Products Laboratory, working on the behalf of the Wood Products Council and the Green Opportunity Task Group.

2010 International Conference on Nanotechnology for the Forest Products Industry

The Forest Products Laboratory is cosponsoring TAPPI's 2010 International Conference on Nanotechnology for the Forest Products Industry. The conference, held in Espoo, Finland from September 27-29, 2010, will feature industry experts, scientists, health and safety specialists, legal and government policy maker, and leading researchers from multiple disciplines to discover how nanotechnology can shape the next generation of value-added forest products. Visit www.tappi.org/10nano for more information.

And finally...

Forest Products Laboratory Celebrates 100 Years of Research

FPL officially celebrated its centennial on June 4, 2010. Notices about special events and products will be distributed throughout this year to commemorate our many scientific achievements. We will also be sharing noteworthy historical accomplishments and items of interest in both FPL News and NewsLine, our lengthier quarterly newsletter.

Did you know packaging research at FPL was spurred by a heavy demand for shipping materials during World Wars I and II? Researchers redesigned boxes, crates, and paper cartons to provide better protection and use less space, and developed packaging manuals and training courses for thousands of military personnel.



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