

# FUTURE FOREST ECONOMY INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

**Place:** The Northern Forest, 30 million acres comprising the expansive woodlands of Vermont, New Hampshire, northern Maine, and northern New York.

**Problem:** A rapidly changing forest economy due to global shifts in the industry and closures of large paper mills and biomass electric plants in the region.

**Action:** The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the Northern Forest Center, and the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) partnered to create the Future Forest Economy Initiative to support the development of new markets for wood from the Northern Forest. Congress allocated \$3 million in 2018 for EDA to invest in the initiative.

**Results:** FFEI ignited transformative change through strategic investment in 13 projects over 5 years. The initiative helped launch 10 new forest products, improved wages and benefits for 1,500 workers, and leveraged \$14.8 million in private investment to further innovation and evolution of the forest economy in the region.



## GRANTEES AND THEIR PROJECTS

- City of Burlington, Vermont Electric Department, *Steam-Based District Heating*
- Town of Ashland, Maine, *East Coast Markets for Structural Round Timber*
- Trust to Conserve Northeast Forest Lands, Master Logger Certification: *“Advancing the Sustainability & Market Reach of the Northern Forest Region’s Wood Fiber Supply Chain”*
- Northern Forest Center & Partners, *Wood Heat Marketing*
- State University of New York, College of Environmental Science & Forestry, *Northeast Hardwoods for Military Vehicles & Trailers*
- Advanced Structures & Composites Center, University of Maine, *Pilot-Scale Fiberboard Manufacturing Line*
- Town of East Millinocket, ME, *Mill Redevelopment*
- Somerset Economic Development Corporation, *Mill Redevelopment*
- University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, *Certification of Northern Forest Cross-Laminated Timber*
- Our Katahdin, *Net-Zero Modular Homes*
- Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, *Wood-Based Textiles in the Northeast*
- Trust to Conserve Northeast Forest Lands, *Sustaining the Region’s Forest Supply Chain Through Exceptional Accountability and Market Expansion*
- Northern Forest Center, *Mass Timber in Maine Demonstration Projects*

## BY THE NUMBERS

**15** BUSINESSES,  
COMMUNITIES  
or economic development-focused  
organizations increased their capacity

**\$14.8 MILLION**  
leveraged in private investment

**219**  
businesses benefitted

**8 MILLION+**  
tons of regional wood  
demand supported

**1,500 JOBS**  
demonstrated improved quality  
through wages and/or benefits

**10**  
new forest  
products created

**55**  
jobs created  
and retained

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