CHANGING HOW AMERICA BUILDS BUILDINGS

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OVERVIEW

• How did we get here?
• Why does it matter?
• Where are we now?
HOW WE GOT HERE?
WOODY BIOMASS PROGRAM

• 20 years of Forest Service grants
  • Supply focus
  • Open to all biomass uses
• Many small isolated successes & failures
• No change in markets
• 2010 evaluation
2011-REFRAMING

- Wood energy
- Demand focus
- Grant program shift
- Collaboration with other funders
RESULTS OR REFRAMING

- Established momentum for wood energy
- Doubled markets in two years
- 2013 = $1 billion in project funding
MILESTONES

• 42 hospitals use wood energy
• DOD – power purchase agreement
• Wood energy can compete with natural gas
• 16 state-wide Wood Energy Teams
WHAT’S THIS GOT TO DO WITH BUILDING WITH WOOD?

• We can move markets
• Time is right
• Won’t be pretty and easy
WHY DOES THIS MATTER?
SO WHAT?

• Multi-story buildings dominated by concrete & steel
  • Fossil fuel intensive
  • Significant source of carbon emission

• Wood is a renewable alternative
  • Save energy
  • Sequester carbon
  • Some wood technology is carbon negative
  • Crucial as world population & urbanization increase
  • Strong public interest in forest management
WHERE ARE WE NOW?
WE HAVE:

- Revamped grant program
- Scaled up funding/engagement with WoodWorks
- USDA Rural Development
- USDA Tall Wood Building Competition
- White House Summit on building with wood
- Multiple federal agencies
- Increased traction
WHERE ARE THE BIG WINS?

- Increased use of conventional wood technologies
- Introduction of Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)
CLT IS A POTENTIAL GAME CHANGER

- Well established in Europe
- Large niche in mid-level buildings
- Additional niches warrant attention
- Sequesters carbon
- Market driven