

Enviva Welcomes President Biden's National Forest Products Week Proclamation, 2021

National Forest Products Week October 17 - 23, 2021

Enviva welcomes the Biden administration's [proclamation](#) on National Forest Products Week, 2021. Healthy forests are critical to the reduction of carbon emissions and the fight against climate change. Forests help preserve our environment and sustain nature's biodiversity. They have a vital role to play if we hope to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to preindustrial levels as agreed in the 2015 Paris Agreement and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. As a leading renewable energy company specializing in sustainable wood bioenergy, vibrant forests are essential to what Enviva does and why we do it. That's why sustainable forestry, responsible sourcing, and growing more trees are the core elements of our business.

The U.S. is one of the world's most essential timber baskets; the U.S. Southeast, where Enviva operates, produces approximately 1/6th of the wood used worldwide every [year](#). Despite this substantial output, only 3% of the working forests in the U.S. Southeast are harvested each year, while the remaining 97% continue to grow and store carbon. Of the 3% harvested, only 3% of that is used to produce biomass. Over the last 25 years, the forests in the U.S. Southeast have grown by 40%, making them one of the most active areas of forest growth globally, which means more carbon sequestered year over year. Forests in the U.S. don't just play a critical role in carbon emissions reductions; they also provide a steady stream of wood products into the global economy. The manufacturing of these products creates valuable jobs and economic opportunities for local communities, many in rural areas in need of economic empowerment, and encourages landowners to be responsible stewards of the forests, minimizing wildfire risk. Robust demand for U.S. forest products drives increased effort and attention toward sustainably managing and growing healthy U.S. forests. Combining that with American innovation and entrepreneurship, the potential for the application of forest products as a renewable energy source is substantial and critical to achieving our net-zero goals – from decarbonizing hard-to-abate heavy industries such as cement, steel, and lime, to creating biofuels for the transportation sector, and enabling carbon capture and storage with bioenergy (BECCS) to capture and permanently store carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere.

Enviva fully supports the Biden administration's views on using innovative forest products to advance forest conservation and create jobs by expanding markets. Earlier this week, Deputy Agriculture Secretary Dr. Jewel Bronaugh announced new funding for opportunities to support market innovation in wood products and wood energy, iterating that, "*Healthy and productive markets for wood products and wood energy are integral to supporting sustainable forest management and improving the condition of our national forests.*"

President Biden’s proclamation on National Forest Products Week strikes a similar tone, saying: *“We propose investments in sustainable and innovative uses for wood waste materials to produce advanced biofuels, biochar, heat, and power — including through sustainable aviation fuels and other sustainable biofuels. These programs have the potential to support increased connections between the health of our forests, economic opportunity, and the production of valuable renewable energy.”* The administration’s National Forest Products Week proclamation is an insightful roadmap for the sustainable, climate-friendly use of products derived from America’s cherished and thriving forests.