

The Outlook, August 2017



NEW REPORT:
The Once and Future Bioeconomy and the Role of Forests

Jim Bowyer, Ph.D., Dovetail Partners

There are increasing references in popular and scientific literature to an emerging "bioeconomy." But what is meant by this term, and what does it imply for the near and longer term future? Part of the answer is revealed by the past.

From the beginning of European settlement of North America through the beginning of the 20th century, citizens relied heavily on wood and agricultural crops to provide food, shelter, energy, transportation, clothing, and other products of all kinds. In other words, the economy was based on materials and products made from once living things (i.e. biomaterials). Over time, society increasingly turned to metals for production of vehicles and ships, and to steel and concrete for construction of buildings of commerce. Similarly, fossil-fuel-based fibers such as nylon, polyester, and acrylic replaced natural fiber in a number of applications. Plastics, derived from fossil fuels, found increasing uses beginning in the late 1920s. Energy markets became dominated by fossil fuels, and the rise of electronics was fueled by a wide array of relatively scarce and high environmental impact metals. Today, wood and non-food agricultural products continue to be used in large volumes, though plant-based materials don't dominate commerce as they once did.

But a quiet revolution is underway. Based in part on rising environmental and social concerns linked to fossil fuel consumption and heavy reliance on non-renewable materials, development of new families of renewable, low impact and plant-based materials and products of all kinds is taking place in laboratories around the world. Some are already on the market, while others are in concept or developmental stages. Success to date suggests that such materials and products will become common in the future, in the process causing a significant shift back toward an economy based on biological materials. Although a return to near total reliance on biomaterials, as in the late 1800s, is not envisioned, the magnitude of expected developments are sufficient to inspire references to a coming bio-based economy.

[Read the full report...](#)



Dovetail Partners Welcomes Chuck Henderson as New Associate

Henderson brings expertise in family forest ownership and western forestry issues

Dovetail Partners, a Minneapolis-based environmental think tank, is pleased to announce the addition of Chuck Henderson as a new Associate within the organization. Mr. Henderson brings with him a strong business and technical background, expertise in systems thinking, and forest policy.

Chuck's focus is on western forestry issues and family ownership of forests. Chuck has always been involved with forestry in some way or another through his family's ownership of forestland in Northeastern California. He is a fifth generation forest owner and has been actively

involved in the broader forest community as an advocate on the local, state and national level. He has been on various industry boards and commissions including the National Alliance of Forest Owners, the American Forest Foundation, and the California Tree Farm Committee.

"It is exciting to have Chuck join our team and to extend our work further west and deeper into the full spectrum of family forest ownership opportunities and challenges," said Kathryn Fernholz, Dovetail's Executive Director.

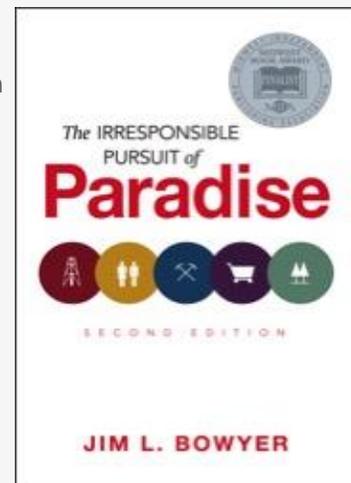
[Read More](#)

[New Edition of Landmark Environmental Book Released - Now Also an E-Book](#)

The second edition of *The Irresponsible Pursuit of Paradise*, a book which examines environmental policies of the U.S. and other wealthy countries in the context of consumption and raw materials demand, was released today.

An important work of our time, and a finalist for the Midwest Book Award, *The Irresponsible Pursuit of Paradise* is now available either in hard copy or as an e-book.

Copies are available through Itasca Books (<http://www.itascabooks.com/the-irresponsible-pursuit-of-paradise.html>) or wherever books are sold.



[Prepare for Back to School with Forestinfo.org](#)

[Online resource hub provides environmental education resources for parents, teachers and students](#)

Forestfino.org is Dovetail's one-stop digital resource hub for environmental education geared towards students of all ages, from Kindergarten through Adult, teachers and those with a general interest in protecting, managing, and enhancing the natural environment. It is a source for environmental information which is understandable, accurate, and available in a wide variety of formats.

Visit <http://www.forestinfo.org> today!



A poster for a seminar titled "Wood-Based Construction: Mass Timber and Beyond". The poster is dark red with white and yellow text. It includes the location "Madison, Wisconsin" and the date "September 20, 2017". The main text describes the seminar as an opportunity for architects, engineers, designers, developers, general contractors, and anyone interested in wood design. It lists topics such as "Overview of Wood-Based Products and Building Systems", "Environmental Considerations of Wood", "Mass Timber Technologies and Research", "Building Codes", and "Case Studies". The event is held at the Promega Corporation BioPharmaceutical Technology Center. The cost is \$30.00 (\$15.00 for students). The poster also mentions that the event fulfills 4.5 AIA/CES credits and includes logos for the GreenSource, U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), and AIA Wisconsin. A small note at the bottom states: "The work upon which this project is based was funded in part through a grant awarded by U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations. This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Join Dovetail at Wood Construction Seminar in Wisconsin

Advancements in wood technologies have expanded the use of wood in design and construction. Mass timber products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) have emerged and offer opportunities in tall wood construction. The Wisconsin DNR, in partnership with the Wisconsin Wood Marketing Team, Forest Stewards Guild, and the American Institute of Architects, will host a seminar on [September 20, 2017 in Madison, Wisconsin](#) to highlight wood-based construction, mass timber products, applicable building codes, and case studies on how wood technologies can be a sustainable, cost-effective solution for tackling modern design needs. Jim Bowyer of Dovetail Partners will address environmental considerations, and the event will feature a tour of "The Crossroads" located on the Promega campus, showcasing an innovative mix of glulam and cross-laminated timber.

Architects, engineers, designers, developers, general contractors and others interested in wood design are encouraged to attend this informative seminar to be held at the Promega Corporation's BioPharmaceutical Technology Center (5445 E. Cheryl Parkway, Madison, WI 53711). The registration fee of \$30 (\$15 for students) includes lunch and refreshments. Visit the event webpage for online registration and additional information.

****Event fulfills 4.5 AIA/CES credits****

To view the event agenda and other details, please visit this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wood-based-construction-mass-timber-and-beyond-tickets-36276690558?aff=es2>

[Read More](#)

Stay Connected



Copyright © 2017. All Rights Reserved.

Dovetail Partners, Inc. - A Trusted Source of Environmental Information

Dovetail Partners is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

[Donate Now](#)

Dovetail Partners, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

www.dovetailinc.org