WHAT IS FOR/MAINE?

Forest Opportunity Roadmap / Maine (FOR/Maine) is a unique cross-sector collaboration between industry, communities, government, education, and non-profits, which have come together to ensure that Maine strategically adapts and capitalizes on changing markets, to maintain our leading role in the global forest economy and support prosperity in our state.

The coalition was created with support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration and U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. We are combining collaborative actions, innovation, market and resource management expertise, and reliable data to guide smart investment and market expansion in the forest economy. In 2018 FOR/Maine concluded its Phase I preliminary data-gathering efforts, and released its recommended goals and strategies in the Forest Opportunity Roadmap, available at www.formaine.org. Phase II of the project focuses on sustained collaboration for implementation of the Forest Opportunity Roadmap.

THE ROADMAP TO GROW AND DIVERSIFY MAINE’S FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR 40% BY 2025

Goal 1: Sustain and grow Maine’s existing and emerging forest products economy, reaching $1.2 Billion in economic impact by 2025.

Goal 2: Manage the wood resource with sustainable and responsible forest management practices.

Goal 3: Prepare workforce for the future of the forest products economy.

Goal 4: Increase prosperity in Maine forest economy communities, especially those in rural Maine, including those affected by mill closures.

Goal 5: Organize the forest products industry with committed public sector partners, including the University of Maine, to implement the vision and goals.

PHASE II: FROM FACT-FINDING TO IMPLEMENTATION

FOR/Maine is building on recent investment in the forest economy to promote continued growth through implementation of the Roadmap’s goals and strategies. Through rigorous research, we have identified the global wood products that can be competitively made in Maine; we’ve modeled and continue to update our sustainable wood supply projections; we are moving forward to commercialize new uses of wood and place Maine as a global center of wood technology innovation; we are developing a marketing plan to bring more capital investments to Maine; and building a communications strategy to promote career opportunities in a resurginig forest industry.

Our success is defined by our collective ability to adapt to market opportunities and build resilient rural communities and a strong workforce, while constantly focusing on an economic development strategy that retains existing businesses, promotes innovation, encourages investment and builds market diversity. Together, we are realizing the next generation of Maine’s great forest economy.
Strong forest. Strong economy. Strong communities.

Maine is 89% covered by one of the most advanced, productive, and sustainable “resources” imaginable – the forest. More than half of Maine’s forests are certified sustainable, meaning they are managed for the health of the forest, wildlife, water quality, and economic contributions to the surrounding communities. They reduce carbon emissions as they grow, provide habitat for a huge variety of wildlife, invite recreation, and foster quality of life for residents and tourists year round.

For generations, Maine forests have provided economic opportunity for Maine families and communities. Forest outputs can be made into a staggering array of products, from packaging and advanced building materials, to eco-friendly chemicals and biodegradable plastics (replacing harmful petrochemicals), textiles, and cutting edge medical and technical products made from nanocellulose.

Technology, globalization, and evolving social trends are bringing change and new opportunities to Maine’s traditional forest economy. The industry is adapting and diversifying in response, developing new economic revenue streams to produce sustainable, bio-based products for both domestic and global markets – all while conserving natural lands for recreation, tourism, and wildlife. Maine’s forest communities are creating the conditions to attract investment and high-quality jobs to rural areas, including efforts to redevelop mill sites and improve broadband access in rural areas.

FOREST ECONOMY ECOSYSTEM, ACTORS & BENEFITS

WOOD SUPPLY
Maine is 89% forested
- 17 million acres
- Can sustainably produce 1.5 MN tons per year

50% certified
sustainably managed

LOGGERS
Selling to mills, processors, and product to market

MILLS
need reliable wood sources & employees

COMMUNITIES
need a strong economic base

THE PUBLIC
enjoys recreation & environmental benefits

LANDOWNERS
need incentives to preserve their forests

98% privately owned

Worldclass
R&D facilities

Deepwater ports

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

$8.5 BN economic
congruntion
$1/20 Maine GDP

33,000 jobs
1/24 jobs in Maine

$737 MN exports

Public recreation

Wildlife habitat

Water filtration

Carbon sequestration

STATISTICS: MAINE FOREST PRODUCTS COUNCIL, MAINE FOREST SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE