How Maine Developed a Vision & Strategic Plan For Its Forest Sector?
Economic Development Assessment Team (EDAT)

With support from the U.S. Economic Development Agency, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and private contributions
FOR/Maine

A unique cross-sector collaboration between industry, communities, government, education, and non-profits, which have come together to realize the next generation of Maine’s great forest economy
FOR/Maine’s purpose is to ensure that Maine adapts to market changes quickly and strategically in order to maintain our leading role in the global forest economy.

**Goal 1:** Sustain and strengthen Maine’s existing forest products businesses.

**Goal 2:** Attract capital investments and develop greater economic prosperity in the forest products sector, for both existing and new businesses across the state.

**Goal 3:** Support the revitalization of Maine’s rural communities as places where people want to live, work and visit.
Forest Opportunity Roadmap/Maine

Strong Forests, Strong Economy, Strong Communities
FORMAINE WORK STREAMS

DATA GATHERING

GLOBAL MARKET ANALYSIS
Identify forest product markets where Maine is most competitive

WOOD SUPPLY ANALYSIS
Determine Maine's wood supply and how it meets global demands

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS
Understand needs and positions across industry

EMERGING TECH
Develop and attract investment in new and emerging wood product markets

TRANSPORTATION
Determine necessary improvements to improve efficiency

WOOD ENERGY
Analyze modern wood heat markets for forest and sawmill residuals

SYNTHESIS

GOALS & STRATEGIES
Synthesize findings into roadmap for realizing identified opportunities

IMPLEMENTATION

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
Develop realistic and broadly supported implementation plan

MARKETING PLAN
Bolster public support and target desired investors and other critical stakeholders

COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP
Support redevelopment of idle mill sites and strengthen active mill communities
Global Market Analysis and Benchmarking

• Conducting a global market analysis to help Maine forest industries better understand emerging and potential markets for forest products, and match that with Maine’s forest resource.

• Identify Maine’s competitive advantages/disadvantages in the most promising markets.
Wood Fiber Availability

• Modeling what species are available for manufacturers and predicting long range supplies with a variety of wood demand scenarios.

• Large capital investment in the forest industry require long term planning and understanding of forest growth dynamics.
Emerging Technologies

Developing an approach to assist with funding due diligence and vetting of emerging technologies and opportunities for the industry and communities.
Transportation

Identifying the necessary transportation infrastructure investments to increase margins for the forest products value chain, attract investment, and grow the forest products industry in Maine.
Wood Energy

Conducting a cost-benefit analysis to support and grow markets for low-value underutilized wood and biomass, utilizing state-of-the-art CHP (Combined Heat and Power) wood energy plants, microgrids, and modern thermal systems.
Stakeholder Analysis

University of Maine is conducting focus groups and interviews

– landowners and land managers
– loggers
– sawmill and paper mill workers
– secondary manufacturers
– industry leaders
– Legislators
– investors
Community Working Group

Support the redevelopment of idle mill sites and strengthen active mill communities
Vision

Maine is a global leader in the forest products economy with a thriving, innovative and diverse industry that provides good jobs in vibrant Maine communities.