



Forest-Based Economy Initiative

BACKGROUND

Established in 2018, the Forest-Based Economy Initiative (FBE) provides strategic planning and seamless integration of research, education and outreach across the University of Maine System (UMS) to facilitate partnerships and the growth of Maine's forest-based economy.

Through the use of a dedicated forest sector ombudsman, the FBE establishes direct and consistent connections across Maine's businesses, development groups, educators and communities. Working across and above the UMS organizational structure to understand its administrative vision and goals, current and potential programs, facilities, equipment and professional capabilities across each university and between campuses, the FBE strives to provide integrated systems-based solutions to challenges facing Maine's forest-based economy.

VISION

Become the leading institution in North America focused on technology-driven forest resource management and advanced manufacturing that supports a natural resource-based rural circular economy.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- Support an effective organization with unparalleled breadth spanning across disciplines and backgrounds from forest resource to emerging markets through rural community development
- Grow effective partnerships that both leverage regional strengths and provide exposure to global technologies and opportunities
- Train the next generation of workforce leaders with applied and results-driven educational experiences, including internships, undergraduate research experiences and innovative learning outcomes
- Attract and develop strong yet diverse talent from undergraduates to faculty that are fluent in delivering systems-based solutions in addressing complex challenges

OUR MISSION

Holistically deliver an integrated and responsive education, research and outreach solution focused on precision ecology, forest-based technologies (conventional, advanced and emerging), and innovative business practices which enhances the sustainable management and utilization of complex forest landscapes.

OUR PARTNER NETWORK

Forest Economy

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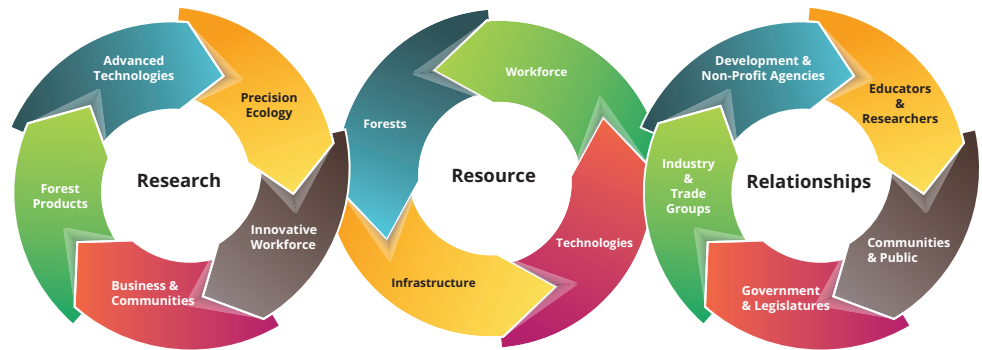
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ABOUT UMAINE

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and 65 countries. It currently enrolls nearly 11,000 total undergraduate and graduate students. UMaine students directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. The University of Maine offers doctoral degrees in 35 fields, representing the humanities, sciences, engineering and education; master's degrees in nearly 70 disciplines; 90 undergraduate majors and academic programs; and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction.

For more information about UMaine, visit umaine.edu.



- Address challenges facing Maine's forest-based economy
- Strategically develop, deliver and support impactful solutions
- Connect stakeholders with UMS capabilities to increase research, development and commercialization activities

- Understand Maine's resources and evaluate global opportunities and technologies
- Develop tools to strengthen and expand Maine's rural forest economy
- Align workforce development and learner experiences with state needs

- Build and sustain relationships internal and external to UMaine and UMS
- Effectively deliver solutions and receive feedback
- Keep abreast of the ever-changing status and opportunities in Maine's forest-based economy

OUR TENETS:

RESEARCH

Utilizing an expanded supply chain scope and broader systems-based vision of the challenges, the FBE strives to connect and support stakeholders with resources to increase research, development and commercialization activities, align workforce development and learner experiences with the needs of the state, promote "green collar career" opportunities and ultimately strengthen and expand Maine's sustainable forest-based economy. By leveraging our aggregated relationship network and understanding of Maine's resource needs, the FBE serves to strategically develop, deliver and support impactful solutions which address key challenges facing Maine's forest-based economy.

RESOURCE

Resources are the tools to achieve success. To maximize the effectiveness of your resources, a thorough and timely understanding of both current capabilities, challenges and opportunities is crucial. The interrelationship of forests, workforce, infrastructure and technology determine feasibility and competitive advantages. By focusing on a sustainable circular forest economy and the advocacy of "green collar career" opportunities, FBE works to strengthen and expand Maine's rural forest economy.

RELATIONSHIP

The most critical and integral of the three tenets, relationships provide the conduit to effectively deliver solutions and receive feedback, serving as our "eyes and ears" to keep abreast of the ever-changing status and opportunities in Maine's forest-based economy. By building and sustaining relationships internal to the university system and across our external partners, direct connections can be disseminated which may otherwise go undeveloped. Being such a critical component, it also requires consistent, sustained and responsive engagement to remain impactful.

