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 PARTNER NETWORK

Forest Economy
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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.

The University of Maine does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression; national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens Hall, 581.1226, equal.opportunity@maine.edu.