



Forest Enhancement  
Society of BC

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Regional District

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101 Martin Street  
Penticton BC V2A 5J9

January 26, 2024

Dear Chair and Okanagan-Similkameen (Regional District) Directors,

In January 2023 at the Truck Logger's Association convention, Premier David Eby announced that the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) would be entrusted to administer \$50 million of funding for forest enhancement projects. These projects would have two specific purposes: to utilize more waste wood from the forest and to reduce wildfire risks for communities.

Our team at FESBC got to work right away and by late spring, that same year, rolled out a funding intake for First Nations, community forests, and communities throughout the province to apply to for funding. Just one year after the Premier's announcement, 66 projects have been approved valued at \$47.9 million and the work on the ground is active now. The enclosed report shares an overview of these newly funded projects in regions all throughout the province.

We are very proud of the various project partners who have stepped forward with creative and thoughtful projects which not only utilize more waste wood or reduce wildfire risk, but have additional benefits such as improving wildlife habitat, developing recreational opportunities, creating or maintaining forestry-related jobs often in rural communities, and improving the health and resilience of our forests.

Additionally, 39 of these 66 projects are either led by, or involve, First Nations.

The enclosed Accomplishments Update showcases three of these newly funded forest enhancement projects. Industry leaders Gordon Murray, Executive Director of the Wood Pellet Association of Canada, and Joe Nemeth, General Manager of BC Pulp & Paper Coalition, share how critical this funding has been to help address some of their members' needs to keep people working, harness innovation to help B.C.'s bioeconomy, and take action on climate change.

FESBC projects show there doesn't need to be a trade-off between the environment or the economy – it can be a win for both.

Steven F. Kozuki, RPF  
Executive Director, FESBC

P.S. Keep up to date on FESBC funding and funded projects. Visit [www.fesbc.ca](http://www.fesbc.ca) and sign up for our monthly newsletter.

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January 2024

# Enhancing B.C.'s Forests By Using the Entire Tree

How First Nations and local communities are innovating to lead the way in the green economy



"Over the last four years, close to one million cubic metres of fibre has been recovered in our region, and much of the recovery work was supported with funding from FESBC's fibre utilization program."

### PERCY GUICHON

Executive Director  
Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd.

Left to Right: Daniel Persson, Forestry Superintendent with Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation, Joe Webster, Manager with T̓sideldel Biomass, Philippe Theriault, General Manager with T̓sideldel Enterprises, and Steve Kozuki with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC.

### 2023-2025 Fibre Utilization & Wildfire Risk Reduction Programs\*

# 67,765 TRUCK LOADS

An estimated 67,765 truck loads of wood fibre is being utilized instead of piled and burned in slash piles.

# 229,382 CARS OFF THE ROAD

Avoided greenhouse gas emissions from these projects is equivalent to taking over 200,000 cars off the road.

# 1,060,168 AVOIDED EMISSIONS

As a result of these projects, over one million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, or CO<sub>2</sub>e, will be avoided, helping take action on climate change.

\*as of December 2023

## It's not the Environment or the Economy—it's Both

In a world where issues are increasingly being framed as being divisive and polarized, it is refreshing to see new and innovative examples of win/win solutions. Instead of rehashing the decades-old debate of "jobs versus the environment," the **growing forestry bioeconomy** in British Columbia uses waste wood and biomass from the forest that otherwise would be slash burned or left behind to instead create green energy and sustainable forest products.

Slash burning of waste wood, wood left over from timber harvesting or other treatments, creates significant greenhouse gas emissions, which can be avoided if waste wood is used. Using that waste wood also creates many family-supporting jobs throughout the supply chain.

Thus, the creation of sustainable jobs and taking action on climate change is the very essence of what a bioeconomy should look like.

### Win/win solutions for the environment and the economy

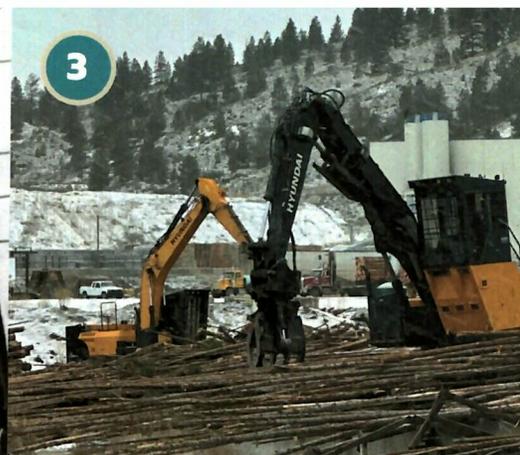
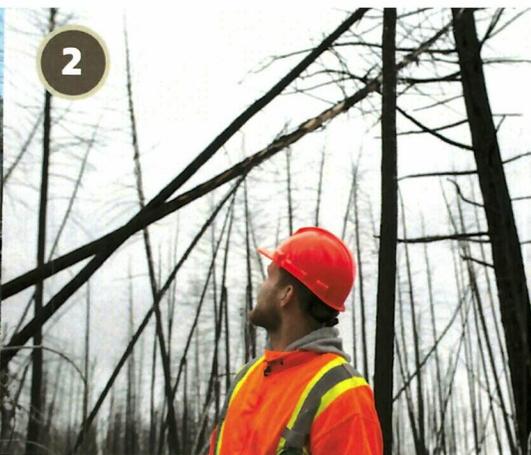
is something the Clean BC Plan strives for.



Forest Enhancement Society of BC

Learn more about innovative people and projects throughout B.C.





## Fibre Utilization Throughout B.C.

- 1 A work crew helping with the Osoyoos Indian Band's project  
Photo Credit: Rob Svendsen
- 2 A view of Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd's Pressy Lake work site.  
Photo Credit: Tiffany Christianson Photography
- 3 Stuwix Resources Joint Venture and Valley Carriers project is to reduce waste and enhance the utilization of fibre.  
Photo Credit: Stuwix Resources Joint Venture

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### PROJECT: OLIVER

This project is focused on bringing a culture change to how low value fibre is viewed in the Southern Interior. The goal is to find ways to enable the full utilization and delivery of pulp fibre in line with the traditional values and harvesting practices of the Osoyoos Indian Band.

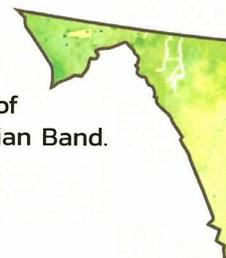
**3,284 TRUCK LOADS**

of fibre will be diverted from being burned.

**14,381 Cars off the Road**

The avoided emissions as a result of the project is like taking 14,381 cars off the road.

"The Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) values the sustainable uses of natural resources throughout their traditional territory. Fibre utilization through improved forest practices results in less burning of debris piles, cleaner air and waterways, and the financial benefit from processing what would normally be left behind due to uneconomic viability. Managing the larger landscape for wildfire risk reduction, climate change adaptations, and mitigating insect infestations are critical to the OIB, and FESBC funding has provided the means to meet numerous management objectives on our traditional lands." —**DAN MACMASTER**, Forest Manager | Nk'Mip Forestry of the Osoyoos Indian Band



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### PROJECT: 70 MILE

This project contributes to the restoration of a fire damaged forest while supporting the development of capacity to efficiently utilize fibre for local facilities and support First Nation participation in the forest bioeconomy.

**1,369 TRUCK LOADS**

of fibre will be diverted from being burned.

**6,704 Cars off the Road**

The avoided emissions as a result of the project is like taking 6,704 cars off the road.

"By avoiding 'business as usual' pile and burn practices, we will transform the removed fibre into pulp chip and biomass resources, aligning with FESBC's mission to enhance environmental values and supporting rural economies. This project stands as a beacon of First Nations' approach to modern forestry, showcasing the harmonious integration of ecological restoration, fire hazard mitigation, and forward-thinking solutions for a resilient and sustainable future." —**PHILIPPE THERIAULT**, RPF General Manager, T'sideldel Enterprises | Senior Advisor, Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation Ltd.

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### PROJECT: MERRITT

This project represents a broad partnership between local First Nations, industry, and government to maximize the utilization of forest fibre to support local facilities and avoid the emissions associated with the burning of debris.

**78 TRUCK LOADS**

of fibre will be diverted from being burned.

**277 Cars off the Road**

The avoided emissions as a result of the project is like taking 277 cars off the road.

"This funding from FESBC allows us to further transport waste fibre from farther distances to ensure the maximum utilization of this important resource in our local community. Partnering with Stuwix, we are able to provide additional local jobs and fulfill the value of maximizing their resource by finding new markets for what used to be waste wood. Further, this will help us transform logging residuals into value-added products utilized by the agricultural, pulp, and clean energy industries in B.C."

—**BEN KLASSEN**, CEO | Valley Carriers Ltd.



**HON. BRUCE RALSTON**

Minister of Forests

@BruceRalston

## Insights from the Minister

“The Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) supports First Nations, community forests, rural communities, and many others who take on projects to help strengthen forest health and ecosystems, while creating good jobs in communities across the province. As we look ahead to a new year, it’s vital we build on the lessons learned

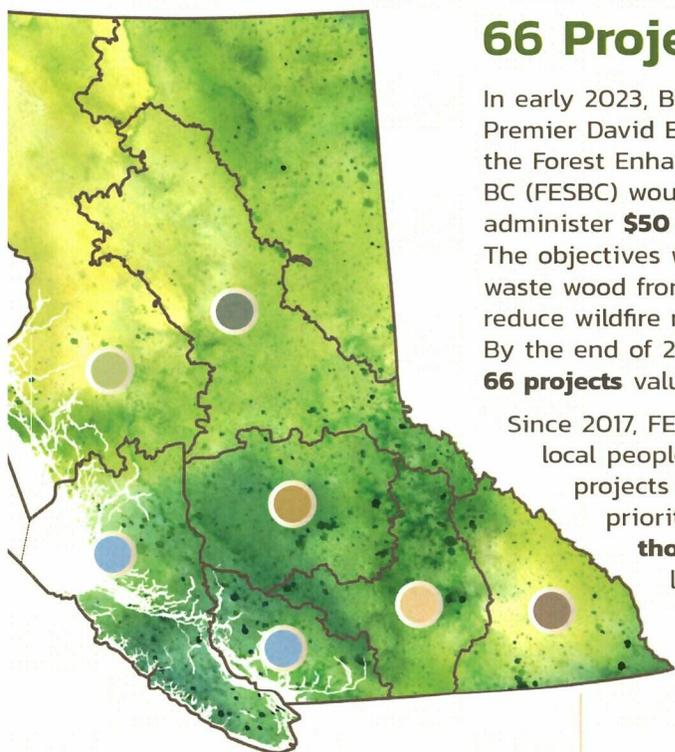
in 2023, specifically following the worst wildfire season in our province’s history. With the help of the 66 projects funded in 2023, B.C. is taking necessary steps in battling climate change and becoming more resilient in the face of worsening wildfire seasons. Thank you to the entire team at FESBC for a job well done.”

## Connecting The Dots: 66 Projects with Multiple Outcomes

In early 2023, British Columbia Premier David Eby announced that the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) would be entrusted to administer **\$50 million of funding**. The objectives were to use more waste wood from the forest and to reduce wildfire risks for communities. By the end of 2023, FESBC approved **66 projects** valued at **\$47.9 million**.

Since 2017, FESBC has been inviting local people to propose forestry projects that align with local priorities. The **creativity and thoughtful innovation** of local people throughout British Columbia is reflected in the projects funded

by FESBC, which always achieve multiple objectives. Projects that use waste wood **reduce greenhouse gases** while at the same time **create jobs** and **reduce wildfire fuels**. Projects that reduce wildfire risks for communities are done in a manner which also **improves wildlife habitat, creates recreational opportunities, and improves the health and resilience of forests**. Overall, about 30% of FESBC projects are led by Indigenous people, which is said to **contribute to reconciliation**. Each dollar of FESBC funding works to accomplish several goals, all of which are important to British Columbians now, and for future generations.



### Overview of Newly Funded Projects

#### FOREST REGIONS

	South & West Coast	Thompson-Okanagan	Kootenay-Boundary	Cariboo	Omineca	Skeena	TOTALS
Total Number of Projects	12	17	5	16	7	9	66
Total FESBC Funds Allocated	\$5,220,334.00	\$9,364,130.00	\$3,704,808.00	\$16,205,555.00	\$8,024,861.00	\$5,354,661.00	\$47,874,349.00
Total Fibre Utilized in cubic metres	391,213	626,761	283,286	567,545	837,367	369,585	3,075,757
Total Fibre Utilized in truck loads	8,668	14,407	6,449	12,324	17,704	8,213	67,765
Total Avoided Emissions (CO2e)	144,132	193,350	123,229	197,455	257,249	144,753	1,060,168
Equivalent Number of Cars off the road (in terms of emissions)	32,101	43,063	27,445	40,594	54,341	31,838	229,382
Total Number of Hectares Treated	—	84	78	487	—	—	649
Total Number of Hectares Planned	—	—	24	410	—	—	434
Projects Led by First Nations	9	8	—	9	1	5	32
Projects that Involve First Nations	—	1	1	—	3	2	7



Funded projects are utilizing over **3 million cubic metres of fibre** normally burned. This results in the equivalent of over 225,000 cars off the road.



"Healthy forests are essential to thriving and diverse ecosystems that support healthy people, secure communities along with a sustainable B.C. economy. They also have a key role in address climate change impacts, given their ability to absorb and store large amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. We are proud to work with FESBC, First Nations, and local communities to strengthen forest stewardship so forests, watersheds and our communities are more resilient to the changing climate."

**HON. GEORGE HEYMAN**

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

@GeorgeHeyman



**GORD MURRAY**

Executive Director  
Wood Pellet Association of Canada

"Today B.C. is experiencing longer wildfire seasons and more extreme fire behaviour, placing growing risks on communities, critical infrastructure, economies, people's health and safety, and long-term forest health. Until recently, the role of biomass in fire mitigation has largely been overlooked. The reality is that the wood pellet sector has a **critical role** to play by converting excess forest floor debris from harvested areas into wood pellets. Today, what was once considered waste, is now **opening new doors** into the bioeconomy and providing renewable energy around the world and making our communities safer."



**JOE NEMETH**

General Manager  
BC Pulp & Paper Coalition

"FESBC funding is allowing the forest sector to fundamentally improve the utilization of our forest resource. This includes initiatives such as recovering logging waste that would otherwise be piled and burned, salvaging fire damaged timber, and supporting the development of First Nations led bio-hubs. It's about doing more with less. And the benefits are threefold: **Environmental**—significant reduction in carbon emissions by reducing slash burning; **Social**—meaningfully engaging/employing First Nations and independent contractors from small communities whose livelihoods depend upon the forest sector and; **Economic**—without this initiative, more pulp mills would have to shut, putting thousands of people out of work."

**Learn More**

If you'd like to learn more about the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and how people in British Columbia's forests are helping create climate change solutions, reduce wildfire risk, and keep workers employed through our funded projects, connect with us!



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