



BIOFOR Detailed Program

***Please refer to program online for latest updates**

We reserve the right to modify the timing if need be.

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2026

08:00 - 10:30

BIOFOR / ENERGY Joint Session

Session Chairs: Victor Padilla, FPInnovations & Luciana Savulescu, NRCan – CanmetENERGY

Enhancing Pulp & Paper Industry Competitiveness through Energy Efficiency

This session explores emerging approaches to energy integration and low-carbon solutions to strengthen pulp and paper industry competitiveness. The speakers bring diverse expert perspectives, offering insights into innovation-driven pathways that boost energy efficiency, enable clean technology solutions, leading to increase market competitiveness and maximize the use of existing assets and resources.

8:00 Keynote Presentation

"Future opportunities in improving energy efficiency and flexibility", **Jussi Manninen**, *VTT*

9:00 BIOFOR & Energy joint presentations

Panelists:

"Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization in Pulp and Paper Plants: How to Connect Ambition with Reality", **Hooman Rezaei**, *Domtar*

"Resource and Pathways Analysis for Decarbonizing the Pulp and Paper Sector in Quebec"

Marie-Hélène Talbot, *Hydro-Quebec's Research Center*

"Decarbonization of Kraft Mills: Role of Water-Energy Reduction", **Enrique Mateos-Espejel**, *FPIInnovations*

"Aligning Decarbonization and Competitiveness of Kraft Mills: Exploring Green Ammonia Energy Integration", **Hakim Ghezzaz**, *Natural Resources Canada/CanmetENERGY*

11:00 - 12:30

Leveraging Biocarbon beyond Forest Ecosystems

Session Chair: Victor Padilla, FPIInnovations & Luciana Savulescu, NRCan – CanmetENERGY

Focusing on how biomass can be transformed to high-value products and support decarbonization, this session examines potential cross-industry synergies to accelerate biocarbon innovation. Experts from research and production technologies to end-use applications share insights into emerging applications, scaling challenges and market drivers influencing biocarbon development in the current industrial context.

Panelists:

Daniel Liu, *Researcher at Natural Resources Canada/CanmetENERGY*

Pavel Hejsek, *CEO at BC Biocarbon*

Andrew White, *CEO at CHAR Technologies*

Patrick Lapointe, *CCO at Airex Energy*

13:30 - 15:00

Forest Carbon: A New Form of Value, Core to our Business

Session Chair: Liz Brennan, Domtar

Panelists:

"Introduction to Forest Carbon Concepts", **Liz Brennan**, *Manager Carbon and Climate Management – Domtar*

"Weyerhaeuser's GHG Inventory Principles and progress towards a workable standard for GHG inventory accounting in the forest sector", **Vaughan Andrews**, *Senior Program Manager Sustainability – Weyerhaeuser*

"Lessons from West Fraser's journey to develop a forest carbon inventory and considerations for the Canadian context", **Branden Beatty**, *Senior Manager Climate Programs – West Fraser*

"Forest Carbon Management - Past, Present, and Future Trends", **Michael Buell**, *Senior Manager Sustainability and Carbon Forestry – KPMG*

15:30 - 17:00

Digitalization Technology Supporting the Forest Sector — Walking on the bleeding edge of digitalization and automation in the forest sector

Session Chairs: Davis Chiu, Deloitte & Yaser Khojasteh, Concordia University

Explore the latest and greatest technologies that have been developed for forest and mill operations. This panel will explore technologies that allow for the automation of tree planting, optimization of forest fibre flows and the latest pulp and paper mill applications for industrial robotics. You don't want to miss this session.

Panelists:

John Weiler, *Associate Director, Boston Dynamics*

Patrick Crawford, *CEO, Fybr*

Amir Soleimani, *CEO, TreeTrack*

*Please note all schedule is set on Eastern Time

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2026

08:00 - 10:30

Bioeconomy Strategies

Session Chair: Shabnam Sanaei, Canfor

Country Hosting Conditions and Setting Bioeconomy Strategies

8:00 Fireside Chat with **Davis Chiu, Deloitte**

Comparing and Contrasting between Canada and Finland's Forest Bioeconomy

Jean-François Levasseur, NRCan

Lauri Sikanen, LUKE

9:00 Panelists:

Paul Stuart, Polytechnique Montréal

Jeff Passmore, Passmore Group

Tom Browne, Tom Browne & Associates

Maryam Arefmanesh, AFRY

11:00 - 12:30

Reimagining the Forest Sector: Innovation, Bottlenecks and Bold Futures

Session Chair: Shabnam Sanaei, Canfor

Panelists:

Alexander Koukoulas, *Director, AFRY*

Chris Walton, *Director – Partnerships Development, CRIBE*

Matyas Kosa, *Bioproducts Lead, WestFraser*

13:00 - 15:30

Sustainability as a Cornerstone for the Future of the Forest Industry

Session Chair: Virginie Chambost, Domtar

The forestry sector is undergoing a transformation as it responds to climate change, global market dynamics, and evolving societal expectations. Sustainability has moved from being an optional differentiator to becoming the foundation of competitiveness and long-term resilience. This session will bring together leaders from across the industry to explore how sustainability can redefine forestry's future, highlight pathways to success, and identify challenges that must be addressed.

13:00 Keynote Presentation

"From Cost Center to Profit Engine: Sustainability as Competitive Advantage", **Sabrina de Branco**, *Global CSO, Domtar*

Panelists:

Kate Lindsay, *Senior Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer - FPAC*

Francisco Razzolini, *Executive Director for Sustainability, Innovation & R&D - Klabin*

Thibault Millet, *Partner, Climate Change & Sustainability Services - EY Canada*

Tom Heintzman, *Vice Chair, Energy and Climate Finance, Office of the CEO - CIBC*

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2026

08:00 - 10:30

Federal Government Initiatives in Support of Transforming Canada's Forest Products Industry

Session Chair: Bruno Gagnon, Canadian Forest Service – Natural Resources Canada

8:00 Keynote Presentation

"New federal support for the transformation of Canada's forest products industry", **Joyce Henry**,
Director General - Trade, Economics and Industry, Canadian Forest Service – Natural Resources Canada

9:00 Presentations

"BDO Zones: Unlocking Global Diversification for Canada's Forest Economy", **Jordan Solomon**,
President and CEO – Ecostrat Inc.

"IFIT Success Stories : Accelerating Innovation at Kruger", **Maxime Cossette**, *Senior Vice President, Fiber Supply and Strategic Initiatives - Kruger*

"From mill to market : the last innovation marathon milestone for residential biofibre insulation",
Marco Veilleux, *General Manager - Papier Masson White Birch*

"Enabling the Next Wave of CNC Applications Through New Product Platforms", **Sébastien Corbeil**,
President and CEO - Celluforce

11:00 - 12:30

Funding for the Pulp & Paper Industry

Session Chair: Davis Chiu, Deloitte

Canada's pulp and paper sector sits at a pivotal moment, facing intensifying competitive pressures, shifting global trade dynamics, and escalating demands for decarbonization and innovation. As geopolitical tensions reshape markets and domestic fibre constraints challenge mill viability, policy

tools—both tax and non-tax—are emerging as essential levers to sustain competitiveness and stimulate long-term investment.

This panel will explore the evolving landscape of federal and provincial measures—from Scientific Research & Experimental Development (SR&ED) tax credits supporting process innovation, to emerging clean technology investment tax credits and strategic non-tax programs such as direct grants, low-interest financing, and workforce supports. Recent federal initiatives aimed at trade-exposed industries demonstrate growing recognition of the sector’s strategic importance, particularly in strengthening biomass adoption, supporting mill modernization, and bolstering resilience across the value chain.

Panelists:

Louis Boivin, *Partner Global Investment and Innovation Incentives and National Clean Technology Investment Tax Credit Leader*

Dom Tremblay, *Director Global Investment and Innovation Incentives*

Vito Italia, *Senior Manager Global Investment and Innovation Incentives*

Davis Chiu, *Partner Global Investment and Innovation Incentives and National Forest Sector Leader*

13:30 - 15:00

Carbon Capture Storage/Utilizing Financing: What are private/public investors looking for in these products?

Session Chair: Hooman Rezaei, Domtar

This session will explore what it takes to make CCUS projects financially viable and attractive to investors. Drawing on insights from financial institutions, industry leaders, and consultation groups, we will address key questions on this topic.

13:30 Keynote Presentation

“The Business Case for Carbon Capture & Storage in the Pulp & Paper Sector, and How to Get Projects Financed”, **Don Roberts**, *Nawitka Capital Advisors*

“Options and criteria for financing CCS projects at pulp and paper mills: A project developer’s perspective”, **Jonathan Rhone**, *CO280*

“Unlocking the CCUS Investment Tax Credit for Canada’s Pulp & Paper Industry”, **Yara Bossé-Viola**, *KPMG*

15:30 - 17:00

Derisking CCS/CCU across the Project Lifecycle: A Blueprint for Success

Session Chair: Hooman Rezaei, Domtar

The successful deployment of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture and utilization (CCU) projects depends on access to financing and the ability to anticipate and mitigate risks across every stage of project development. From feasibility and permitting to long-term operations and carbon credit generation, risk management, and appropriate technical, business, and product due diligence are central to ensuring the project's successful implementation. This panel session will bring together key project stakeholders to discuss lessons and approaches to de-risking CCUS implementation.

Panelists:

Jamie Stephen, *Managing Director, TorchLight Bioresources*

Jonah Margulis, *Head of Commercialization for North America, SLB Capturi*

Craig Hall, *Vice President of Project Development, Vault 44.01*

Ian Kuwahara, *Director of Energy and Industrial Innovation, Verra*

Maryam Mkhani, *Director, CCUS Technology Integration, Worley*

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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2026

08:00 - 10:30

BIOFOR - Refining the Lignin Value Proposal

Session Chair: Victor Padilla, FPInnovations

8:00 Keynote Presentation

"LignoCity, connected companies & activities", **Per Tomani**, *RISE Research institutes of Sweden*

9:00 Lignin Session Fireside Chat

"Tailoring Kraft Lignin Molar Mass to Enhance Adhesive Performance", **Sophie Langis-Barsetti**, *FPIInnovations*

"Still navigating the complexity of Lignin analysis", **Antje Potthast**, *BOKU*

"The LignoForce™ Process Energy Impacts", **Shadan Mostafavi**, *NORAM*

"Title to be confirmed", **Xiao Zhang**, *Washington State University*

11:00 - 12:30

The Value Proposal of Sustainability and Bioproducts

Session Chair: Ivan Kantor, Concordia University

Panelists:

Gurminder Minhas, *Navachar Renewables*

Pavel Hejsek, *BC BioCarbon*

Stefan Muller, *Arbios Biotech*

Royden Trainor, *Greenspring Bioinnovation Hub*

12:30 - 14:00

JOINT Workshop PaperWeek/BIOFOR

Session Chair : Paul Stuart, EnVertis / Ecole Polytechnique

Workshop: From Concept to Decision: Using I-BIOREF (Decision Support Tool to Assess Biorefinery Pathways)

Presented by:

Marzouk Benali, *Natural Resources Canada, CanmetENERGY* & **Georgiana Bele**, *Natural Resources Canada, CanmetENERGY*

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE SOFTWARE BROCHURE](#)

Decision Support Systems (DSS) and scenario analysis are powerful approaches for guiding investment and policy choices in emerging biorefinery value chains. I-BIOREF is a DSS developed by Natural Resources Canada to evaluate biorefinery projects under diverse feedstock, technology, and market conditions. The tool integrates techno-economic, environmental, policy, circularity, sustainability, and

risk indicators, while explicitly addressing uncertainty through ex-ante scenario analysis. This workshop will introduce the I-BIOREF structured framework and demonstrate its practical application for comparing biorefinery pathways, supporting decarbonization strategies, and informing decision-making by industry, policymakers, and researchers

14:00 - 15:30

Alternative Fibre Panel

Session Chair: Davis Chiu, Deloitte

The global pulp and paper industry is undergoing a structural transformation driven by sustainability imperatives, fibre-supply constraints and competition, and the need to decarbonize material production. Non-wood fibres—particularly flax, cereal straws and fibres recovered from waste are emerging as high-potential feedstocks capable of supplementing and enhancing products made traditionally with wood-based pulps. This talk explores the latest developments in technology and market trends relating to alternative fibres.

Panelists:

Will Walls, *EVP Strategy & Development, Red Leaf*

Dane McSpedon, *CEO, Hughes Energy Group*

Mark Cooper, *President and CEO, Prairie Clean Enterprises*

15:30 - 17:45

Student Session - Ideas from the Next Generation of Forestry Leaders

Session Chairs: Ivan Kantor & Yaser Khojasteh, Concordia University

Zahra Kazemi, *Polytechnique Montréal*

Eupidio Scopel, *University of British Columbia (UBC)*

Zirui Tang, *University of British Columbia (UBC)*

Kosar Parnoon, *Concordia University*

Wanyue Tan, *University of British Columbia (UBC)*

Parsa Shirzad, *Concordia University*

Clara I. Kramer, *University of British Columbia (UBC)*

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