

Call for Workshop Ideas (1 page limit)
Climate Change Solutions through Biobased Products
26 May 2023 in Helsinki, Finland

We seek 1 page mini-proposals for workshop ideas focused on the contribution of biobased products to climate change solutions. We encourage the submission of ideas across the value chain, including climate-smart forest management; wood-based biorefining, products, and construction; and end-of-life circular economy strategies. The workshop will bring together researchers and business leaders from Finland and the northern United States in an intensive work session to build collaborations that will result in tangible outcomes such as FIN-USA research proposals or innovation exchanges. All mini-proposals should link to climate-change solutions and advance the circular forest bioeconomy.

The workshop culminates a Michigan and Maine delegation visit to Finland (22-25 May) focused on the forest bioeconomy.

To facilitate focused and in-depth discussion, we intend to assemble 3-4 thematic subgroups, which will be based on ideas submitted through this call for mini-proposals. The subgroups will meet in virtual sessions prior to the Helsinki workshop to prepare for a productive in-person session. The goal for the in-person workshop is to catalyze collaboration in research or business. After the workshop, each subgroup is expected to submit a one-page summary of their session and next steps.

The 1 page mini-proposals should include:

1. Submitter(s): name(s), affiliation(s), and email address(es). If group submittal: lead contact.
2. An abstract (400 word maximum) of the major problem or idea to be workshopped, to include:
 - a. How the topic will contribute to workshop goals on climate change,
 - b. Expected results,
 - c. Potential post-workshop follow-up actions.

Mini-proposals should be submitted to Ms. Renee Tilley via email (rtilley@msu.edu) and will be reviewed by the Workshop Organizing Committee, which is chaired by Richard Kobe (Michigan State Univ.) and John Kettle (Natural Resources Institute Finland, Luke), with representatives from the Michigan-Maine-Finland Bioeconomy Collaboration, Smart-Forestry Workgroup, and Business Finland. Mini-proposal review criteria include: 1) potential impact of the idea to advance the forest bioeconomy and contribute to climate solutions and 2) potential for a substantive collaboration between Finland and Michigan and/or Maine in research and/or business.

Timeline (all in 2023):

28 February	Deadline for submittal of mini-proposals
30 March	Notification to workshop participants and travel awards
April and May	Initial subgroup virtual meetings
22-25 May	Michigan and Maine delegation visit to FIN (optional for workshop participants)
26 May	In-person workshop in Helsinki
30 June	One page summary of workshop session and follow-up activities