



Forest-to-Cities Climate Challenge Kickoff Event

Tuesday, April 20th & Tuesday, April 27th, 2021
@ 11:00 am via Zoom
(Register [Here](#))

The Forest-to-Cities Climate Challenge aims to help solve the climate crisis and meet other societal goals by linking mass timber buildings in New England with local forests that sustainably generate the wood for them. This event brings together the broad group of stakeholders who have signed the Climate Challenge Pledge to connect, inspire, and chart a path forward that benefits both rural and urban communities.

AGENDA

DAY 1: APRIL 20

- 11:00 am – 11:10 am WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**
- 11:10 am – 11:25 am FOREST-TO-CITIES CLIMATE CHALLENGE**
Background and overview of the Forest-to-Cities vision and goals.
- 11:25 am – 12:05 pm GUEST PRESENTATION & PANEL DISCUSSION**
Presentation by Dr. Peggi Clouston, Professor of Wood Mechanics and Timber Engineering in the Building and Construction Technology program at UMass, about the John W. Olver Design Building as a mass timber building success story. This will be followed by a reaction panel featuring three Forest-to-Cities participants representing the Grow, Build, and Live segments of the community. Short Q & A session.
- 12:05 pm – 12:15 pm THE REGIONAL FOREST & WOOD CARBON COMMUNITY**
This presentation will showcase a comprehensive map of the various working groups, organizations, initiatives, etc. who are working on issues related to carbon in the forest and the built environment in the Northeast, highlighting how the Forest-to-Cities community fits into this context and the value of linking the forest and building sectors. Opportunity for participant input and feedback.
- 12:15 pm – 12:20 pm WRAP-UP**

DAY 2: APRIL 27

- 11:00 am – 11:15 am WELCOME & DAY 1 RECAP**
- 11:15 am – 11:25 am ACHIEVING THE FOREST-TO-CITIES VISION: NEEDS & BARRIERS**
What is needed to bring the Forest-to-Cities vision to reality? This presentation will summarize the latest thinking on what is needed to accelerate the adoption of mass timber construction and ensure it is linked with climate-friendly forest management in New England, based on input from participants, existing assessments, and insights from various regional dialogues.
- 11:25 am – 12:05 pm NEXT STEPS FOR THE FOREST-TO-CITIES COMMUNITY**
NEFF staff will present a menu of potential options for leveraging the commitments of the Forest-to-Cities participants to address the needs and barriers laid out previously. This will be followed by opportunities for feedback and a facilitated discussion with participants.
- 12:05 pm – 12:15 pm CLOSING REMARKS**