

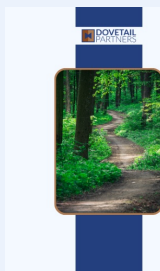


LEED v5: What does a new era in green building standards mean for the use of wood?

By: Sarah Harris

When we released the report on LEED v4.1 in 2023, we noted that LEED v5 was already in development. The first public comment period for LEED v5 launched in April 2024. Following further comments and revisions, LEED v5 was ratified by members on March 28, 2025 and published in April 2025. Registration for LEED v5 is now available for BD+C: New Construction, BD+C: Core and Shell, ID+C: Commercial Interiors, and O+M: Existing Buildings.

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Dovetail Partners 2025 Webinar Series

Dovetail Partners is offering quarterly webinars throughout 2025 to highlight key topics and provide greater insight into issues addressed in our reporting. You can register for the whole series or individual webinars below.

Q1: Exploring Carbon Capture & Storage Innovations in Climate Solutions
Speakers: Kathryn Fernholz & Harry Groot
March 7, 2025 8:30am - 9:45am CST

Q2: Tree-Free, Hemp, and Non-Wood Alternatives Impact a Trade Off?
Speakers: Kathryn Fernholz, Jim Bouyer, Ph.D., Mark D'Arcy
June 6, 2025 8:30am - 9:45am CST

Q3: Bioenergy Developments Trends and Conditions
Speakers: Kathryn Fernholz & Jim Bouyer, Ph.D.
September 2, 2025 8:30am - 9:45am CST

Q4: How to Grow a Tree, Hug a Tree, Cut a Tree, Plant a Tree
Speakers: Dovetail Team members, guests, and partners
Moderated by Kathryn Fernholz
December 5, 2025 8:30am - 9:45am CST

Sign up for our Q4 Webinar!

Dovetail Partners is offering quarterly webinars throughout 2025 to highlight [key topics and provide greater insight into issues addressed in our reporting](#). Our Q4 webinar will be presented by Dovetail Team members, guests, and partners; Moderated by Kathryn (Katie) Fernholz and will be discussing: **How to Grow a Tree, Hug a Tree, Cut a Tree, Plant a Tree**
Forest Management & Forest Products: Our Experiences and Values

Friday, December 5th, 8:30-9:45am CST

Register for the Webinar Here!



Comparison of Biochar Characteristics from Different Production Scales

USDA Forest Service - Wood Innovations Project (23-DG-11094200-453).

The Northern MN Closed Cycle Biochar Pilot; A Collaborative project with Dovetail Partners, Minnesota Power and the Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District

by Dovetail Partners Associate: Harry Groot

Published by Dovetail Partners August 2025

Comparison of Biochar Characteristics from Different Production Scales

By: Harry Groot

The project was inspired as a way to reduce increasing wildfire fuels in northern Minnesota, by demonstrating potential markets for that woody biomass. The region's forest products industry's decline has exacerbated this need, resulting in aging and overstocked forests. Producing biochar is a promising market opportunity, simultaneously providing climate, ecological, and soil health benefits by converting wildfire reduction, habitat restoration, or invasive biomass into a useful product.

[Read More](#)



[Wisconsin Programs and Resources for Landowners](#)

This packet serves as a tool for private landowners who want to take an active role in managing their woodlands.

Learn more about programs available through Natural Resources Conservation Service, WI Department of Natural Resources, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Explore resources on your community's wildfire risk, emergency preparedness, and what it means to be a "fire adapted community." Active management of the land keeps our forest healthy, prosperous, and resilient for current and future generations.

[Read More](#)



[Animal Farm, Where They Rule the Roost](#)

By: Kathleen Preece

When Harry Groot told Team Dovetail: "My schedule depends on the needs of the animals" we suspected Harry Groot was more than 'just about' biochar. Let me explain. Harry is an 11-year veteran of Dovetail Partners. If you are reading this article, you are familiar with Harry's professional work with Dovetail, most recently and specifically working with 'biochar.' That subject has earned Harry a supportive audience and following, both within and outside of the Dovetail team.

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[Kedren Dillard as Board Chair](#)

Dovetail Partners announces Kedren Dillard has been elected as the new Board Chair of the organization. Kedren is a 5th generation forest landowner and brings decades of business experience to the role.

Kedren Dillard is a Senior Business Development Executive for TransUnion's public sector vertical in Washington DC. Prior to TransUnion, Kedren worked for Shipley Associates, a global professional and consulting firm, as an Executive Committee member and Senior Vice President of Enterprise Development.

As a 5th generation forest landowner, Kedren is closely involved in the development of her family's land and building landowner communities. She joined Dovetail's Board in 2022 and looks forward to her new role as Chair, further supporting the organization and mission.

[Read the Full Announcement Here!](#)

[YouTube Video of Kedren Dillard's Keynote presentation at the Society of American Foresters Convention](#)

Updates & Recaps



Forests and the Media

Dovetail Partners

Aaron Brown - Aug. 12, 2025

[Aaron Brown - Forest & The Media](#)

Aaron Brown, a columnist at the Minnesota Star Tribune and an author at MinnesotaBrown.com, presented at Dovetail's team meeting to discuss forestry and the media. He provided insights into how we as foresters can better engage the media to tell our story.

[Watch the Recording Here!](#)



Collaborations for Healthy Forests: Dovetail Partners and The Nature Conservancy

Forests thrive when people work together. In this episode, we talk with Kes Ebbs of The Nature Conservancy and Teresa Floberg of Dovetail Partners about partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to keep Northeastern Minnesota's woods healthy and resilient.

[Listen to the Podcast Episode Here!](#)



Bard MBA Project Update

[Elaina Zachos](#) is a nonprofit consultant and an MBA candidate at Bard College's Graduate Programs in Sustainability. This fall, she is working with the Women's Forest Congress to support its coalition-building efforts through her change management course. Over the next few months, she will collaborate with the Steering Committee to apply the organization's Theory of Change and identify how to effectively engage stakeholders. She is excited to be a part of WFC's important work to create community and cultivate change. Before her current role as a grant writer and communications strategist, Elaina was a wildland firefighter, a disaster response specialist, and a science journalist. She will graduate in spring 2026 and currently lives in Connecticut with her dog Eleanor, who loves to make guest appearances on Zoom calls.

2026 Guest Speaker Nominations

Dovetail Partners invites guest speakers to participate in monthly team meetings. It's an opportunity for speakers to share their insights, expertise, ideas, and experiences with us. We are currently seeking recommendations for our 2026 guest speakers.

If you know of anyone that should be nominated to be a guest speaker or you would like to nominate yourself please click the button below to fill out our nomination form!

[Nominate Here!](#)

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Follow us on [Linked](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay in the loop with all the latest from Dovetail Partners! We are also reviving our Instagram which you can follow [here](#).

We want your feedback!

[Take Survey](#)

Dovetail supports progress and change to address inequality.

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