

Finland-Maine Virtual Trade and Study Mission

Exploring Models of Success and Opportunities to Grow Our Forest Bioeconomies



Maine Governor Janet Mills signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Finland in October of 2019, committing the state to working collaboratively with Finland towards building our respective forest bioeconomies and sharing best practices for climate resilience. In support of this MOU, the Maine North Atlantic Development Office (MENADO) at Maine International Trade Center organized a week-long overseas mission to Finland scheduled for June 2020. We were excited about the opportunity to bring Maine businesses and entrepreneurs, academic researchers, and policy makers to Finland to learn how they built their thriving bioeconomy in only 10 short years.

While we are unable to travel to Finland during these exceptional times, we remain committed to looking to Finland as a model of success for building a robust forest bioeconomy in Maine and introducing Maine's significant biomaterials developments and forest assets potential via the expertise of Maine's Forest Opportunity Roadmap Coalition to partners in Finland.

Here's how the virtual mission will work...

Webinar 1: Finland as a Model of Success for Maine's Forest Economy

August 20, 2020

8:00 – 9:30 AM

Join us for presentations and discussion with leaders from Finland's government, economic development, and forest industry. We will learn about Finland's transition from traditional pulp, paper, and wood manufacturing to a world-leading bioeconomy. Finnish businesses and university researchers will show how a commitment to full-resource utilization led to development of innovative, high-value, and sustainable products.

Audience: Maine forest industry businesses, resources and policy makers, and anyone interested in learning about the evolution and strengths of Finland's forest bioeconomy.

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"Finland has been phenomenally successful transitioning its pulp and paper and forest industries to a thriving bioeconomy using largely wood and pulp by-product to create value and develop products as diverse as textiles, chemicals, medical devices, advanced building materials, and food additives. My partners in Finland and I have discussed how we might replicate the exchange of information and introductions that would have occurred during a week-long visit. We believe we'll meet our original objectives in a virtual format and may even discover efficiencies in the process."

- Dana Eidsness, Maine North Atlantic Development Office

Webinar 2: Maine Reinvents Its Forest Industry

August 25, 2020

8:00 – 9:00 AM

This webinar will provide an overview of Maine's efforts to reinvent its forest industry, bringing perspectives from leadership of the FOR/Maine coalition, university research and innovation, and business promotion and attraction. The webinar is intended to introduce Maine's partners in Finland to opportunities in Maine and will serve as a foundation for future discussion under the 2019 Finland-Maine MOU.

Audience: Partners and businesses in Finland and any person or entity interested to learn about Maine's process and strategy towards achieving a robust forest bioeconomy.

Both webinars will be offered free of charge; however, advance registration is required, and participation is limited. Please register your interest to attend one or both events. When you register, you will receive confirmation with a link to join the webinar.

PLEASE REGISTER
FOR WEBINARS AT
MITC.COM

Virtual B2B Matchmaking

September 2020

Maine businesses and organizations interested in business matchmaking opportunities organized by MENADO and our partner Business Finland throughout the month of September; please contact Dana Eidsness.

CONTACT

For more information, please contact Dana Eidsness, Director of the Maine North Atlantic Development Office (MENADO), at (207) 541-7418 (eidsness@mitc.com).

