



2023 Mass Timber Competition

BUILDING TO NET-ZERO CARBON

Competition Entry Q&A Webinar

March 21, 2023



PANELISTS

PROGRAM MANAGERS

- **Simon Hyoun**, Softwood Lumber Board
- **Bill Richards**, Softwood Lumber Board

EXPERTS

- **Brian Brashaw**, Assistant Director, Cooperative Forestry, Wood Innovations Program, USDA Forest Service
- **Ryan Flom**, Chief Marketing Officer, Softwood Lumber Board
- **Jennifer Cover**, President & CEO, WoodWorks
- **Scott Breneman**, Senior Technical Director, WoodWorks

COMPETITION TIMELINE

IMPORTANT MILESTONES

Submission entry period ends: Friday, May 5, 2023 at 11:59pm ET

Judging concludes: Monday, July 17, 2023

Finalists notified: Monday, July 24, 2023

Public announcement: Week of October 16, 2023

A BRIEF NOTE

2022 vs. 2023

What's different about this year's application process?

Answer. We still require the same kinds of information as last year, but the way you submit it has changed.

First, you'll create an account, which you may log in to any time to start, continue, or finish the application.

Second, you'll add information about the project team and the project, itself, into a series of web-form windows.

You'll also have an opportunity to upload PDF plans, sections, renderings, carbon impact, costs, and other documentation to support your application.

A BRIEF NOTE

2022 vs. 2023

What's the same?

Answer. Everything else.

- Competition web page is <https://softwoodlumberboard.org> (direct link is <https://softwoodlumberboard.org/net-zero>)
- RFP is downloadable from the link above.
- All questions should be directed to netzerocompetition@woodworks.org. But please do not ask questions about the judging or award status of specific submissions.

RFP

2023 MASS TIMBER COMPETITION: BUILDING TO NET-ZERO CARBON

Request for Proposals and
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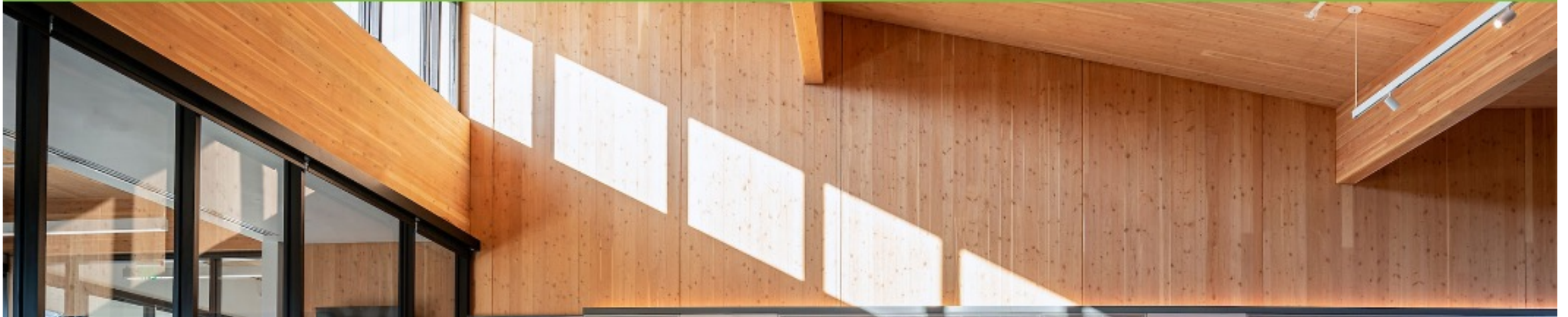
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MASS TIMBER COMPETITION

Building to Net-Zero Carbon

Designed to expand the use of mass timber in the United States, the **Mass Timber Competition: Building to Net-Zero Carbon** showcases mass timber's application, practicality, commercial viability, and role as a natural climate solution that reduces the carbon footprint of the built environment. The \$2 million competition is intended to help expand the use of mass timber building solutions and support increased employment in advanced wood products design, engineering, construction, supply chain, and manufacturing sectors.

The SLB and USDA fund the competition. The funding supports costs associated with the use of mass timber or mass timber hybrid building systems and construction. Funding also helps project teams overcome barriers to the use of a new building material and system, most notably the costs of analyzing design and engineering alternatives and verifying that these solutions comply with applicable codes.

2022 Competition Recap

In June 2022, the SLB and USDA Forest Service announced the winners of the first competition. Six projects were chosen for their ability to demonstrate mass timber's innovative, scalable applications in architectural design and to highlight its significant role in reducing the built environment's carbon footprints. The winning projects, which shared \$2 million in total funding, are listed below. A blog post profiling the winners can be found on [Think Wood](#).

- The 176,000-square-foot **Vancouver Ambulatory Care Center** medical facility in Vancouver, Washington, proposed by ZGF Architects, Timberlab, Swemerton, and PCS Structural Solutions.
- Return to Park**, a 13-story multifamily and retail project in Denver, Colorado, which will include affordable housing units, proposed by Katz Development, Timberlab, K&A Engineers and Builders, and The Tribs.
- Emergence Charter School**'s 80,000-square-foot gymnasium in Hempstead, New York, proposed by Martin Hogg Architects, Conroy, and Olson Engineers.
- A 42,416-square-foot industrial warehouse for **Alaskan Copper & Brass** in Kent, Washington, proposed by Anderson Jones, Foushee, Timberlab, and DCI Engineers.
- WTRD Phase 2**, a multi-story high-rise building in downtown Cleveland, Ohio, proposed by Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors, Harrison Hunkeler Architects, and Forefront Structural Engineers.
- Killingworth**, an 18,780-square-foot community-center office building in Portland, Oregon, proposed by ADR, LEVER Architecture, and Holmes US.

Each project pledges to use wood sourced from sustainably managed forests, and many prioritize mass timber that is both domestically harvested and manufactured. Lessons from these projects will be shared with the broader design and construction communities to support project development and replication, including research with regard to cost analyses and life-cycle assessments.

2023 Competition - Entry Period Now Open

The entry period for the **2023 Mass Timber Competition** opened on **March 1, 2023**. If you would like to submit a project, start by downloading the Request for Proposals (RFP) document which contains all the information needed for a qualifying entry. The entry process requires the completion of two steps: completion of the online form listed below, and the upload of a proposal document on the same page. You must complete both steps before the deadline on **Friday, May 5, 2023 at 11:59pm ET**.

[Launch Entry Form](#)

[5 Step, 10-Min RFP](#)

Deadlines - Today's Date is 3/12/2023

Submission opening begins	March 1, 2023
Competition Q&A Webinar	Tuesday, March 21, 2023
Submission entry period ends	Friday, May 5, 2023 at 11:59pm ET
Judging concludes	Monday, July 17, 2023
Public announcement	Week of October 16, 2023

Competition Q&A Webinar

The competition funders will conduct a live webinar on **Thursday, March 21, 2023 from 11:00am to 12:00pm ET** to answer questions from project teams that have entered or are considering entry. Please note that registering to attend the webinar is separate from and unrelated to completing the competition entry form.

[Register for Webinar](#)

Launch Entry Form

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2023 MASS TIMBER COMPETITION

2023 Mass Timber Competition: Building to Net-Zero Carbon

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Job Title

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Line 2

City

Country

United States

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Welcome Alfred E. Neuman

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All (2)

Incomplete (1)

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2023 Mass Timber Competition: Building to Net-Zero Carbon

Manage Collaborators

Your Submission has been received, the information below is read only

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In the fields below, please provide basic registration information about you, your team, and your proposed project.

What is the name of the proposed project? *

Woodley Park Place Terrace School

What is the name of the primary point of contact? *

William Richards

What is the title and company (if applicable) of the primary point of contact? *

Editorial Director, Team Three

What is the address of the primary point of contact?

Street Address

123 Mockingbird Lane

Line 2

City

Munsterville

Country

United States

State / Province

Alabama

Zip / Postal Code

12345

What is the email address of the primary point of contact? *

wrichardsiv@gmail.com

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Who is eligible to enter?

Answer. To be eligible to enter, the applicant must be:

- A for-profit building sector organization registered in the U.S. (e.g., architect, engineer, developer, building owner, general contractor)
- A not-for-profit organization incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation or society formed in the U.S. (e.g., college, university, association)
- A U.S. local government entity (e.g., city, county, state)
- A Native American Tribal government entity or organization

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

What building types are eligible?

Answer. Eligible projects must be one of the following types:

- Commercial
- Institutional
- Industrial
- Educational
- Mixed-use
- Multifamily housing developments
- Other (non-residential)

Single-family homes are *not* eligible.

Evaluation preference will be given to building typologies where mass timber is **currently underutilized but has great opportunity**, such as buildings in the six- to 18-story range, warehouse distribution facilities, big-box retailers, and healthcare. Preference will also be given to projects that are **scalable and repeatable** in many markets within the U.S.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Which mass timber systems are eligible?

Answer. An eligible project must include one of the following mass timber systems:

- cross-laminated timber (CLT) of either solid-sawn and structural composite lumber
- nail-laminated timber (NLT)
- glued-laminated timber (glulam)
- dowel-laminated timber (DLT)

Mixed material (hybrid) solutions that have predominantly mass timber components along with other structural materials are also eligible.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Can my project be theoretical? Or does it need to be a real project already in progress?

Answer. The scoring rubric is such that buildings in design with a higher likelihood of being permitted and constructed in the near term can score highly in every section.

It is a goal of this competition to provide support to projects that are on-track to be built.

A purely theoretical design with no intent to build (e.g. lacking an owner's or developer's backing) will need to be extraordinary in most other metrics to be competitive in scoring.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

For projects in a conceptual/early schematic design phase, what happens if a structural system is ultimately chosen that's *not* mass timber? Is funding retracted?

Answer. The expected deliverables and funding schedule is a required part of the RFP. If a project does not complete a phase in the agreement, then the associated and remaining funds will not be disbursed to the award recipient.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Does the proposed project site need to be secured prior to entering the competition?

Answer. There is no requirement for the project to be at a specific stage in the design process. However, a project that has not secured a building site will not score as highly in the project description as an otherwise similar project that has demonstrated a more viable path to construction.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

May I submit a project that consists of more than one structure, such as two 15-story developments?

Answer. Yes, and as a reminder, valuation preference, as noted in the RFP, will be given to building typologies where mass timber is currently underutilized but has great opportunity, such as buildings in the six- to 18-story range, warehouse distribution facilities, big-box retailers, and healthcare.

Caveat: Preference will also be given to projects that are scalable and repeatable in many markets within the US.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Are joint ventures between an American firm and a non-American firm eligible:

Answer. Yes, if the project is located in the United States, an American firm and a non-American firm may apply jointly, provided one firm is:

- A for-profit building sector organization registered in the U.S. (e.g., architect, engineer, developer, building owner, general contractor)
- A not-for-profit organization incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation or society formed in the U.S. (e.g., college, university, association)
- A U.S. local government entity (e.g., city, county, state)
- A Native American Tribal government entity or organization

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Eligibility

Are markets outside traditional building allowed to be funded with competition funds?

Answer. Eligible projects are commercial, institutional, industrial, educational, mixed-use, offices, and multifamily housing developments. Single family homes are *not* eligible.

All construction types are eligible, including the new tall-wood construction types in the 2021 IBC (IV-A, IV-B, and IV-C). Again, projects that are repeatable or offer large-scale market opportunities that are outside of traditional multifamily, office, or mixed-use categories will receive more points.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Judging and Scoring

How much will each winning project receive?

Answer. The competition will award \$2,000,000 in total funds across multiple project teams.

Individual awards are anticipated to be up to \$500,000 each.

The award amounts depend on the proposals received and their individual requests for funds and merits.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Judging and Scoring

How will projects be evaluated?

Answer. We have an independent panel comprised of a technical committee and a jury, who will use the following rubric, which you can find in the RFP:

- Section 1: Project Description - 250 points
- Section 2: Business Case for Mass Timber - 400 points
- Section 3: Sustainability & Resiliency - 125 points
- Section 4: Impact - 225 points

Total number of points available: 1,000

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Judging and Scoring

Will the jury know the identity of the team members in a proposal, or will it be blind judging?

Answer. It is not a blind judging process, and each proposal will be evaluated on the merits of the submission. Each jury member will sign a confidentiality agreement for the judging process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Project Information

What level of cost sharing is required?

Answer. There is no specific threshold of cost sharing required.

In applying to this competition, you may upload a separate PDF that provides project schedule and status information, project cost estimates, and a schedule of expenses.

You may also describe the funding required for completion of the project specifying funds already in place and outlining outstanding needs.

You may also estimate how much the total project cost for your organization would be offset by the requested award amount.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Project Information

Is domestic timber favored over international timber?

Answer. One of the objectives of the competition is to grow the domestic mass timber and solid-sawn lumber markets and strengthen the domestic mass timber supply chain.

Preference will be given to projects that commit to using US-harvested and US-manufactured mass timber.

As you'll see when you register a project for the competition, you will have an opportunity to cite manufacturers you've been talking to or working with, as well as provide a letter of engagement proving an intentional effort.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Project Information

What, visually, are jury members looking to see?

Answer. This is at the discretion of the applicant, but providing high quality visuals exhibits help you communicate your project's qualities.

Consider the quality of the plans, sections, elevations, and renderings we ask you to upload in the application form. Avoid uploading pixelated images.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Project Information

Are there criteria for women-owned companies or teams?

Answer. In your application, explain how your project supports **Executive Order 13985** and reference the definition of the Women-Owned Small Business regarding ownership and control.

URL: www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Requirements

Does site-specific carbon accounting need to be performed for things such as, say unique transportation challenges?

Answer. A site-specific carbon accounting analysis including actual transportation impacts may not be required of winning projects.

But a thorough analysis of the carbon benefits of the project and a demonstration of the carbon benefits can improve your score in the relevant section.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Requirements

Is there a specific date the project must be completed by?

Answer. No, there is no specific date. Keep in mind, however, that one of the stated goals of the competition is to see projects built and, for that reason, the scoring rubric favors projects that are further along versus those getting out of the starting gate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Requirements

Can funds cover the costs of materials?

Answer. No, the purchase of construction materials is not an eligible expense.

See the RFP for a specific list of eligible expenses, which include the following categories:

- Schematic design, design development, and construction drawings
- Research, testing, and other required support by third parties
- Building system code acceptance, final cost analysis, and approvals
- *Some* construction costs (such as quality control, site inspections, site safety costs, and risk management related costs).
- Related activities and other costs directly attributable to the development and construction of a wood solution

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Requirements

What are the requirements for reporting use of funds for winning project teams?

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Answer. The funding agreement will specify four deliverables and disbursement of funds along the following timeline. During contract discussions, the recipient will indicate from a list of acceptable reports what will be provided for each phase. This is outlined in the RFP. Briefly, they are:

- Phase 1: Schematic Design and Design Development - 15 percent of funds
- Phase 2: Construction Documents and Approval - 50 percent of funds
- Phase 3: Construction and Building Completion - 25 percent of funds
- Phase 4: Post-Construction - 10 percent of funds

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Resources

Are there profiles of last year's winners we can view?

Answer. Yes, you can find profiles of last year's winners on thinkwood.com

Vancouver Ambulatory Care Center.

Building Type: Medical Center. Project Team: [ZGF Architects](#), [Timberlab](#), [Swinerton](#), and [PCS Structural Solutions](#).

Return to Form.

Building Type: High Rise Multifamily w/ Affordable Housing Units. Project Team: [Katz Development](#), [Timberlab](#), [KL&A Engineers and Builders](#), and [Tres Birds](#).

Evergreen Charter School.

Building Type: School. Project Team: [Martin Hopp Architect](#), [Consigli](#), and [Odeh Engineers](#).

Alaskan Copper & Brass Company.

Building Type: Warehouse. Project Team: [atelierjones](#), [Foushee](#), [Timberlab](#), and [DCI Engineers](#).

INTRO Cleveland Phase 2.

Building Type: High Rise Multifamily. Project Team: [Harbor Bay Real Estate Advisors](#), [Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture](#), and [Forefront Structural Engineers](#).

Killingsworth.

Building Type: Community-centric Office Space. Project Team: [Adre](#), [LEVER Architecture](#), and [Holmes US](#).

URL: www.thinkwood.com/blog/getting-to-net-zero-six-competition-winners-to-showcase-low-carbon-mass-timber-design

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Resources

Can you provide guidance on calculating the carbon impact of a building?

Answer. Yes, WoodWorks maintains a [carbon calculator](#) that you may use to calculate the carbon impact of your project. WoodWorks is pleased to work with anyone to help them understand and utilize their calculator, too. (There are other calculators available.)

The goal is to measure, reduce, and report the carbon impact of the building. Embodied carbon emissions are best calculated using a whole building or structural life cycle assessment. Life cycle assessment standards to consider are ISO standards 14040, 14044, and 21930.

URL: www.woodworks.org/resources/woodworks-carbon-calculator

LIVE Q&A

What do you want to know?

Please post your question in the Q&A window.