

Michigan Forest Bioeconomy Conference – Survey results

Q1: How likely is it that you would recommend the Forest Bioeconomy Conference to someone else?

Q2: Why did you give our event the score you just gave it?

7

interesting and informative - would like to see more use of forest materials and less use of other materials

7

Very useful event with interesting speakers representing a wide diversity of the industry. The short timeframe of the panel discussions made it a bit difficult to hear much depth. Great event overall.

8

Great event and exciting topics. I would have liked a little more interaction with other event participants early on to improve networking while there (maybe a breakout session on the first day?), but overall the themes, speakers, and duration were on point.

7

Good meeting and discussion. Needs more economic reality.

8

I enjoyed that the conference was not too large. It felt like a community of people who could work towards a common cause.

8

Was interesting to the people that have interest in that type of information. Others probably wouldn't care.

7

As a communications director, some of the content was a little over my head however the networking opportunity was invaluable!

8

MIFBI has a lot of potential for a conference setting. This last one was smaller but still important. It was well managed and the helpers/board who ran events and talks were in my experience were effective and polite. Having three branches of talks more specific to their particular area is great, however, it would have been nice to have a greater range of difference between some of the talks. Perhaps having great difference in topics within a sub group would be better.

8

Would depend upon the content being discussed.

4

Somewhat removed from my focus of work as a land manager. There will need to be attention given to focusing on the front end of this "economy". Without some forethought into how we can grow this sector sustainably, we may turn a renewable resource into an endangered one...

Extremely likely - 10

The Michigan Forest Bioeconomy conference gave me hope and trust that the future of the state is bright. The passion to which participants showed in bridging the gap between industry, academia, government and all stakeholders in collective efforts towards providing innovative ways in sustaining the biomaterial can not be overemphasized.

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The sessions were really engaging and informative. The networking was also very worthwhile, and the location was excellent.

9

Opportunity to engage several other of our colleges that have interest in this area

9

The conference was about Michigan's future - a topic that will profoundly shape the economy and environment in the very near future. We need to ensure we have the regulatory and policy environment in place to ensure we get the win-win that is possible for economic success with environmental protection.

8

Net working opportunities. Expand awareness of the breath of possibilities regarding forest amenities and relationship to circle economy.

8

The conference was well done and very informative.

9

The conference was well organized and the topics covered a good range of bioeconomy topics. In short, there was something for virtually everyone.

8

Net working. Opportunity to increase awareness of the broad range of possibilities with forest amenities. Seems to fit in with the public's interest in knowing about stuff they use in their daily lives, e.g. social license, sustainability.

Extremely likely - 10

It was very valuable for me. I enjoyed the mix of people from government, academia and industry. It was also a nice breadth of areas within these fields related to forest products. I learned a lot, made some great connections, and heard the perspective of people I wouldn't generally have the chance to talk with. Thanks for organizing!

Extremely likely - 10

There was a good mix of theoretical and applied discussion that encouraged collaborations both within MIFBI as well as across the state.

8

The breakout sessions were the best part. They were practical and helped give a great sense of what is already actually happening. That is the kind of conference needed to generate new ideas and keep people interested and engaged. Thanks. Plus the food was great for Wednesday lunch!

8

Great variety of speakers. I would love to hear more from folks in industry on the demand side (furniture, energy, paper, etc.) I learned a lot about where we could go, and what the current stock/supply looks like.

5

Lots of discussion about new products, no discussion about who buys them.

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The presentation topics were informative, and spanned the scope of the bioeconomy. Some of the individual presentations in the general session were not as beneficial to me as I had hoped.

Extremely likely - 10

I felt the conference was a great forum for the exchange of information.

Extremely likely - 10

Excellent networking opportunity and informative sessions.

7

While the conference was interesting and well run, it was very broad, with not much of the information directly applicable to me as a engineered wood panel distributor.

8

Much good information

8

no comment

9

I found the conference to be very interesting in that there was a good mix of people from academia, government, and industry. The presentations were a good mix of practical as well as futuristic.

Extremely likely - 10

Good for Michigan economy and environment.

Extremely likely - 10

I found the conference was extremely informative and useful as a researcher in the field of forest products.

9

The event was very effective at bringing together a diverse network of forest bioeconomy stakeholders. Now the hard work begins, in bringing this vision to reality!

9

Good opportunity to network

8

I attended for a specific issue - 3D printing of recycled wood fibers. I learned a lot about the waste stream going to landfills in general and specifically about wood product waste that was enlightening to be as a citizen as well as an employee in a manufacturing business that generates wood materials waste. I feel the conference would be a good learning experience for anyone but also not everyone is inclined to go to conference if they don't have a specific goal in mind.

Extremely likely - 10

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It was more of the same. MiFBI initiatives need to have greater buy-in from the logging and forest products industries.

7

Too academic. I would like to see more emphasis on industrial uses.

6

I was anticipating more information on Urban Wood Utilization, specifically related to municipal wood waste from traditional urban forestry practices.

5

While the information presented is great, this group needs to discuss how to actually take ACTION on Michigan's forest bioeconomy.

7

Good speakers and a good opportunity to network. However this is from a government employee's perspective; I do not know how good it would be from a secondary manufacturer's perspective.

Extremely likely - 10

I think that people need to understand the role of forests and the conservation-minded philosophies behind using forests and products from the forests in order to conserve them.

9

good mix of industry focus and academic perspective, would appreciate more involvement from state govt people to indicate their support for specific initiatives, over time as MIFBI gets more established. Good job!

7

Good breadth - topic coverage for sessions I attended could have been delivered with greater expertise and less generality. Audience could be more precisely assembled around conference goals & intended actions.

Extremely likely - 10

Great opportunity to meet others in industry, learn about mission to move from petrochemical to bioeconomy

8

great opportunity to learn, network and collaborate

9

Well organized with very pertinent and knowledgeable speakers. Also excellent sponsors and exhibitors.

8

Very interesting speakers and a positive vibe about the potential for Michigan in this area.

Extremely likely - 10

Great networking and learning about the entire forestry supply chain. It's also fun to be at the start of a movement where contribution is encouraged.

Extremely likely - 10

The content of the meeting the presenters and the networking

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I thought the presentations were excellent and it was a very diverse group of attendees and a great opportunity to network.

8

It was informative, the sessions moved quickly which allowed for a diverse amount of information to pick from, and the venue was outstanding.

8

Because I was asked to.

3

There were several people in attendance that were expecting some realistic solution to the current issue of wood waste not being utilized to its potential. The conference was more of a utopian look at pie in the sky projects and futuristic opportunities that are a long way off. We need simple, realistic, solutions to our household waste, demolition waste, and underutilized wood waste. The forester from Canada spoke of a heat and power plant that could provide jobs, power and heat in small northern communities. That was the most realistic interesting, realistic presentation. With the paper market declining each year we need to find other uses for our wood products. Currently there are more businesses looking for good employees than are available, we need to reduce our social welfare programs so able body people are more interested in productive employment.

8

The conference is geared towards a specific group of people.

8

Good line up of speakers especially in the break out sessions.

8

Good information and learned things I did not know.

9

Very well organized, good speakers

9

It was an interesting 2 days to inform me of the future of our industry and to meet some people in different aspects of logging.

9

Well planned, included many people involved with the effort - although heavy to academia.

5

I rated it 5 because you had a very well organized event with impressive speakers. However, the organization as a whole MUST narrow its focus on a michigan-centric need and get a project moving ASAP. We all agree that there is a tremendous future in very high level processing of wood, but MIFBI needs a success story to get serious interest from industry and government.

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Extremely likely - 10

Great talks and networking

8

A lot of good presentations.

Extremely likely - 10

It was a good discussion on all of the forest products available in Michigan. Great conference

8

Good, but always room for improvement

9

The breadth and diversity of topics was valuable, particularly the dialogue between different stakeholders. Increase participation by the design community. Conf should qualify for a bunch of AIA health-safety LU's, which are required of architects and the hardest ones for them to get.

8

The topics covered are critical to Michigan's economy.