



Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials

Bruce Lippke

MISSION: *CORRIM seeks to establish, support, and manage research and education programs relating to renewable industrial materials focused on the environmental impact of the production, use, and disposal of wood and other bio-based materials.*

ORGANIZATION:

CORRIM is a not-for-profit research company comprised of member research institutions and companies who are committing their resources and expertise to the research and education mission and have provided startup funding. The voting Board of Directors, comprised of the member research institutions, controls policy with the intent of establishing the highest possible technical standards to carry out its mission. Panels of technical experts, including members and others, have been created to develop research plans, submit proposals for funding, and conduct research projects. A technical steering committee, comprised of members, associations, agencies, private companies, and environmental interests, has been formed to review and guide the work of the technical panels to ensure the broadest set of viewpoints are represented.

MOTIVATION FOR CREATING CORRIM:

Decisions discouraging the use of wood and other products are made daily at all levels of commerce and government. While many decisions may be motivated by a desire to protect the environment, they rarely, if ever, take into account the need for industrial raw materials and the effect on land use or substitution, let alone the broad range of environmental impacts inherent to the life cycle of products. These decisions may in fact be counterproductive to the intent. It is critical that a better information base be developed to support decisions and regulations that impact the regional and global environment. A 1976 research report, prepared by the Committee on Renewable Resources for Industrial Materials (CORRIM {I}) formed by the National Academy of Science at the request of the President's National Commission on Materials Policy, was the last comprehensive report available and continues to be referenced by policymakers and analysts although the report is both out-of-date and too narrowly focused on energy issues. Current needs are more comprehensive, including scientifically-based information on the relative environmental impacts of growing, gathering, processing, using, maintaining, discarding and/or reusing wood and other bio-based materials. A multidisciplinary group of North American scientists recognized the need for an updated and more comprehensive study that could be maintained for government and private sector use and have formed a new consortium to achieve that purpose.

DEVELOPMENT OF A RESEARCH PLAN:

CORRIM is in the process of developing a research agenda in support of AF&PA's Agenda 2020. Membership fees and a grant from DOE totaling \$179,000 are dedicated to developing a comprehensive plan that can guide the research program over the next few years. The focus of the initial effort will be on structural and industrial solid wood uses. CORRIM is developing a research specification on standards that will ensure consistency across research efforts and a content outline for a timely sequence of research projects that will characterize the role of renewable resources in the environment and the economy. Preliminary recommendations will be released early in 1997, with a final research plan incorporating comprehensive review comments made available late in the year. After completion of the research plan, CORRIM will actively seek funding to guide, manage, and complete the research agenda.

CORRIM

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CORRIM Membership (on 1 January 1997):

Universities (schools of forestry or forest products departments):

University of Washington	Bruce Lippke	(206) 543-8684
University of Minnesota	Jim Bowyer	(612) 624-4292
University of Idaho	Leonard Johnson	(208) 885-6600
Oregon State University	Tom McLain	(541) 737-4257
North Carolina State University	J.B. Jett	(919) 515-2890
Mississippi State University	Darrel Nicholas	(601) 325-2119
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Washington State University	Michael Wolcott	(509) 335-2262
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Agencies:

USFS Forest Products Lab	Sue LeVan	(608) 231-9493
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Other Research Organizations:

FORINTEK Canada Corp.	James Dangerfield	(604) 222-5700
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Companies:

Weyerhaeuser	Potlatch	Boise Cascade
Plum Creek	Union Camp	Simpson Timber

Inquires can be addressed to any of the member organizations or:

Bruce Lippke, CORRIM President, University of Washington

Jim Bowyer, Chair of the Technical Steering Committee, University of Minnesota

INCORPORATION:

CORRIM is incorporated in the state of Washington as a 501(c)3 research company with an administrative office at:

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