

Hemp Lime Industry Advancement Initiative



Lead Organization: Indigenous Habitat Institute (IHI)

Key Collaborators: House of Hemp, Saint Astier, Home Innovation Research Laboratory, Qualtim, Backman Building, Chanvre Materials, Talisman Earth, Atelier Baduwa't, Humboldt County Office of Education, Almquist Lumber, ISO Hemp

More Information: bit.ly/IHI-Hemp

Sector: Working Lands and Blue Economy, Green Building & Infrastructure, Workforce Development

Project Description

Under the RRRISE Working Lands and Blue Economy focus on bio-based development, the Hempcrete Industry Advancement Initiative is establishing a fully certified, code-compliant training and prefabricated building facility model. Uniting six core helixes—educational institutions, private industry, municipalities, Tribal Nations, community impact, and nature impact—IHI addresses severe housing deficits and wildfire risks. Integrating recent two-hour loaded fire panel testing from an accredited standards laboratory, France-to-Humboldt knowledge sharing, and educational marketing collateral, our center trains local youth and builders—lowering fire insurance costs and delivering a replicable, 100-year, fire-retardant housing model.

Intended Outcomes

- **Educational Institutions Helix:** Partner with public school districts and accredited training centers to educate youth, credentialing 150+ regional tradespeople and students in code-compliant bio-based construction.
- **Private Industry Helix:** Collaborate with architects, engineers, and sustainable builders to deploy ASTM-compliant panel fire-testing data and establish standardized local bio-based supply chains.
- **Municipalities & Tribal Helix:** Empower local governments and sovereign Tribal Nations with a certified, turnkey deployment template from Humboldt, CA to rapidly integrate bio-based housing into regional working lands suites.
- **Community Impact Helix:** Protect vulnerable rural populations, create high-wage green jobs, lower property insurance premiums, and build resilient, non-toxic, wildfire-safe homes.
- **Nature Impact Helix:** Advance carbon-negative, regenerative agriculture and bio-based manufacturing that restores soil health, reduces energy demands, and replaces carbon-intensive building materials.
- **Market & Insurance Transformation:** Utilize educational marketing collateral to activate value-aligned consumers and institutional partners committed to scaling bio-based infrastructure.

Progress Update: Challenges & Achievements to Date

IHI completed a historic two-hour loaded fire test on a prefabricated hemp lime (aka hempcrete) panel at an accredited laboratory, unlocking multi-story structural approvals. We executed a France-to-Humboldt international knowledge exchange, securing European cooperative partnerships spanning certified seeds, binders, processing technology, and replicable housing templates across all six helixes. Our primary challenge is securing matching capital to scale our certified building and training facility model to meet community demand.

Ways to Engage and Support the Project

- **Philanthropic & Capital Investment:** Provide matching capital or equipment funding to scale our certified training and building facility model, mobile hardware, and marketing collateral.
- **Educational, Municipal, Tribal & Community Partnerships:** Connect school districts, local governments, Tribal leaders, and community groups in wildfire zones to adopt our replicable housing template and expand youth enrollment.
- **Industry & Ecological Collaboration:** Engage architects, engineers, sustainable builders, bio-based material suppliers, and environmental organizations to align with industry standards and enroll in upcoming certification courses.

Follow IHI's progress at bit.ly/IHI-Hemp and on Facebook at bit.ly/IHI-FB and Instagram at bit.ly/IHI-Insta

