

What Could Wood Do?

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Facts About Wood's Sustainability

North American forests can sustainably supply timber without contributing to deforestation.

In both the U.S. and Canada, responsible forest management has resulted in more than 50 consecutive years of net forest growth that exceeds annual forest harvests.^{3,4}

Building with wood can reduce carbon emissions from the AEC sector.

The built environment accounts for 40% of greenhouse gas emissions.⁵ Increasing the use of wood in the construction of commercial buildings could cut GHG emissions by an average of 60%, removing ~21 million metric tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere annually—that's equal to taking 4.4 million cars off the road indefinitely.⁶

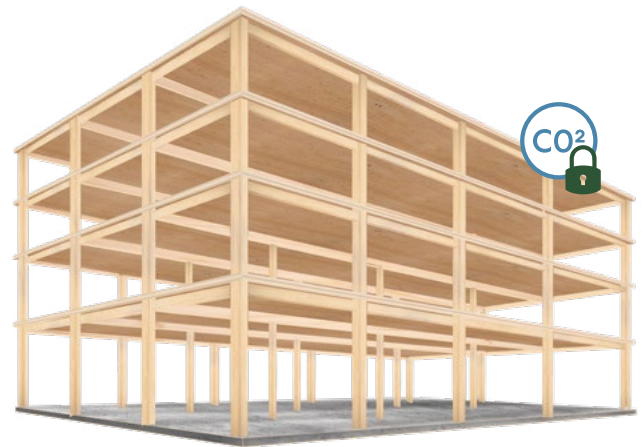
Sustainable forest management—including harvesting—can increase forests' potential to store carbon.⁹

1. https://www.dovetailinc.org/land_use_pdfs/carbon_in_wood_products.pdf
2. <http://www.fao.org/3/i3010e/i3010e.pdf>
3. https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/library/brochures/docs/2012/ForestFacts_1952-2012_English.pdf
4. <https://continuingeducation.bnpmmedia.com/courses/areditorial/lumber-by-the-numbers/>
5. <https://www.worldgbc.org/sites/default/files/2018%20GlobalABC%20Global%20Status%20Report.pdf>
6. https://www.dovetailinc.org/report_pdfs/2015/building_with_wood.pdf

Wood can store carbon for a building's full lifecycle.

Wood is comprised of ~50% carbon by dry weight.¹

That means wood in a building stores carbon that would otherwise be emitted back into the atmosphere. Wood continues to store carbon for the life of a structure, minimizing a building's carbon footprint.²



Wood manufacturing emits less greenhouse gases, creates less air and water pollution, and produces less waste than concrete and steel.

Wood requires less energy from harvest to transport, manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and disposal or recycling.⁷ Because the industry uses every piece of each log it harvests—or such uses as mulch, compost, and fuel pellets—it also produces very little waste.⁸

Harvesting and replanting increases forests' carbon sink potential as the rate of carbon sequestration is greater during young, vigorous growth.¹⁰

7. <https://www.canfor.com/docs/why-wood/tr19-complete-pub-web.pdf>
8. https://www.forest2market.com/hubfs/2016_Website/Documents/20181130_Forest2Market_Residuals_Market_Assessment_Final.pdf
9. <https://extension.psu.edu/how-forests-store-carbon>
10. https://www.forest2market.com/hubfs/2016_Website/Documents/20181130_Forest2Market_Residuals_Market_Assessment_Final.pdf