

FORESTRY FOR THE PLANET

BC is a world leader in sustainable forestry. Healthy forests are part of the ecological and natural heritage that British Columbians take great pride in, and the commitment of the forest industry to honour these values is firm. BC's sustainable forests, and the products made from them, play a critical role in helping Canada meet its carbon emissions commitments.

BC LEADS THE WORLD IN SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

BC is home to beautiful parks and expansive protected areas. Much of the natural beauty of the province is derived from its forests, which make up 62% of the province's land base. Since European settlement the amount of forested land in BC has remained virtually unchanged, with less than 3% of the land being permanently converted to other uses, such as urban development or agriculture.

Canada has more third-party certified forest than any other nation in the world. The majority of BC's annual harvest comes from operations that are certified to sustainable forest management standards or meet internationally-recognized criteria for environmental management systems.

To ensure that the beauty and ecosystems of BC's forests are preserved, we harvest less than 1% of the forest each year, and by law these areas must be replanted after harvesting. In fact, for every tree that is harvested, three seedlings are planted in its place. That's why customers of BC and citizens of our province can continue to use BC pulp, paper, and wood products with confidence that they are making a sound choice for the planet.

KEY FACTS

- BC has more third party certified land than almost any other country
- Forests make up 62% of the province's land base
- BC has 52 million hectares of certified forest
- BC's forest is larger than France and Germany combined
- BC harvests less than 1% of the forest each year
- 259 million seedlings were planted in 2016
- For every tree harvested, 3 seedlings are planted
- The Canadian forest industry has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 60% since 1990
- The University of British Columbia is home to the world's tallest wood building, Brock Commons



TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE, USE WOOD

BC's forest management approach plays a role in how Canada will meet its carbon emissions targets for the long term.

As trees grow they absorb carbon from the atmosphere and store it in their roots, wood, leaves or needles, and exchange it for oxygen which they release into the atmosphere. Younger trees grow at a faster rate than mature trees, so they exchange carbon for oxygen at an accelerated pace. As trees reach the end of their lifecycle and die, whether it be from forest fire, insect infestation, or decay, they release their stored carbon back into the atmosphere.

When trees are harvested and manufactured into products such as lumber, veneer or plywood, the carbon remains in the wood for the life of the products. Wood products store the carbon for as long as they are in use, with carbon contributing to 50% of the weight of wood products.

Building with wood is also less energy intensive than building with concrete or steel. For example, the carbon footprint of a steel and concrete frame house is 26% and 31% higher, respectively, than the carbon footprint of a wood frame house. And because wood is a renewable resource grown from the energy of the sun, once the harvested area is regenerated the forest begins to store carbon again. By building with renewable wood products from BC's sustainably managed forest, we can help to mitigate the effects of climate change.



The BC Council of Forest Industries (COFI) is the voice of the BC forest industry. BC's forest industry is adapting, evolving and innovating, and continues to be one of the most significant economic drivers in the province and the largest producer of softwood lumber in Canada.