



**American
Forest & Paper
Association**

www.afandpa.org

Forest Products and Climate Change

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) is the national trade association of the forest products industry and advances public policies that promote a strong and sustainable U.S. forest products industry in the global marketplace. The industry is an integral part of our nation's green job base and generates approximately 6 percent of the total annual U.S. manufacturing GDP.

AF&PA's member companies make pulp, paper, packaging and wood products, and own forest land. Our companies make essential products from renewable and recyclable resources that sustain the environment. Nationwide, the U.S. forest products industry:

- *Employs approximately one million workers — on par with the nation's automotive and plastics industries.*
- *Provides green jobs that reduce greenhouse gases by sustaining the forests that absorb carbon dioxide; making the paper and wood products that store it indefinitely; generating and using more renewable energy than anyone else—28.5 million megawatt hours annually, enough to power 2.7 million homes; and recycling paper to avoid methane emissions and reduce waste.*
- *Is among the top ten manufacturing sector employers in 48 states.*
- *Is a significant taxpayer, paying approximately \$7 billion annually in federal, state, and local taxes.*



The forest products industry makes the products that America demands while remaining sensitive to our shared environmental concerns. The industry is dedicated to producing its products in the most responsible manner possible by employing sustainable forestry practices, meeting and exceeding environmental protection requirements, and working to increase the paper recovered for recycling. Forest products such as building materials and paper products made from harvested wood store carbon.

Forest Products Made From Harvested Trees Play An Important Role In Addressing Climate Change

- Approximately one-third of the carbon in wood harvested for the industry ends up in long-lived products such as lumber, wood-based panels, books, and archived paper and is stored in some cases for decades, even centuries.
- EPA estimates that the amount of carbon stored annually in forest products in the U.S. is equivalent to removing more than 100 million tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere every year.
- The carbon that U.S. forests and forest products store each year is enough to offset approximately 10 percent of all U.S. CO₂ emissions.
- As a building material, wood requires less energy to produce, transport, construct and maintain over time and is a better insulator than other building materials such as concrete and steel.

Reducing the Industry's Carbon Footprint

- The forest products industry manufactures products from renewable and recyclable raw materials.
- From 2000 to 2006, AF&PA member companies reduced their greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 14 percent. Absolute emissions decreased 25 percent due to efficiency improvement, decreased fossil fuel use, and changes in production.
- AF&PA members decreased fossil fuel use by 19 percent and increased renewable energy use by 10 percent.
- The forest products industry is the leading producer and user of renewable biomass energy. In fact, the energy we produce from biomass exceeds the total energy produced from solar, wind, and geothermal sources combined. Sixty-five percent of the energy used at AF&PA member paper and wood products facilities is generated from carbon-neutral renewable biomass.