



FOREST-CLIMATE
WORKING GROUP

Forest-Climate Working Group ***Entry Principles for Membership***

Who We Are

The Forest-Climate Working Group (FCWG) is a broad and diverse coalition of forest stakeholder organizations. Our members represent forest landowners, forest products, conservation, wildlife, academic, government, carbon finance, and other forest sector organizations. The FCWG formed in 2007 to develop consensus recommendations and information for federal and state policies that involve forests and climate change. The FCWG has been working together since that time to deepen our understanding of forest-climate science and issues, and to provide input on climate policy.

What We Believe

FCWG members believe that U.S. forests provide important solutions to reducing carbon emissions and protecting our nation from climate change impacts. On an annual basis, U.S. forests and forest products sequester and store carbon equivalent to approximately 14 percent of U.S. carbon emissions. In addition, U.S. forests play a significant role in protecting important natural resources such as water supplies and habitat from climate change impacts.

The FCWG seeks to promote a strong role for U.S. forests in addressing climate change by highlighting opportunities and encouraging action in six major goal areas:

- **Science:** Improve forest-climate science and data to support management decisions. Promote enhanced collaboration among government agencies and other science providers for better science delivery and application.
- **Forest Retention:** Keep forestland in forests. Promote, protect, and enhance support for a range of approaches to help landowners to keep forests healthy and working.
- **Regeneration:** Support actions to create new forests and regenerate disturbed forests to meet landowner goals and enhance carbon sequestration and resilience.
- **Forest Restoration:** Strengthen forest health and resilience with collaborative, landscape-level actions to enhance forest restoration and management.
- **Expand Use of Sustainable Wood Products:** Expand use of sustainable wood products through awareness, markets, and innovation.

- **Urban Forest Expansion:** Expand the roles of forests and wood products in helping communities—urban and rural—reduce emissions and adapt to the changing climate.

Principles of Collaboration

The Forest-Climate Working Group is founded on five key principles for effective collaboration:

Governance. Membership in the FCWG is open to any participating organization that endorses our Entry Principles (this document). Each member organization is encouraged to identify a designated representative to the FCWG to provide continuity, with alternates and additional representatives welcomed as needed. A Steering Committee of up to five organizations will coordinate the communications and activities of the FCWG. In the event that more than five organizations wish to participate on the Steering Committee, we will conduct a vote among FCWG members by electronic ballot.

Transparency. The actions and deliberations of the FCWG, including the Steering Committee, will be transparent to all participants. Notes of all meetings will be distributed to the membership.

Science-based. The FCWG is committed to serving as a learning network to meet informational needs and track research in the rapidly evolving climate arena. The FCWG will strive to monitor and educate the members on new technological developments, science findings, and the progress and status of key research and development efforts that form the base for forest-climate policies and practice. The FCWG will create briefings and other learning opportunities to dialogue with scientists, land managers, policymakers, and other thought leaders on key aspects of forest-climate policy and policy design to support informed decisions and consensus on key issues.

Learning. The group will seek to learn from climate policy conversations occurring at other scales, including regional climate compacts within the U.S. and international efforts. It will seek to establish links to leaders in these areas and encourage their participation in our efforts.

Consensus. The impact of the FCWG is enhanced by seeking consensus among a broad range of interest groups working on forest-climate policies and programs. The FCWG strives to operate by full consensus of the membership when taking public positions. When a position has strong support, but falls short of endorsement by full consensus, the group may consider publicly endorsing that position on an “opt-in” basis if no more than one-quarter of members oppose that position. Documents relating to any position adopted by “opt-in” will clearly list only those participating member organizations endorsing the position. Sign-on to FCWG letters will be open to non-member organizations at the discretion of the FCWG.