



FOREST-CLIMATE WORKING GROUP

2022 Policy Priorities

Advance Markets for Forest Carbon, Forest Products and Skilled Labor

Forest products are essential to addressing climate change because they can store carbon for years or even centuries. Smart building and procurement policies can create compounding economic and environmental benefits through robust markets. Investing in future generations of forest-sector workforce will ensure the health of our forests for years to come.

Did you know?

Wood products hold more than double the carbon in all U.S. national parks combined, according to the EPA Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

How do forest product markets help us reach our climate goals?

Strong markets for wood products help protect and grow our forests by incentivizing landowners to make investments that keep forests healthy and resilient so they capture carbon, maintain wildlife habitat, and clean our air and water.

Wood products store more carbon and require less energy to manufacture than other building materials, reducing the overall carbon footprint of the built environment.

While the forest product market provides job opportunities, urban forestry employers throughout the sector face an unprecedented labor shortage, with nearly 10,000 vacancies annually and more projected to open through 2026.



The FCWG reflects the diversity of forest sector leaders dedicated to conserving, protecting and managing America's forests, including: forest sector businesses, conservation nonprofits, academic institutions, carbon markets, government agencies, state foresters and private landowners.



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Proposed Solutions to Help Advance Markets for Forest Carbon, Forest Products and Skilled Labor

Create tax credits for private forest carbon actions

- Create a transferable landowner tax credit to incentivize increased carbon sequestration in privately owned forests.
- Maintain existing forest management federal income tax deductions.
- Provide a policy mechanism through existing federal or state conservation programs, new federal funding or an offset program to enable private capital, public funding or a combination thereof to finance or create tradable credits for forest activities that measurably increase carbon sequestration and storage.

Utilize forest product research, innovations and demonstration projects to expand existing markets and support new market and product development

- Enact policy that promotes increased use of forest products.
- Provide a tax incentive to build with climate-smart materials.
- Provide financial incentives that drive wood utilization by increasing federal funding for education and technical assistance for architects and engineers to use wood in building construction through programs such as WoodWorks.
- Encourage wood building materials in federal structures and federal programs that support building construction.
- Increase funding for USFS Wood Innovation Grants to stimulate new product development, product improvement, new forest product uses and new or expanded forest products markets.
- Encourage states to expand wood use promotion and construction projects.

Fund future forest sector technical assistance

- Improve and invest in workforce development and training programs.
- Support pre-employment programs that link underserved urban populations with urban forestry careers.
- Address technical issues in Department of Labor regulations and occupational codes that hamper forest sector growth and participation.