



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Good for you. Good for our forests.®

SFI-00001

GREEN BUILDING



Building green through forest certification

Wood from responsibly-managed forests, like those certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Standard, is an excellent choice for any new construction or renovation. Wood's outstanding environmental lifecycle characteristics, desirable aesthetic and construction characteristics make it one of the most popular building materials.

Green building with SFI.

A growing number of buyers—whether public or private, commercial or residential—want to know they are sourcing products from responsibly-managed forests. As the largest single forest certification standard in the world, the SFI program is well positioned to meet this growing demand and is committed to promoting responsible forest management in North America and beyond.

The SFI Standard integrates the perpetual growing of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality. SFI program participants practice responsible forestry on the lands they manage and influence millions of additional acres through the training of loggers, foresters and family forest

landowners in best management practices.

The SFI program is overseen by an independent Board of Directors that equally represents social, environmental and economic forestry stakeholders.

SFI: A single, science-based standard.

The SFI program is based on the premise that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions can coexist to the benefit of communities, customers and the environment, today and for future generations.

The SFI 2010-2014 Standard promotes responsible forest management with measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.

Government and green building programs recognize SFI-certified products.

Every day, more programs and governments around the world are promoting inclusive policies and recognizing SFI.

- In January 2009, Public Works and Government Services Canada stated that wood used in its projects must be certified to one of three programs operating in Canada, including the SFI program.
- Many organizations have an inclusive approach to forest certification, including the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) and National Association of State Foresters. GSA encourages the use of wood certified to SFI and FSC for all new installations of wood products.
- Multiple green building standards around the globe, including Green Globes (U.S. and Canada), BREEAM (United Kingdom), Built Green Canada, Built Green Colorado, CASBEE (Japan) and the ANSI National Green Building Standard (U.S.) recognize the strength of SFI and other forest certification standards.

“While in different manners, the ATFS, FSC, and SFI systems include the fundamental elements of credibility and make positive contributions to forest sustainability. NASF members are forest experts who have first-hand knowledge of how these standards actually work on the ground throughout the nation. Based on our expertise and direct experience, we find all three standards credible and recognize the positive contributions they make to forest sustainability.”

—Steven W. Koehn, Maryland State Forester and Member, SFI Board of Directors

- The International Green Construction Code (IgCC), Public Version 2.0, which was developed by the International Code Council with support from the American Institute of Architects and ASTM International, recognizes wood and wood products labeled in accordance with SFI and other standards.

Opening the LEED Rating System

The U.S. Green Building Council is revising their Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system. Today LEED only gives credit for wood and paper products certified to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard. Nearly three-quarters of North American certified forests are certified to SFI, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) or the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), while FSC-certified forests account for approximately one quarter. The majority of FSC's global supply comes from outside the U.S. and Canada. An unintended consequence of the USGBC's current FSC-only policy is that builders may say no to domestic products certified to SFI, ATFS and CSA, and may say yes to FSC products—60% of FSC certified lands are outside of the U.S. and Canada. We believe North American certified wood products and FSC off-shore products should have equal access.

Using domestic products is especially important for government agencies, which have a responsibility to deliver economic benefits to their communities, as well as meeting environmental goals. Almost thirty percent of all LEED projects are government-owned.

"I am urging the USGBC to expand the certification systems recognized in the current LEED rating system for green building to include SFI and ATFS certifications. Limiting certified wood to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system excludes a great deal of third party verified, well managed timber from use in the LEED program."

—Scott Walker, Governor of Wisconsin

An FSC-only stance is not based on science and it doesn't differentiate between the 26 different FSC standards globally, many of which are less rigorous than FSC standards in the United States. SFI has a single standard for North America, and it supports domestic forests and communities and is recognized by forestry professionals, state agencies and conservation groups.

In a 2008 resolution, the National Association of State Foresters stated that "requirements for certification should recognize ATFS, FSC, SFI, and all other credible options;" the resolution goes on to state that "there is no single 'best' forest certification program."

It's time to recognize all credible forest certifications.

Forestry experts as well as government officials support a more inclusive policy. The Society of American Foresters CEO and Executive Vice President Michael Goergen said in *The Seattle Times*, "A Forest Stewardship Council-only stance... is not good for green building, our environment or states... that are rich in forestland." Thousands of family forest landowners, foresters, conservationists and others have also voiced support by signing a petition demanding LEED to open. Additionally, more than 100 governors and members of Congress have sent letters to the USGBC expressing their concerns related to the USGBC's treatment of wood and the forest certification credit.

The time has come. Forestry experts, government officials, conservationists and many others are urging USGBC to open LEED to SFI and other credible standards in order to promote responsible forestry in North America. For the sake of our communities, forests, the forest sector and the future of green building in general, it is time for USGBC to do the right thing and recognize all credible forest certification standards.

For more information and to sign our petition, please visit sfiprogram.org/LEED.



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE

Good for you. Good for our forests.®

www.sfiprogram.org

SFI-00001