

# Sustainable Building with SFI Certified Wood

Using responsible sources for a new wave of green building

Sponsored by Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc. (SFI Inc.)



Hands-On Children's Museum of Olympia, Washington, demonstrates exceptional commitment to sustainability and achieved Green Globes certification.

Photo courtesy of The Miller Hull Partnership, LLP

All architects know that when designing a project, materials used in the construction are critical to address sustainability objectives. The American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2030 commitment, which is aimed “to apply the principles of sustainable design to every project from its inception and early design through project completion and ongoing building operations—not just those projects where our clients wish to pursue third-party green building certification,” demonstrates this importance.

This article addresses why architects and their clients should ask for certified wood products, which drives the growth of healthy forests and healthy communities. The article also examines the growing interest in green building legislation and government action to recognize the value of all forest certification programs. These government actions are aimed to provide incentives to local products used in green building projects while providing a market incentive for landowners to adopt or maintain sustainable forest practices.

## WHY MATERIALS MATTER

According to 2011 statistics from the U.S. Department of Energy, buildings account for 41 percent of total U.S. energy consumption

and 38 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions—figures that have spurred the architecture and construction industries to find ways to reduce the environmental footprint of new structures. That is why sourcing materials that have a low impact on carbon emissions is critical to any building construction.

Wood has been used as a building material for thousands of years due to its desirable aesthetic, superior environmental characteristics, and ease of construction. “Wood was chosen initially because of economic considerations, and it’s turned out to be a good decision,” says Drew Phillips, a construction executive with Berschauer Phillips Construction, describing a recent project. “It’s much less energy-intensive to manufacture wood products than steel.”

Wood’s inherent environmental benefits are clear, but because wood comes from forests, it’s important that those forests are managed in a responsible way. Forest certification programs are one way to help promote responsible management of forestland. Voluntary third-party forest certification began in the 1990s partly in response to market concerns about forest management and illegal logging. Today, forest certification programs promote sustainable forest management, considering environmental, social, and economic factors.

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### Learning Objectives




After reading this article, you should be able to:

1. Describe the benefits of SFI certification and the references or endorsements of the SFI program in major green-building standards and forestry programs.
2. List the main elements of the SFI certification, and explain how they differ from other forestry product standards.
3. Explain how the SFI standard impacts conservation and economic development efforts by groups including family forest landowners, indigenous peoples, and state and local governments.
4. Discuss the impact of the SFI standard on green building projects and research into forestry and related topics.

To receive credit, you are required to read the entire article and pass the test. Go to [ce.architecturalrecord.com](http://ce.architecturalrecord.com) for complete text and to take the test for free.

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Chart courtesy of SFI Inc.

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY THROUGH GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS		
RATING SYSTEM	LOCATION	RECOGNIZES ALL CREDIBLE CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS (INCLUDING SFI)
 <b>ANSI/GBI 01-2010: Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings (formerly Green Globes U.S.)</b>		YES
 <b>ANSI/ICC 700-2012: National Green Building Standard</b>		YES
 <b>ASHRAE - Standard 189.1</b>		YES
 <b>ASTM - D7612-10</b>		YES
 <b>BIFMA e3-2010: Furniture Sustainability Standard</b>		YES
 <b>BREEAM</b>		YES
 <b>Built Green Program</b>		YES
 <b>CASBEE</b>		YES
 <b>Composite Panel Association Log</b>		YES
 <b>Green Globes</b>		YES
 <b>Green Star Program</b>		YES
 <b>International Green Construction Code</b>		YES

Green Building Rating Systems that recognize multiple forest certification standards.

According to a 2012 continuing education article in *GreenSource* sponsored by SFI, forest certification programs display leadership within the broad environmental community. “Forest certification can be a proof point that wood products are from well-managed forests where the perpetual growing of trees is integrated with protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality,” according to the article.

Among the forest certification standards is the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program, described in detail in this article. Other forest certification programs include the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC). SFI, ATFS, and CSA are all endorsed by PEFC, an umbrella organization that endorses national and regional certification standards. Globally, only 10 percent of the world’s forests are certified to any forest certification standard.

Forest-certification experts note that while the programs may take different approaches, forest certification initiatives typically focus on:

- ▶ Protection of biodiversity
- ▶ Care for species at risk
- ▶ Preservation of wildlife habitats
- ▶ Safeguarding of water quality
- ▶ Sustainable harvest levels
- ▶ Prompt regeneration
- ▶ Third-party independent audits

Certification programs provide a market incentive that will keep managed forests as forests, which can provide economic return and at the same time support environmental values.

Architects, designers, and others within the building community have an opportunity to demonstrate their support for responsibly managed forests in North America by specifying forest certification standards in new construction or renovation projects.

### GREEN BUILDING AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

The major market driver for forest certification in the solid wood sector over the last decade has been the green building movement. There are many credible green building rating systems that recognize the value of multiple forest certification standards, and offer credits for products certified to these forest certification standards.

While the chart (see the online version of this course) details many of these standards, three programs worth noting include *ANSI/GBI 01-2010 Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings*, *ANSI/ICC 700-2008 National Green Building Standard*, and the *International Green Construction Code* (IgCC).



► **ANSI/GBI 01-2010 Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings**, formerly known as Green Globes, is a standard and rating system that promotes building practices that result in energy-efficient, healthier, and environmentally sustainable buildings. One of the points available under Green Globes is awarded for the “proportion of solid lumber, engineered wood, and other wood-based products [which] originate from sustainable sources that are a third-party certified sustainable forestry program including SFI, CSA, FSC, and ATFS.”

► **ANSI/ICC 700-2012 National Green Building Standard**, developed for residential construction by the National Association of Home Builders and the International Code Council under the ANSI standards process, is for new construction and remodeling for all residential building types including single-family, multifamily, and residential portions of mixed-use buildings. Three to four points are available for use of “wood-based products certified to the requirements of one of the following recognized product programs: ATFS, CSA, FSC, PEFC, SFI, other product programs recognized by PEFC.”

► **International Green Construction Code (IgCC)**, developed by the ICC, with support from the American Institute of Architects and ASTM International, recognizes wood and wood products labeled in accordance with “the SFI Standard, FSC Indicators of Sustainable Forestry, PEFC Technical Document or equivalent fiber procurement system.”

There are a plethora of tools that exist in the green building community that recognize the value of multiple forest certification standards. However, a major driver in the green building community is the U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating tools. Since USGBC’s inception, the LEED rating tools have only recognized FSC’s certification standard.

More market leaders are supporting all forest certification standards. Both federal and state governments have taken notice with their own actions aimed to provide incentives for using local wood products in green building projects while providing a market incentive for landowners to adopt or maintain sustainable forest practices. Furthermore, green building plays an important role in government policy, as government agencies strive for energy efficiency, greenhouse gas reductions, and other sustainability goals. In fact, 30 percent of all U.S. acres certified to the SFI standard are publicly owned.

By way of example, the U.S. Department of Agriculture in a September 2011 news release announcing their program to promote wood in

green building stated, “Sustainability of forest products can be verified using any credible third-party rating system, such as Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Forest Stewardship Council or American Tree Farm System certification.” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urged U.S. builders to prioritize wood in green buildings, stating that the review of scientific literature found that using wood yields fewer greenhouse gases than the application of other common materials.

Elected officials in several states, including Alabama, Georgia, Maine, and Mississippi, have taken direct action through Governor executive orders or legislation to prohibit the use of a green building rating system that does not give equal credit to SFI, FSC, and ATFS.

Mississippi’s legislation directs that, “any new or expanded state buildings shall incorporate ‘Green Building’ standards that give certification credits equally to forest products grown, manufactured, and certified under the Sustainable Forestry initiative, the American Tree Farm System, and the Forest Stewardship Council.”

Government action from international markets is also apparent. The United Kingdom’s Central Point of Expertise on Timber views forest certification as a proof point to ensure the products meet both legality and sustainability requirements. This is increasingly important as a 2012 report by the United Nations Environment

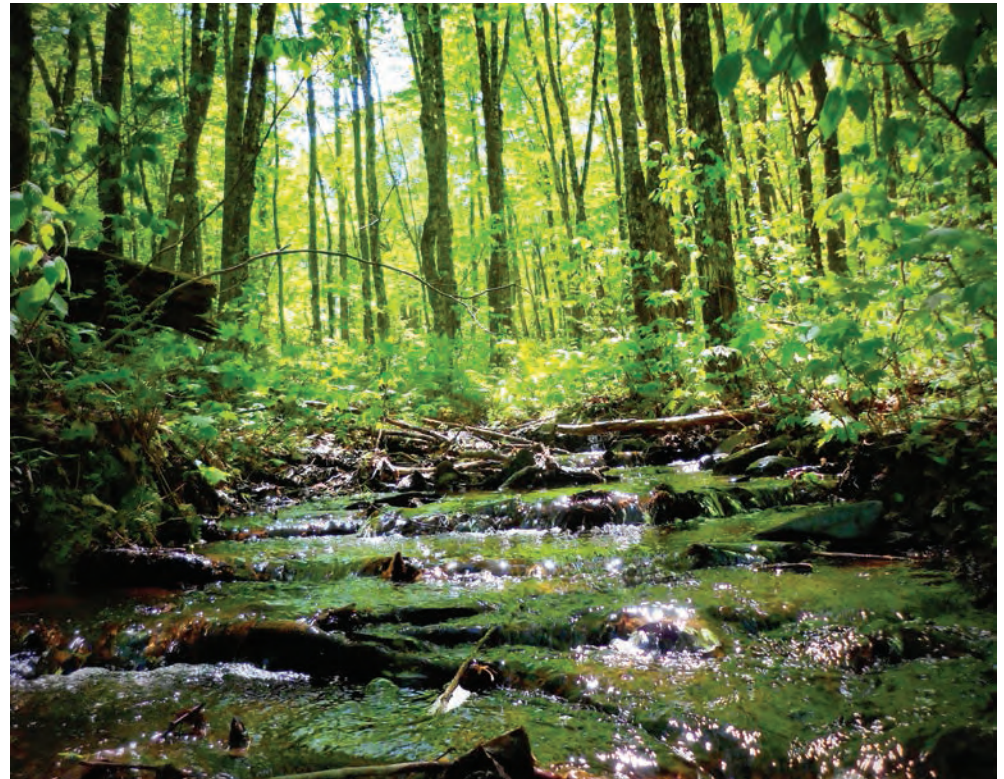
Program and Interpol estimates that illegal logging activity accounts for 50-90 percent of all logging in certain tropical countries of Central Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia, and that this criminal trade is worth \$30-100 billion annually worldwide. All forest certification standards assess and address the risk of illegal logging.

#### **THE SFI 2010-2014 STANDARD: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES**

Understanding SFI helps architects and building owners make better choices in their projects. SFI is an independent, nonprofit organization that advocates sustainable forest management and facilitates responsible forestry globally. The SFI program is based on the premise that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions can coexist to the benefit of communities, landowners, manufacturers, shareholders, customers, and the environment, today and for future generations.

SFI was launched in 1994 as one of the forest sector’s contributions to the vision of sustainable development established by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The SFI program is governed by a multidisciplinary, 18-member board equally represented by environmental, social, and economic sectors. Representatives include individuals from

*Photo courtesy of Jonathan Kelley*



**Streamside management zone shows an example of the protection of water bodies and riparian zones in Maine.**



conservation organizations, forest product companies, aboriginal groups, small family forest landowners, government agencies, academics, and labor organizations. Across North America, more than 200 million acres are certified to the SFI Standard.

At the core of the SFI program is the SFI 2010-2014 Standard, which guides organizations as to how they manage their forestland and source fiber from noncertified lands. The SFI 2010-2014 standard is comprised of 14 core principles, 20 objectives, 38 performance measures, and 115 indicators. It is the most widely used forest certification standard in North America, and was developed specifically for U.S. and Canadian forests.

The standard was developed through an open, transparent process that included professional foresters, conservationists, scientists, and others key stakeholders. The standard addresses environmental, social, and economic forest values—from water quality and biodiversity to harvesting and regeneration. SFI also manages a Chain-of-Custody Standard that tracks fiber throughout the supply chain.

SFI does not certify organizations as conforming to these standards—that is done by independently accredited certification bodies. All certification bodies that wish to perform certification to the SFI Standard must be accredited by ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) or the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

### SFI 2010-2014: PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

SFI Program Participants believe forest landowners have an important stewardship responsibility and a commitment to society, and they recognize the importance of maintaining viable commercial, family forest, and conservation forest land bases. They support sustainable forestry practices on forestland they manage, and promote it on other lands. They also support efforts to protect private property rights, and to help all private landowners manage their forestland sustainably.

SFI Program Participants are third-party certified to demonstrate their conformance with 20 objectives, 38 performance measures, and 115 indicators, which support 14 overarching principles of sustainable forestry which follow:

**1. Sustainable forestry.** To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem services such as the conservation of

soil, air and water quality, carbon, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitats, recreation, and aesthetics.

**2. Forest productivity and health.** To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive exotic plants and animals, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

**3. Protection of water resources.** To protect water bodies and riparian zones, and to conform with best management practices to protect water quality.

**4. Protection of biological diversity.** To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, and ecological or natural community types.

**5. Aesthetics and recreation.** To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

**6. Protection of special sites.** To manage forests and lands of special significance (ecologically, geologically or culturally important) in a manner that protects their integrity and takes into account their unique qualities.

**7. Responsible fiber sourcing practices in North America.** To use and promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally, and socially responsible.

**8. Avoidance of controversial sources including illegal logging in offshore fiber sourcing.** To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests when procuring fiber outside of North America, and to avoid sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws.

**9. Legal compliance.** To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

**10. Research.** To support advances in sustainable forest management through forestry research, science, and technology.

**11. Training and education.** To improve the practice of sustainable forestry through training and education programs.

**12. Public involvement.** To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on public lands through community involvement.

**13. Transparency.** To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the SFI 2010-2014 Standard by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

Photo courtesy of Tom Haxby – Manistee River in Michigan







The SFI 2010-2014 standard is the most widely used forest certification standard in North America, and was developed specifically for U.S. and Canadian forests.

**14. Continual improvement.** To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

#### **SFI 2010-2014: LAND MANAGEMENT**

Landowners and forest managers are required to ensure the protection of water bodies and riparian zones, monitor the impact their operations have on natural habitats, and to observe management practices that safeguard an area's biodiversity. The SFI Standard requires that Program Participants "locate and protect known sites associated with viable occurrences of critically imperiled and imperiled species and communities"—locations designated as "Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value."

To comply with the Standard's requirements for land management, Program Participants must meet the requirements of 14 SFI program objectives, 31 performance measures, and 94 indicators. The SFI land management objectives are:

##### **Forest Management Planning**

Broaden the implementation of sustainable forestry by ensuring long-term forest productivity and yield based on the use of the best scientific information available.

##### **Forest Productivity**

Ensure long-term forest productivity, carbon storage, and conservation of forest resources through prompt reforestation, soil conservation, afforestation, and other measures.

##### **Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources**

Protect water quality in streams, lakes, and other water bodies.

##### **Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value**

Manage the quality and distribution of wildlife habitats and contribute to the conservation of biological diversity by developing and implementing stand- and landscape-level measures that promote habitat diversity and the conservation of forest plants and animals, including aquatic species.

##### **Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits**

Manage the visual impact of forest operations and provide recreational opportunities for the public.

##### **Protection of Special Sites**

Manage lands that are ecologically, geologically, or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

##### **Efficient Use of Forest Resources**

Promote the efficient use of forest resources.

##### **Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local laws and regulations.

*Photo courtesy of Phil Riebel*



Since 1995, SFI Program Participants have invested nearly \$1.4 billion in research on forestry issues.

##### **Forestry Research, Science, and Technology**

To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

##### **Training and Education**

To improve the implementation of sustainable forestry practices through appropriate training and education programs.

##### **Community Involvement in the Practice of Sustainable Forestry**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging the public and forestry community to participate in the commitment to sustainable forestry, and publicly report progress.

##### **Public Land Management Responsibilities**

To support and implement sustainable forest management on public lands.

##### **Communications and Public Reporting**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by documenting progress and opportunities for improvement.

##### **Management Review and Continual Improvement**

To promote continual improvement in the practice of sustainable forestry, and to monitor, measure, and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

#### **SFI 2010-2014: FIBER SOURCING**

All forest landowners play a critical role in ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of forests. In North America, this includes millions of family-owned forests. SFI supports and promotes responsible forest management on both certified and uncertified lands in North America through its *fiber sourcing* requirements.

Through its fiber-sourcing program, SFI helps educate small family forest landowners about the benefits of sustainable forestry. SFI Program





Participants are expected to educate owners of non-certified North American forests, from whom they procure materials, about proper and responsible logging practices, sustainable land use and reforestation, the protection of critical habitats and water bodies, and the economic and environmental threats posed by illegal logging activities.

When SFI Program Participants source fiber from jurisdictions outside of North America, they must complete a risk assessment to avoid illegal sources of supply, and they must promote the conservation of biodiversity hotspots and high-biodiversity wilderness areas. However, one advantage of using SFI-certified materials is that 98 percent of the fiber sourced by SFI Program Participants for their North American facilities comes from the U.S. and Canada. To comply with the Standard's requirements for fiber sourcing, Program Participants must meet the requirements of 13 SFI program objectives, 22 performance measures, and 56 indicators. The SFI fiber sourcing objectives are:

#### **Landowner Outreach**

To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by forest landowners through fiber sourcing programs.

#### **Use of Qualified Resource and Qualified Logging Professionals**

Broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by encouraging forest landowners to utilize the services of forest management and harvesting professionals.

#### **Adherence to Best Management Practices**

Broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through the use of best management practices to protect water quality.

#### **Promote Conservation of Biological Diversity, Biodiversity Hotspots, and High-Biodiversity Wilderness Areas**

Broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by conserving biological diversity, biodiversity hotspots, and high-biodiversity wilderness areas.

#### **Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging**

Broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by avoidance of illegal logging.

#### **Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Fiber Sourced from Areas without Effective Social Laws**

Broaden the practice of sustainable forestry by avoiding controversial sources.

#### **Legal and Regulatory Compliance**

Compliance with applicable federal, provincial, state and local laws and regulations.

#### **Forestry Research, Science, and Technology**

To support forestry research, science, and technology, upon which sustainable forest management decisions are based.

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Any company that is certified to meet the Standard's fiber sourcing requirements can use SFI's Certified Sourcing Label. The SFI certified sourcing label and claim do not make claims about certified forest content. Certified sourcing can include fiber sourced from a company that conforms with objectives 8-20 of Section 2 - SFI 2010-2014 Standard's fiber sourcing requirements, from pre- or post-consumer recycled content, or from a certified forest, and fiber sourced from non-controversial sources.

#### **CHAIN OF CUSTODY STANDARD**

SFI chain-of-custody is a standard that tracks percentages of certified forest content, certified sourcing material, and post-consumer recycled content. Any organization that processes or

trades SFI-certified forest products is eligible to seek SFI chain-of-custody certification. This includes manufacturers of forest products, paper merchants, converters, wood dealers, wood yards, wholesalers, brokers and printers. To achieve SFI chain-of-custody certification, the organization must have processes in place to track the source of its raw materials, such as inventory control, employee training, reporting and invoicing, and meet the requirements in the SFI Chain-of-Custody Standard. Chain of custody is a means to assure the marketplace that the claims organizations make are credible and transparent.

The SFI program has three certified chain-of-custody labels, each indicating that a chain of custody has been third party certified. The CoC labels vary depending on whether a percentage based or a credit based method was used to calculate certified forest content flows.

#### **FAMILY FOREST OWNERS PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFITS**

Nationally, about 10 million family forest owners manage more than half of privately owned forestlands. A portion of the raw materials utilized by SFI Program Participants are supplied by family landowners who participate in the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) program. As Chuck Leavell says, SFI "brings wood from ATFS-certified forests to markets."

SFI recognizes ATFS certification, which applies to some 83,000 U.S. small landowners, representing 26 million acres of certified forestland. Among these small family forest landowners is Earl and Wanda Barrs, Owners of Gully Branch Tree Farm in Bleckly County, Georgia. The Barrs sum it up best when they say, "Across the country, families and individuals own more of America's forestland than any other group, including the federal government or industry. In Georgia, families own more than half of the forestland in the state, and 70 percent of the wood used by industry comes from family forest owners like us. These families play a key role in providing jobs and economic vitality for rural communities."

#### **FIRST NATIONS AND NATIVE TRIBES LOOK TO SFI CERTIFICATION**

More than 5 million acres of lands held by or managed for indigenous communities have been certified to the SFI forest management standard. The effort recognizes how first nations and native tribes in North America rely on forests to meet material life needs as well as to support cultural and spiritual traditions. "The SFI standard reinforces many of the objectives we currently have in managing our forests—protecting special sites, conservation, and community involvement," said Chief Lorraine Cobiness, president of the Miitigoog, a partnership of indigenous communities, logging companies

and forest product mills based in the Kenora Forest area of Ontario, Canada. With land holdings of about 2.8 million acres, the alliance is represented by the Wabaseemoong Independent Nation, Naotkamewanning First Nation, and the Ochiichagwe'Babigo'Ining Ojibway Nation.

"We found that a lot of the SFI principles matched the objectives and goals of First Nations communities for long-term management of their land base," says Corby Lamb, president of Capacity Forest Management, which manages forest tenures for First Nations companies across British Columbia.

### CONSERVATION RESEARCH DRIVES INFORMED DECISIONS

SFI Inc. is more than a standard. The group states that it recognizes that improving sustainable forestry requires an investment in research and the collaboration of many partners. SFI Inc. also understands the value of investment in science based research to improve best practices and inform revisions to the SFI Standard, which is why since 1995, SFI Program Participants have invested nearly \$1.4 billion in research on forestry issues. In 2012 alone, SFI Program Participants invested \$69.9 million in this vital research. SFI Program Participants were involved in over 250 conservation-based projects in 2012 with over 600 partner organizations.

Understanding the necessity for research to drive informed decisions in the future, in 2010 SFI Inc. launched its Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant Program. The program was launched to build on and support the Standard's long-standing commitment to research. It funds collaborative projects that support SFI values, such as endangered species management, landowner outreach and education, strengthening global supply chains, and strengthening community involvement in forestry.

- ▶ In collaboration with The American Bird Conservancy (ABC), SFI funded a project where ABC is working to reverse declines in the populations of Lewis's Woodpecker, the Flammulated Owl, the White-headed Woodpecker and Williamson's Sapsucker. These birds of conservation concern, as listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are a barometer of healthy ponderosa pine forests. Working in forests across the Pacific Northwest, ABC is promoting forest management practices that help foster healthy bird habitats, including thinning, understory management and creating snags.
- ▶ Working with the World Resources Institute (WRI), SFI funded the Forest Legality Alliance (FLA) Risk Information Tool that will reduce the proportion of wood and forest products of illegal origin imported into the United States.

By promoting legal and responsible logging activities, SFI and other certification programs work to keep illegally harvested materials out of the marketplace, where they compete unfairly with responsibly sourced products.

- ▶ Collaborating with The National Association of State Foresters (NASF), SFI funded a project designed to improve and protect our nation's water quality by collecting, analyzing and sharing the impact of best practices, state by state. This is important as all state forestry agencies have methods in place to protect water from pollution, like sediment associated with forestry activities. The SFI Standard requires working forests to meet or exceed state best practices, even in states where those practices are voluntary.
- ▶ Three non-profit conservation organizations, Land Trust for Tennessee, North Carolina Coastal Land Trust and Wildlands Network, were awarded an SFI conservation grant in 2011 to help hardwood forest owners in the southeastern United States understand the value of conservation easements. Each of these nonprofits provided advice and support for landowners and governments on the benefits of working forest conservation easements through direct contact, workshops and written materials. In less than one year, the project has resulted in protection for close to 2,000 acres/800 hectares, and more easements are being negotiated.

"The SFI Standard is making a real and positive difference towards keeping our forests as healthy, working forests," says Larry Selzer, president and CEO of The Conservation

Fund, and chair of the SFI Board of Directors. "Certification has fundamentally changed the way forests are managed here in North America." (More information about SFI's conservation grant programs is available online at <http://www.sfi.org/conservation-and-research/conservation-community-partnerships-grant-program/grant-program-home/>)

In order to meet the demands of buying products from healthy and sustainable forests, all stakeholders in the supply chain need to be part of investing in the future of our forests. SFI Inc. launched its SFI Forest Partners program in 2012, providing opportunities for a broad base of interests to grow SFI certification in North America, starting in the U.S. South which will advance conservation goals and partnerships. Time Inc., National Geographic Society, Macmillan and Pearson—became Founding Forest Partners in 2012 by making five-year commitments to the program's goals.

The SFI Forest Partners program brings together landowners, manufacturers, distributors, and customers to encourage more landowners to certify their forests and small mills to certify to the SFI Standard.

Helping buyers of forest products, forest landowners, and others collaborate on shared objectives can have a positive impact on our forests, our communities and forest products produced from responsibly managed forests and fiber supply chains.

### BUILDING PROJECTS USING SFI CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

With recognition and incentives comes market action. Examples of the use of SFI certified-

*Photo courtesy of Weber + Thompson Architects*



Blakely Hall in Issaquah, Washington earned Green Globes certification for its use of SFI-certified timber trusses.



Photos courtesy of Georgia Forestry Community



**Georgia Forestry Community and SFI work with Habitat for Humanity to build the Jones family a new home.**



wood in recent green building projects are found across the United States and in Canada across myriad building types. The latest is a Habitat for Humanity home in Macon, Georgia, now under construction. SFI has a unique network of 35 community-based SFI Implementation Committees (SICs) that respond to diverse local needs and engage directly in landowner education and training of logging professionals, as well as community projects.

Led by the Georgia SFI Implementation Committee among others, the build will be used to help demonstrate sustainability from the harvesting of trees from a Georgia forest and manufacturing at area mills to building the home—and then replanting the forest for the next generation. “We are pleased to partner with the Georgia Forestry Commission and SFI on the building of the decent, safe, accessible and affordable home for the Jones Family,” said Harold Tessoroff, Executive Director for Macon Area Habitat. “Habitat builds home with families in need of simple, decent, and affordable housing. Knowing that we are also building sustainably—using locally sourced materials certified to the SFI Standard—makes this build even more special, especially when it is also taking place within the wider context of our ongoing work to revitalize the Lynmore Estates neighborhood in south Macon.

Blakely Hall, a municipal building in Issaquah, Washington, designed by the Seattle-based architecture firm Weber + Thompson, earned Green Globes certification for its use of SFI-certified timber trusses from the Port Blakely Tree Farm. The hall utilized local materials whenever possible, such as the trusses that are showcased in a series of exposed columns in the main hall. Blakely Hall was the first building in the United States to earn Green Globes certification.

Another Washington building project, the

new Hands-On Children’s Museum of Olympia, Washington, designed by The Miller/Hull Partnership of Seattle, was built using SFI-certified wood donated by several companies based in Washington state.

The new museum building, with its wood and metal cladding and ample windows, is the centerpiece of a newly built cluster of sustainable buildings on Olympia’s East Bay, sited atop a former industrial location and brownfield. Achieving both LEED and Green Globes certifications, the facility employs waste methane power supplied by a cogeneration plant nearby, as well as reclaimed water for the museum’s pools and fountains. Inside, low-emitting building materials improve the indoor environmental quality, or IEQ, with paints, adhesives, flooring materials and composite woods that have zero or low VOC levels.

The museum project achieved a Green Globes New Construction (NC) certification with credits earned for certified wood products. Under the Green Building Initiative’s assessment and rating system, building projects earn points based on the “proportion of solid lumber, engineered wood, and other wood-based products [which] originate from sustainable sources that are a third-party certified sustainable forestry program,” including SFI. The New Construction

module forms the basis of its Proposed American National Standard for the design and construction of commercial buildings.

The 28,000-square-foot Museum achieved a score of 783 out of 933 available points, or 84 percent, earning an award of Three Green Globes. (With 85 percent or more of the points, the museum would have earned Four Green Globes, the highest rating.) In the “resources” category, the score earned was 86 percent.

Berschauer Phillips Construction’s Drew Phillips, describes the positive economic and environmental considerations behind the choice of wood. According to the project team, all of the 2x6 wall studs and the heavy timber beams, girders and columns are certified to meet SFI standards. “From my perspective it’s important to specify certified wood,” Phillips says. “Wood that comes from sustainably managed forest is just a more environmental approach to building.”

SFI Program Participants supported the project with donations and in-kind contributions—from companies like Weyerhaeuser and groups like the Washington State SFI Implementation Committee to local fabricators and suppliers such as Custom Source Woodworking, Inc., Christopherson Wood Floors, Windfall Lumber and International Wood Products. “The Hands-On Children’s Museum has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to sustainability through the policies and procedures that have been implemented as part of the construction of their new facility,” commented Eric T. Truelove, GGA, Assoc. AIA, principal of Madison, Wis.-based Green Building Resources, in the award of the Green Globes rating.

The benefits seen in these case studies of using the SFI standard for architectural and construction wood products certified to SFI is not lost on the broader building community. When green building tools recognize all forest certification standards they support more responsible forestry while giving the architectural community more options to source responsibly.

#### ABORIGINAL GROUPS PARTNER WITH SFI CERTIFIED ORGANIZATIONS

The Nanwakolas Council—a leadership group for 12 First Nations along British Columbia’s Pacific Coast—has partnered with International Forest Products Ltd., to develop standards for cedar trees suitable for carving traditional canoes, poles and big houses, and to create an inventory. To ensure that there are enough of the trees to meet at least 300 years of future need for the tribal nations, the group first produced a field card identifying the qualities of an “ideal tree:” 300 to 600 years old, with no knots, tight rings, a well-tapered trunk and a size of more than 3 feet in diameter. Then the locations of candidate trees were catalogued using GPS.



SFI Inc. is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that is solely responsible for maintaining, overseeing, and improving the internationally recognized Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) program. SFI Inc. is governed by a three-chamber board of directors representing environmental, social, and economic sectors equally. Learn more at [www.sfiprogram.org](http://www.sfiprogram.org) and [sfiprogram.org/BuySFI](http://sfiprogram.org/BuySFI)



# Quiz



## Continuing Education

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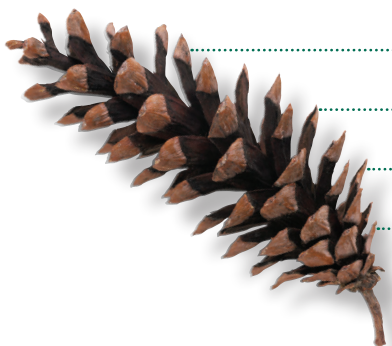
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### Quiz — For Reference Only

- Which of the following forest certification programs are endorsed by the Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification Systems (PEFC), an umbrella organization that endorses national and regional certification standards?
  - Only SFI is endorsed
  - SFI, ATFS, and CSA
  - CSA and SFI only
  - None of them are endorsed by the PEFC
- Green-building certifications and standards include ANSI/GBI 01-2010 Green Building Assessment Protocol for Commercial Buildings, ANSI/ICC 700-2008 National Green Building Standard, and the International Green Construction Code (IgCC). Which of these offer credits or points for using SFI, FSC or PEFC-certified wood products?
  - Only ANSI/ICC 700-2012
  - Only the IgCC
  - All of them do
  - None of them do
- Approximately what percentage of world's forests are certified to any forest certification standard (SFI, CSA, ATFS, FSC or PEFC)?
  - About 10%
  - About 25%
  - More than half
  - Almost all of them
- New executive orders or legislation in states such as Alabama, Georgia, Maine, and Mississippi expressly prohibit the use of green building rating systems that:
  - do not allow the use of imported wood products
  - do not give any credit for using certified wood
  - do not allow the use of uncertified wood
  - do not give equal credit to all forest certification standards
- LEED credits may be earned for FSC-certified wood building products.
  - True
  - False
- Forest certification can help prevent the trade of illegally logged forest products, which account for \$30 billion or more in transactions annually worldwide, or 50-90 percent of all logging where?
  - In major timber-producing countries in Europe
  - In some tropical countries of Central Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia
  - In the United States and Canada
  - In all timber-producing economies globally
- One unique aspect of the SFI forest certification program is its list of requirements for fiber sourcing, which helps promote responsible forest management:
  - on both certified and uncertified lands in North America
  - on certified lands in North America only
  - on uncertified lands in North America only
  - None of the above
- Through its certification program, the SFI helps to certify and encourage responsible forest management among:
  - private and public landowners
  - ATFS-certified forests and other small landowners
  - forests owned and managed by indigenous tribes and First Nations
  - All of the above
- SFI Program Participants and more than 600 partner organizations have invested in research on forestry issues over the last 25 years. In 2012 alone, SFI Program Participants invested how much money into forestry-related research?
  - \$1.4 billion
  - \$69.9 billion
  - \$69.9 million
  - SFI and its participants did not conduct research
- SFI certification has been used for achieving green building certifications.
  - True
  - False



# Notes Page







Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dotted lines.





*This says you support  
responsible forestry*



Wood from responsibly managed forests is an excellent choice for any new construction or renovation. Architects and builders are turning to products certified to the SFI® Standard to meet green building requirements.

The SFI standard was created for North American forests and supports domestic forest communities and workers. This is one of the key reasons why elected officials recognize the value that forest certification brings to green building and are taking action to ensure their building policies recognize all credible forest certification standards including SFI.

Many credible green building rating systems such as the International Green Construction Code, The National Green Building Standard (ANSI/ICC 700-2012) and GreenGlobes (ANSI/GBI 01-2010) recognize SFI.

Look and ask for wood certified to the SFI Standard for all your projects, and ask USGBC to recognize SFI in LEED.

Learn more at [sfiprogram.org/green-building](http://sfiprogram.org/green-building)



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