Using SFI-certified wood in cross-laminated timber (CLT), glue-laminated timber (glulam), and other mass timber products is a good choice for construction projects because the wood comes from sustainably managed forests to ensure a range of benefits, such as mitigating climate change, today and in the future.

SFI's 2022 Forest Management Standard includes a Climate Smart Forestry Objective that requires SFI-certified organizations to ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

The U.S. Green Building Council recognizes SFI-certified wood. This means using SFI-certified wood can earn points in LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and carries weight equivalent to other USGBC approved forest certifications. LEED is the most widely used green building rating system in the world.

The benefits of building with SFI-certified wood also include conserving water, ensuring biodiversity, and supporting sustainable jobs in rural areas.

“Sustainable forest management can maintain or enhance forest carbon stocks, and can maintain forest carbon sinks, including by transferring carbon to wood products, thus addressing the issue of sink saturation (high confidence). Where wood carbon is transferred to harvested wood products, these can store carbon over the long-term and can substitute for emissions-intensive materials reducing emissions in other sectors (high confidence).” — “Climate Change and Land,” UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change August 2019 Special Report
WOOD IS GOOD. CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLY HARVESTED WOOD IS BEST


“Both US and Canadian forests have the capacity to sustainably supply more timber as the market for mass timber buildings grows. We expect this to contribute to maintaining and possibly increasing the area of North American forests in the future.” — 2022 International Mass Timber Report

“Are there enough trees in North America? In short, yes. In both the U.S. and Canada, responsible forest management has resulted in more than 50 consecutive years of net growth that exceeds annual harvests. A 2021 study on the impact of long-term demand for wood products on U.S. forests found that forest growth exceeded harvest levels — even in the most conservative scenario, using the lowest estimate of growth and the highest estimate of harvest volumes required to meet incremental demand for both lumber and mass timber in 2035.” — Think Wood

5 reasons why sustainable timber must become a core global building material

1. Timber building materials store vast amounts of carbon
2. Timber building materials are durable and even fireproof
3. Timber buildings are easy and cost-effective to construct and run
4. Timber construction creates jobs and boosts the economy
5. Timber buildings make for healthier living and working environments

— World Economic Forum, Jan 24, 2023

Mass timber is “as strong as steel but 20% of the weight and a fraction of the carbon.” — Andrew Waugh of Waugh Thistleton, architects, The Guardian, January 30, 2023

For more information, contact:

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