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SFI and Habitat for Humanity DC team up to build homes in the nation’s capital



Sustainable Forestry Initiative
June 27, 2018



© The “Women in Wood” Build Day was led by Kathy Abusow, SFI’s President and CEO. Photo by SFI

A diverse team of women from the forest product sector got together for a green cause.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is passionate about forests and sustainable forest products being used for projects that improve the shared quality of life of people all over the world. Last week, working with its partner, Habitat for Humanity, SFI put this passion into action with a team build in DC’s Southeast neighborhood which has a low homeownership rate compared to the DC average.

On June 20, a “Women in Wood” Build Day was led by Kathy Abusow, SFI’s President and CEO. She was joined by a diverse team of women from the forest products sector, who all share a passion for making a difference in their communities and a positive impact on the environment.



© The team was a diverse group of women who all share a passion for making a difference in their communities. Photo by SFI

“I was so glad to be in DC for this build with Habitat for Humanity of Washington, D.C. SFI and Habitat are working together to elevate the role of women in inspiring change while providing affordable housing to those in need. Playing even a small part in this societal challenge of affordable housing really represents SFI’s commitment to community,” said Kathy Abusow, SFI’s President and CEO.

The SFI community has donated countless volunteer hours and certified products to more than a dozen Habitat for Humanity builds across Canada and the U.S. in the past few years. Their partnership highlights the important benefits of healthy forests, responsible sourcing and sustainable communities, and aligns with DC Habitat’s mission of providing energy-efficient, safe, affordable homes for low-income families in D.C.

“Our vision is a DC where everyone has a safe, decent place to live. We’re working toward that vision by building green, which reduces energy-costs for our families and reduces our impact on the environment both during and after construction. Partnering with SFI—an organization that shares our commitment to sustainability and to giving back to the community—was a natural fit, and we couldn’t be more excited to work alongside them at the “Women in Wood” Day,” shared DC Habitat President and CEO, Susanne Slater.



© This project included framing lumber from Weyerhaeuser, sub-flooring wood panels from Louisiana Pacific, and wall sheathing from Huber Engineered Wood Products.

Pictured above are Nadine Block, COO and SVP, Government Affairs, SFI Inc.; Esther Cowles, Senior Director, Education Programs, Project Learning Tree, SFI Inc.; Jackie Stallard, Director, Curriculum and Partnerships, Project Learning Tree, SFI Inc.; Amy Doty, Senior Manager, Community Engagement, SFI Inc.; Amandine Nonga, Business Operations Coordinator, SFI Inc.; Donna Harman, President and CEO, AF&PA; Jan Poling, Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, American Forest & Paper Association; Julia Rossman, Intern, Forest Resources Association; Jane Alonso, Vice President, Government Relations, National Alliance of Forest Owners; Shannon McCabe, Executive Director, Association of Consulting Foresters; Cassie Phillips, Retired, Weyerhaeuser; and Liz Woodworth, Principal, Wood Co Consulting.

Another way SFI exemplifies its commitment to sustainability is to encourage the use of products certified to SFI Standards. This project included framing lumber from Weyerhaeuser, sub-flooring wood panels from Louisiana Pacific, and wall sheathing from Huber Engineered Wood Products. And the team enjoyed donuts from Dunkin’ Donuts in SFI labeled packaging and lunch boxes from Subway catering in SFI labeled packaging during the build.

Using building materials certified to SFI Standards means the wood comes from responsibly managed forests, which benefits not just the environment, but the communities that rely on them. Together, SFI and Habitat for Humanity are working together to benefit future homeowners and neighborhoods.

For more information about SFI and its partners, please see sfiprogram.org.



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