

# Canada's Forests: Our Roots, Our Future



The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) provides an important forum for federal, provincial and territorial governments to discuss and exchange information, provide leadership and promote action on common forest and forestry-related issues of Canadian public and international concern.

# Our Sustainably Managed Forests

Canada's abundant and healthy forests play a critical role in our global future. Rooted in leading scientific research, our approach to sustainable forest management means our forests can be a natural solution to climate change and support our transition to a low-carbon society.

Canada is home to 9% of the world's forests, which represent **40% of the world's certified sustainably managed forests.**



Less than half of **1%** of Canada's forestlands are harvested annually, significantly smaller than the areas burned by fires or affected by insects.



Almost **10%** of Canada's forests are legally protected, with an additional 3% restricted for other reasons.

From 2018 to 2022, the federal government announced



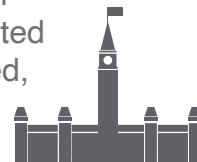
**\$1.3 billion**

to establish and enhance protected areas.



Nearly **94% of Canada's forests are on public land.**

Laws, regulations and policies in Canada ensure all areas harvested on public land must be reforested, either by replanting or through natural regeneration.



Annually, around **600 million** new trees are planted on public lands.

With over 9 ha per person, **Canadians enjoy more forest area than any other country.**



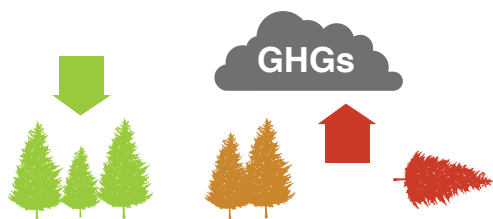
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of Canadians live in or adjacent to forested areas.

# Our Climate Solutions

Our forests and how we manage them have a critical role to play in providing nature-based solutions to climate change. A climate-smart approach involves a balance of protection and harvesting, and healthy growth of Canada's abundant and diverse forests.

Canada's forests both absorb and emit atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). In any given year, depending on the area of natural disturbances such as forest fires, insect outbreaks and windthrow, Canada's forests will be either a source or a sink of greenhouse gases.



Management activities in Canada's forests, such as harvesting, tree planting and enhancing tree growth, **removed**

## ~8 million tonnes

**of carbon dioxide equivalent. (2021)** from the atmosphere. This takes into account emissions from harvested wood products.

Between 2005 and 2020, the use of bioenergy has reduced forest product facilities GHG emissions from fossil fuels (direct and indirect emissions) by **53%**.



Although forest fires threaten human and carbon values, fire plays an important and beneficial role in **forest health, succession and nutrient cycling**.

There is a second life to trees. When you buy Canadian forest products, you support a low carbon future by choosing a renewable raw material which continues to store carbon.



Canada's forest sector is expanding the bioeconomy. Increasing innovation in the sector is producing new renewable and sustainable bioproducts, such as carbon foam, bioplastics and biocrude.

With investments and new policies, the forest products sector could **contribute an estimated 18 to 46 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in greenhouse gas emissions reductions** annually (relative to current emissions) by 2050.

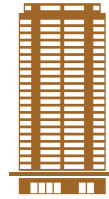


# Our Forest Sector

Canada is a global leader in finding new ways to sustainably use forests, whether that's to strategically use long-life wood products to store carbon and offset greenhouse gases, or to provide society with more renewable energy options.



Once a tree is harvested, its second life begins and the products we create from them contribute to a low-carbon future in Canada.



Replace carbon-intensive, non-renewable construction materials with structural engineered wood products.



Use every part of the tree: wood chips and sawdust can be made into panels, paper products, textiles, packaging, wood pellets and much more.



Offset fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions with local forest biomass and manufacturing residues.



Canada's forest sector provides direct jobs for more than **210,000 Canadians**, supporting about 300 communities.

The forest sector contributed **\$33.4 billion** to Canada's GDP in 2022. **\$\$\$**

More women are joining the industry, with more women than men graduating from programs related to agriculture, natural resources, and conservation.



Innovative technology is enabling the use of wood chips as lightweight, **sustainable, bioplastics for 3D printing.**