

**The ICFPA calls on governments and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to:**

- Recognize sustainable forest management and reforestation for their contribution to the global climate effort;
- Recognise the efforts and achievements of the forest products industry to mitigate climate change;
- Support technological innovations in the industry, and value chain;
- Establish a clear and predictable policy framework for the use of forest biomass that reduces the risk for investments, innovation and the future competitiveness of the industry;
- Provide for market-based mechanisms capable of valuing mitigation actions in order to incentivise the industry's potential contribution.

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The International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) and its members are committed to sustainable development to ensure that environmental, social and economic benefits are available to current and future generations.

The ICFPA membership is making significant industry contributions to climate change mitigation for the benefit of the green economy and broader society.



# The Forest Products Industry

**Part of the Solution to Climate Change**



INTERNATIONAL  
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FOREST & PAPER  
ASSOCIATIONS

The ICFPA serves as a forum of global dialogue, co-ordination and co-operation. Together, ICFPA members represent over 90 percent of global paper production and more than half of global wood production. For more information, visit [www.icfpa.org](http://www.icfpa.org).



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## How the Forest Products Industry Addresses Climate Change

As a renewable and recyclable resource, forests of all types play a critical role in the global carbon cycle. The forest products industry is helping to alleviate climate change through carbon sequestration and investments to improve resource efficiency as well as the development of innovative new products that replace fossil fuel-based materials. ICFPA members are supporting national and regional climate policies and programmes.

### **The Road to a Lower Carbon Footprint**

The industry is reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through restructuring and efficiency improvements at mills. The 2015 ICFPA Sustainability Progress Report (based on 2013 data) shows that members have achieved an impressive drop in their GHG emissions intensity of 5 percent since 2010/2011 and 17 percent since the baseline year of 2004-2005. A significant component of these improvements has been reducing reliance on fossil fuel energy and producing more “green” renewable energy from biomass on-site to run operations. The 2015 report also indicates that members collectively increased their share of carbon neutral bio-energy in their fuel mix by three percentage points to 61 percent.

The forest products industry is inherently renewable. ICFPA members promote sustainable forest manage-

ment with some 300 million hectares of forest areas certified by an independent third-party from which is sourced a significant amount of wood fibre used by the industry. By following best practices, well-managed forests of all types can be a positive contributor to a carbon management system.

The carbon neutrality of biomass harvested from sustainably managed forests is a reality that is recognized internationally, under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol and implementation decisions.

### **Carbon Sequestration**

The world’s forests are a carbon “sink” that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in trees and soil. As part of the industry’s sustainability practices, existing trees that are harvested are generally regrown ensuring the maintenance of carbon stocks and new plantings on degraded lands generate further GHG removals. The carbon is also stored in products made from wood, including paper. This storage is further prolonged through the recovery and recycling of forest products. For example, the global recovery rate for paper has grown to nearly 58 percent in 2013 compared to 46 percent in 2000.

### **Innovative Bio-Based Products and Technologies**

The global industry is finding new innovative ways of optimally using wood fibre. In addition to its use in conventional forest products, wood fibre bio-products can substitute for items traditionally made from fossil fuels. ICFPA members are developing new markets for bio-based products through innovative technologies. Wood fibre is now present in everything from chemicals to cosmetics to car parts. Cellulose can be used

in a wide variety of applications including 3D printing, reinforced plastic, high-end sporting equipment and medical applications. Consumers can feel confident that by using wood-based products they are contributing to a low-carbon economy.



## The Road to Paris: Call to Action

The global forest products industry has made significant strides in reducing its carbon footprint, stocking carbon, and generating GHG removals – all helping to mitigate climate change. ICFPA members are on a journey of continuous improvement. We collectively call on the parties to the UNFCCC at the Paris negotiations to continue to consider biomass as carbon neutral when harvested from sustainably managed forests and to further recognize all positive contributions that forests and forest products provide in combating climate change. As the UN’s New York Declaration on Forests states, “Forests represent one of the largest, most cost-effective climate solutions available today.”