



# PEFC AND FORESTS:

## YOUR CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION

“ There is a magic machine that sucks carbon out of the air, costs very little, and builds itself. It's called a tree. A tree is an example of a natural climate solution.”

*George Monbiot*

# PEFC AND FORESTS:

## YOUR CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION



**“Climate change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment. From shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, to rising sea levels that increase the risk of catastrophic flooding, the impacts of climate change are global in scope and unprecedented in scale.” *United Nations***

Climate change affects us all. At PEFC, we work to ensure the world's forests can deliver their full contribution to our climate change actions. But we can't do it alone. Together, we can all make a difference. By choosing to buy sustainable products from PEFC-certified forests, you help us safeguard forests.

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### Climate change and forests

**Forests are at the heart of society's action to combat climate change and its impacts. As carbon sinks, trees capture and store carbon, removing significant volumes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Forest products meanwhile, provide us with a carbon-neutral alternative to our reliance on fossil fuels.**



To ensure that forests reach their full potential as a climate change solution, they must be managed sustainably. Sustainable management helps to increase the amount of carbon dioxide that forests remove from the atmosphere and improves their ability to store it as carbon in their biomass.

Forest management also strengthens the capacity of people and communities living in and around forests to adapt to the effects of climate change. It provides benefits to all, from supporting local livelihoods and protecting biodiversity, to reducing rural poverty.





“ Approximately 2.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, one-third of the CO<sub>2</sub> released from burning fossil fuels, is absorbed by forests every year.” IUCN



### **PEFC, climate change and certification**

Forest certification is crucial in promoting and providing evidence of sustainable forest management. It gives a framework to forest owners and managers to ensure that their practices are sustainable. Through certification, they can demonstrate that they apply sustainable management practices in their forest today.

PEFC, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, is the world's leading forest certification system. Our framework, the requirements that forest managers need to follow to become certified, is applied globally in almost fifty countries.

PEFC requirements help maximize the role of forests in fighting climate change, and the benefits they provide in regulating the climate and storing carbon. Forest loss and deforestation is prevented by prohibiting exploitative activities like the conversion of forests to agricultural land, while protecting areas with high-carbon stock. Climate positive practices in forest management are promoted, including greenhouse gas emission reductions.

In addition, PEFC requirements address the environmental impacts of droughts, floods, storms and forest fires, all of which are expected to intensify as climate change progresses.

“ Good forest management secures the survival of forest ecosystems and enhances their environmental, sociocultural and economic functions.

It can both maximize forests' contribution to climate change mitigation and help forests and forest-dependent people adapt to new conditions caused by climate change.”

FAO





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## Climate change and forest products

**Forests have more to offer than just acting as carbon sinks; and it's the products that come from them. The plastics in packaging, the synthetic fibres in clothes, and concrete and steel in homes all have a heavy carbon footprint. Forests can provide an alternative.**

Sustainably produced wood and paper-based goods are a renewable and environmentally friendly choice compared to other materials. Timber continues to store carbon, even after the tree has been harvested and used. Furniture and wooden homes can store carbon for hundreds of years.

By using forest-based materials, we can move away from the more common, energy-intensive materials we use now. Plastic uses 4% of the global oil production, but we can make materials with similar properties to plastics from tree fibres.

Developments in engineered wood mean we can now build higher and faster with timber, instead of relying on concrete and steel. In our clothing too, we can replace water and energy hungry cotton and synthetic fibres with forest-based fibres. Similarly, energy production from forest-based wood and biomass can replace other more greenhouse-gas intensive products, such as oil and coal.

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“ Provided they come from sustainably managed forests, wood products contribute to offsetting greenhouse gas emissions for their life duration, and can ultimately serve as sources of energy.”

UNECE

“ Production of wood-based fibres emits, on average, 15 times less carbon compared to synthetic fibres.”

UNECE/FAO



maria lafuerite  
Garment made of  
PEFC Certified  
fabrics



“Creating additional value is one of the best ways to keep forests standing, as it prevents them from being cleared for alternative, unsustainable land uses” *UNECE/FAO*



### ***PEFC is the link between forests and consumers***

Products made of wood can only be a climate change solution if they originate from sustainably managed forests. But how can we know that the wood in a product comes from a certified, sustainably managed forest?

That's where PEFC chain of custody certification comes in. Chain of custody certification tracks the wood from certified forests to the final product, monitoring each step of the supply chain. It gives you the assurance that the product you are buying came from a sustainably managed, PEFC-certified forest.

Furthermore, buying certified forest products helps save our forests. The conversion of forests to other purposes with a higher financial return, such as cattle ranches and palm oil plantations, is a lead cause of deforestation. Buying forest products gives the forest value, it creates demand, and provides a financial incentive to keep a forest a forest.

Through certification, we can make responsible choices and use our purchasing power to support the sustainable management of the world's forests.

“Using timber for construction instead of concrete could reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 31%.”

*UNECE*





## What you can do

It's clear that forests have a huge role to play in our fight to stop climate change. If sustainably managed, forests can help regulate the climate by locking in carbon, and their products provide environmentally friendly alternatives. But what can we all do to help?

### Buy PEFC-certified products

It's simple. All you need to do is to choose PEFC-certified products the next time you go shopping. Especially if it means that you choose products made of wood instead of other materials such as plastic.

PEFC-certified products come from PEFC-certified, sustainably managed forests. Forests that are managed in line with our strict requirements.

Moreover, you not only help support climate change actions, you also support the millions of forest owners who manage their forests sustainably. Forest owners who care for their forests and depend on them for their livelihoods.







## Look for the label

The PEFC label helps you make a simple choice: the choice for a product made from a natural, renewable resource. A product that helps us safeguard our forests and fight climate change.

You can find the PEFC label on a huge range of products, from tissues, toilet paper and notebooks, to wooden flooring, bookshelves and your garden shed. And of course, don't forget the packaging: tea bags, cereal, rice, and so much more, are all available in PEFC-certified packaging.

Importantly, the PEFC label allows everyone to contribute to tackling climate change and help solve the climate crisis simply by choosing forest-based products from sustainable sources.



### Help make a difference:

look for the PEFC label  
and buy certified!





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