

CONTRIBUTING TO A CARBON NEUTRAL BIOECONOMY

Wood based products can foster a green and sustainable growth while playing a key role in decarbonising energy- and emission-intensive sectors, such as construction, plastics, and textiles. Wood is a versatile and aesthetic building material that can store large quantities of atmospheric CO₂ above the earth's surface easily and without risk.



Forests are more than carbon sinks. They are a vital source of raw material –

WOOD!



As an industry, we have an essential part to play not just by providing solutions to substitute non-renewable products but also in spreading the news about the role of the forest-based industries in healthy, resilient and sustainably managed forests.

CIRCULARITY IS OUR BUSINESS MODEL

Timber is a natural raw material and therefore follows the biological cycle, with the possibility of recycling.

Circular practices are applied throughout entire wood-based value chains via processing and material efficiency, circular design, material cascading, and reuse and recycling strategies –linked with the market reality.

Residues, by-products and post consumers wood can find numerous additional applications as they can be used for the production of other fiber-based materials, such as pulp and paper, oriented strand boards, a number of engineered wood products, and more recently polymers filled /reinforced with wood and other natural fibers!



Image: The virtuous cycle of wood ©CEI-Bois



LIVING WITH WOOD

We need to choose materials and products with a strong benefit, when looking at complete environmental impact and performance.

- Currently, 75 % of the total material demand is met with non-renewables resources – only 25 % from renewable materials
- Global population is expected to increase from 7.7 billion in 2019 to 9.7 billion in 2050
- Global consumption of natural resources is expected to more than double from 92 billion tonnes in 2017 to 190 billion tonnes in 2060



HIGHLIGHTS:

- **NEED FOR AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH.** The forest-based sector is key to the development of a circular and sustainable EU bioeconomy. The woodworking industry has big potential to contribute to renewable alternatives to fossil-based materials => the substitution effect shall be fully recognized.
- **NEED FOR A FLEXIBLE EU BIOECONOMY STRATEGY.** A transition towards a sustainable bioeconomy face significant uncertainties as many influencing factors play a role, such as climate change, technological and economic development, dynamic consumption patterns and policy and governance issues. Need for turning consumers into environmental conscious citizens.



Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment
Finland

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Agriculture, Forestry, Regions
and Water Management

Special Meeting of the Technical Working Group ‘Wood governance across Europe and beyond’

Date: **29th November 2023**
Location: **International Wood Construction Conference (IHF), Innsbruck/Austria**

