

# RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY ABOUT FSC WOOD

## WHAT IS FSC?

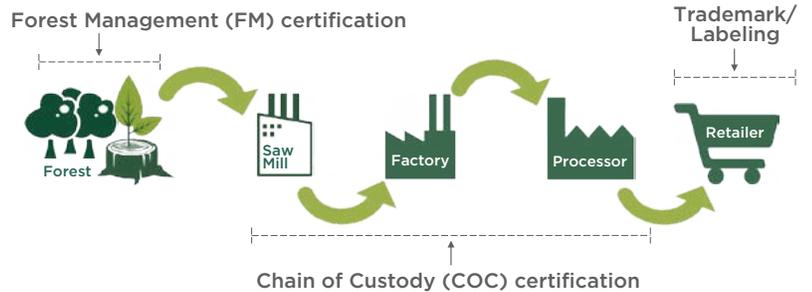
The **Forest Stewardship Council** (FSC) operates a certification program for responsibly managed forests and the products that are sourced from them. Their principles spell out a triple-bottom-line approach to responsible forest management, balancing benefits to the environment, the economy, and society (**FSC - The 10 Principles**).

## WHY IS FSC IMPORTANT?

Deforestation causes 20% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Additionally, it decreases the capacity of biological systems to sequester CO<sub>2</sub>. FSC Certification helps protect forests from irresponsible and unsustainable management practices so that future generations can continue to have access to these resources, forest-dwelling species can continue to thrive, and ecosystem services from forests can continue to be enjoyed by all species, both human and non-human (**Why Forests Matter**).

## WHY IS THIS PART OF THE LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE?

The intent of Imperative 12, Responsible Industry, is “to reduce the damaging environmental and social impacts related to



HOW DOES FSC WORK? | DIAGRAM COURTESY FSC

industries that rely on natural resource extraction and plant cultivation.” This aligns well with FSC’s mission to “... promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically prosperous management of the world’s forests” (**FSC Mission and Vision**).

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

The Living Building Challenge (l12) requires all wood used in projects to be FSC certified, from salvaged sources, or intentionally harvested from onsite timber for the purpose of clearing the site. For more information regarding the requirements of the Living Building Challenge, see the v3.1 Living Building Challenge Standard (**v3.1 LBC Standard**).

## WILL IT COST MORE?

Not always (**Sustainable Northwest - Is FSC Wood More Expensive?**)! It depends on market conditions and the length of the supply chain (**FSC-Certified Wood and Products Fetch Higher Prices**). Ultimately, FSC wood

may be more expensive because non-FSC suppliers discount their products to compete with FSC suppliers (**FSC - Costs and Benefits of Forest Certification**).

Following the tips on the next page will help minimize cost premiums associated with FSC wood.



FORESTS  
COMPRISE  
**31%**  
of EARTH'S  
LAND AREA



FORESTS  
SUPPORT NEARLY  
**80%**  
OF THE WORLD'S  
TERRESTRIAL  
SPECIES



FORESTS  
protect our SOILS,  
provide much of our  
FRESH WATER, and  
regulate and stabilize  
our CLIMATE



FORESTS  
SUPPORT THE  
LIVELIHOODS OF  
**1.6**  
BILLION PEOPLE

# RESPONSIBLE INDUSTRY TIPS FOR SOURCING

Finding FSC wood can be tough, but here are some tips and resources to make the process easier.

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR...

### FINDING FSC?

- [FSC Lumber Sourcing by State](#)
- [FSC Marketplace](#)
- [FSC Product Inquiry Form](#)
- [FSC Public Certificate Search](#)

### SPECIFYING FSC?

- FSC should be written in the performance requirements
- Include Chain of Custody documentation as submittal requirement

## HOW TO MEET LBC REQUIREMENTS

### IF YOU ENCOUNTER FSC SOURCING ISSUES

The Living Building Challenge has certain Clarifications and Exceptions which allow projects to use additional types of wood. Using these types of wood may require additional documentation, as explained in the [Materials Petal Handbook](#):

- Salvaged wood
- Underwater salvaged wood
- Intentional on-site harvested wood
- Pending FSC Certification wood
- Invasive species
  - Pine Beetle Infected
  - Western Juniper
  - Black Locust
- Donated surplus wood
- Urban harvested wood
- Storm-felled wood

## TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

- Begin the search for FSC wood early - there can be longer lead times for FSC wood
- Communicate with contractors and subcontractors early - educate about project goals
- Identify potential alternatives
- Engage with mills and vendors to request an FSC option
- Advocate for adoption of FSC standards and products - make sourcing easier in the future
- Design projects to use “standard materials”, rather than materials with custom dimensions
- Be thoughtful about placement of wood in projects

*The staff of the Forest Stewardship Council US are available to help project teams. They can be reached at [info@us.fsc.org](mailto:info@us.fsc.org).*

*For questions about the Living Building Challenge, please contact [lbc.support@living-future.org](mailto:lbc.support@living-future.org).*

## CASE STUDIES

The Bullitt Center ([Case Study](#))

Tyson Living Learning Center ([Case Study](#))

Hawaii Prep Academy Energy Lab ([Case Study](#))

Forest Stewardship Council 2015 Leadership Awards Winners ([Case Study](#))