

# Statement on Forest Stewardship

---



We believe the role of business in society is to create goods and services that help people improve their lives, and to do so responsibly while consuming fewer resources. We see our role in forest stewardship as vital to our longevity, our customers' success and society's well-being.

Forests provide value to society in many ways. They help protect air and water quality, support plant and wildlife biodiversity, sequester carbon, offer recreational opportunities and provide economic value. The world's forests and the biodiversity associated with them are under continued risk for conversion to non-forest use due to expansion of agriculture, residential and commercial development, energy infrastructure and other uses. As a company that relies upon forests for the wood and wood fiber used to make the building and paper products society values, Georgia-Pacific is committed to helping maintain healthy forests not only in the areas in which we operate, but also in other areas where forests are at risk.

Forested acres in the United States have remained stable over the past 100 years, despite significant increases in population and gross domestic product (GDP). During this time, changes in land use have been common, as certain timberlands are converted for development, infrastructure and agricultural use when they provide higher value to their owners. Other lands are reforested or afforested when forest ecosystems are more valuable.

Strong markets for timber and related ecosystem services create economic incentives for landowners to keep forests as forests. The primary cause of forest cover loss in the U.S. is the relative value of alternative use for the land and not timber production.

Additionally, we promote the use and recovery of recycled fiber as a valuable raw material to extend the useful life of each fiber. Both recycled and fresh fiber provide unique attributes and are limited in availability; therefore, we advocate for utilizing each type of fiber where it creates the most value and is the most efficient in producing the properties and qualities our customers desire.

Georgia-Pacific's stewardship approach encompasses the responsible management of our actions and resources entrusted to our care in a manner that respects the rights of others. This includes building mutually beneficial outcomes with customers, employees, suppliers, communities and key constituencies.

As a result, we follow and promote good science-based [protection](#), [restoration](#), [enhancement](#), [sequestration](#) and [recovery practices](#).

# PROTECT

Georgia-Pacific supports the value of protecting the world's unique and biodiverse forests. These high conservation value forests can take many forms and include everything from lush tropical jungles in Brazil to patches of old growth cypress in the Southeastern United States. Because of the significant ecosystem services these areas provide, we are taking steps to protect these rare forestlands. Our Due Care Program helps us to ascertain forests that need protection internationally, and our state-of-the-art satellite mapping program helps us avoid sourcing from areas in the U.S. identified as having high conservation value through our Endangered Forest Program. We also take a proactive approach, working with tree planting partners in reforestation and regenerative planting projects throughout the U.S.



## Deforestation, Degradation and Conversion

Georgia-Pacific believes that forests play an important role in society. Therefore, we advocate for activities that promote an increase in forest area through sustainable market-based approaches. The majority of forests in the U.S. are owned by small private landowners, and the demand and use of forest products provide an economic incentive to keep their land forested. However, higher values for other land uses preclude forest stability in many instances. Georgia-Pacific regularly monitors forests in our supply basins to ensure that forest inventories are at healthy levels, despite constant land-use changes.

Georgia-Pacific does not support conversion of natural forests to non-forest. We have validated that our supply chain is at low risk for conversion of natural forests through avoidance of purchasing wood from high-risk areas and/or mitigation measures. New technological advances in remote sensing and analytics give us the latest knowledge on forest sourcing areas.

Georgia-Pacific's forestry team alongside Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and data science analysts developed a technology platform that includes enhanced traceability and forest monitoring systems, called ForestLogic™. This robust collection of applications and analytics enhances visibility in the supply chain and supports our forest stewardship efforts. The ForestLogic™ technology platform includes forest cover change detection, which is used to monitor supply chains and help ensure that suppliers are not sourcing from areas that have rare and unique biodiversity attributes.

The threat of forest degradation in the U.S. is low due to laws restricting harvest of primary forests and the use of native tree species. Forest management also plays a role in combating forest degradation by improving forest health, resilience and productivity.





## PROTECT (continued)

### Endangered/High Conservation Value Forests



Georgia-Pacific developed a program to identify and protect endangered and high conservation value forests in our wood procurement basins across the United States. We

identified these areas using scientific methodologies in conjunction with experts in ecology and geographic information system mapping that considers and ranks ecological values associated with forestlands in our procurement basins. Some of these ecological values include rare and endangered species, high biodiversity hot spots, intact forest landscapes, and resiliency and connectivity. In addition, each of these areas is verified through on-the-ground visits and/or satellite imagery.

Georgia-Pacific has committed to not buy wood fiber from these areas except in unique situations when active forest management is needed to improve habitat for endangered, rare and/or vulnerable species.

As part of this process, we:

- Work with environmental organizations and landowners to understand the values they believe are important in identifying and protecting ecologically important forests. We also work with other organizations to implement new scientific data gathering and monitoring methods.
- Implement procedures to help ensure we don't receive wood from these high conservation value forests. These procedures include employee training, an online supplier portal, satellite monitoring and contract requirements.



Wildlife Sites & Projects



Wildlife Habitat Council  
Certified Sites & Projects



Forestry Sites & Projects

# RESTORE

## Ecosystem Diversity and Habitat Conservation

A healthy, diverse forest landscape is composed of a variety of tree species of differing ages. The availability of both softwood and hardwood forests is important not only from an ecological standpoint, but these forests also support forest industries. Softwoods, such as pines and other conifers, provide the vast majority of fiber for our lumber and building materials. The fibers from both softwoods and hardwoods are important components of the paper and tissue products that we make.

To help maintain forest diversity, we support efforts to grow and maintain forests of all types where they are best suited.

Georgia-Pacific works with others in the forestry and environmental community to support wildlife and forest restoration and enhancement projects in many landscapes across North America. Our efforts include protection of endangered species, restoration of forest ecosystems, promotion of wildlife biodiversity and recovery from wildfires and other natural disasters.

Healthy, diverse and sustainable forests increase biodiversity, ecosystem services and countless other societal benefits.

More information can be found on our website:  
[GP.com/EnvironmentalStewardship](https://www.gp.com/EnvironmentalStewardship)



# ENHANCE

Georgia-Pacific is committed to knowing the sources of all wood, plant-based fiber and forest products we buy to understand the sustainability of those areas from a landscape perspective. We do not knowingly purchase illegally harvested or traded forest products, and we make sure our suppliers are aware of our expectations. Georgia-Pacific actively participates in the development, implementation and ongoing improvement of applicable certification standards that promote sustainable forest management in the United States and other countries as a way to verify responsible forestry. We view competition among these programs as important to continually improve the practice of sustainable forestry on all lands. We also promote the use of landscape approaches instead of stand-level actions to provide widespread sustainability outcomes.

Georgia-Pacific's stewardship approach encompasses the responsible management of our actions and the resources entrusted to our care in a manner that respects the rights of others. This includes building mutually beneficial, long-term partnerships with customers, employees, suppliers, communities and other key constituencies.

## Wood Fiber Sourcing in the United States

More than 90% of the fresh fiber we use comes from the U.S., where Georgia-Pacific builds relationships with suppliers and landowners to promote responsible forestry and incorporate these expectations into our sourcing contracts. The majority of U.S. forests are privately owned; therefore, strong private property rights, a free market and the rule of law create a base of sustainable practices.

>90%



Georgia-Pacific uses internal controls to verify the legality and sustainability of its domestic sources of wood fiber and forest products. These controls include: contract requirements;

our Supplier Sustainability Guidelines; our Due Care Program; extensive local knowledge of fiber basins where we have a Georgia-Pacific forester on the ground; outreach to forest landowners; use of trained loggers in harvesting activities; and maintenance of long-term relationships with suppliers. When our customers request further assurance, Georgia-Pacific works to provide wood certified by established and recognized certification systems.

## Forestry Certifications

Georgia-Pacific holds several sustainable forestry certifications,\* including [Forest Stewardship Council® \(FSC®\)](#), [Sustainable Forestry Initiative® \(SFI®\)](#), and [Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification \(PEFC\)](#), and maintains them through regular third-party audits across all its operating areas. Much of the forested land in the U.S.



is not certified under a formal forest management scheme. However, this land is still managed responsibly. All fiber purchases comply with procurement certification standards, such as

SFI Certified Sourcing and FSC Controlled Wood, ensuring legal and sustainable sourcing practices. All wood and wood fiber are harvested by trained loggers who follow best management practices to protect water quality, soil health, and overall ecosystem integrity during harvests. Additionally, fiber purchased outside of North America is accompanied by a chain of custody certification, providing further traceability and assurance of sustainable practices. We are committed to knowing where there is risk in our supply chain and actively mitigating or avoiding that risk.

\*GP LLC Certifications:

FSC C108208	FSC®: <a href="https://fsc.org">fsc.org</a>
SFI-00007	SFI®: <a href="https://forests.org">forests.org</a>
PEFC/29-31-221	PEFC: <a href="https://pefc.org">pefc.org</a>



## ENHANCE (continued)

### Wood Product Sourcing in Other Countries

Georgia-Pacific purchases market pulp and other semi-finished and finished wood-fiber-based products from other countries. Since forests in several regions of the world are especially vulnerable to deforestation and degradation, Georgia-Pacific is vigilant in these areas to ensure that our procurement practices lead to good outcomes.

As part of its procurement process, Georgia-Pacific has a robust Due Care Program, which evaluates not only the tree species involved in

the product, but also the country/region of origin, the supply chain, legal documentation and societal values. This risk review process has several facets and includes reviewing public information, conducting on-the-ground meetings with suppliers concerning sustainable forestry and Indigenous community commitments and engaging with third-party groups that have local expertise. These commitments are in conjunction with the requirements of the U.S. Lacey Act, which prohibits the import of illegal wood products into the United States.

Boreal forests, found in sub-polar regions around the globe, are known for storing vast amounts of carbon and are home to many iconic wildlife species, as well as the home of many Indigenous peoples. Where it operates or purchases fiber from this region, Georgia-Pacific will actively support collaborative and science-based efforts to conserve and/or protect high conservation value and intact forests. We are committed to helping achieve the



recovery of boreal species at risk, including Canada's woodland caribou, and continue to support collaboration and dialogue to recognize and respect Indigenous people's rights and traditional knowledge.

In tropical and sub-tropical areas, oil palms have been a leading factor in deforestation of high biodiversity rain forests and peatlands. To combat this issue, Georgia-Pacific instituted a Palm Oil Policy, which precludes the purchase of products containing palm oil or its derivatives unless they carry a certification from the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). This certification verifies that protections are in place that provide Georgia-Pacific assurance that:

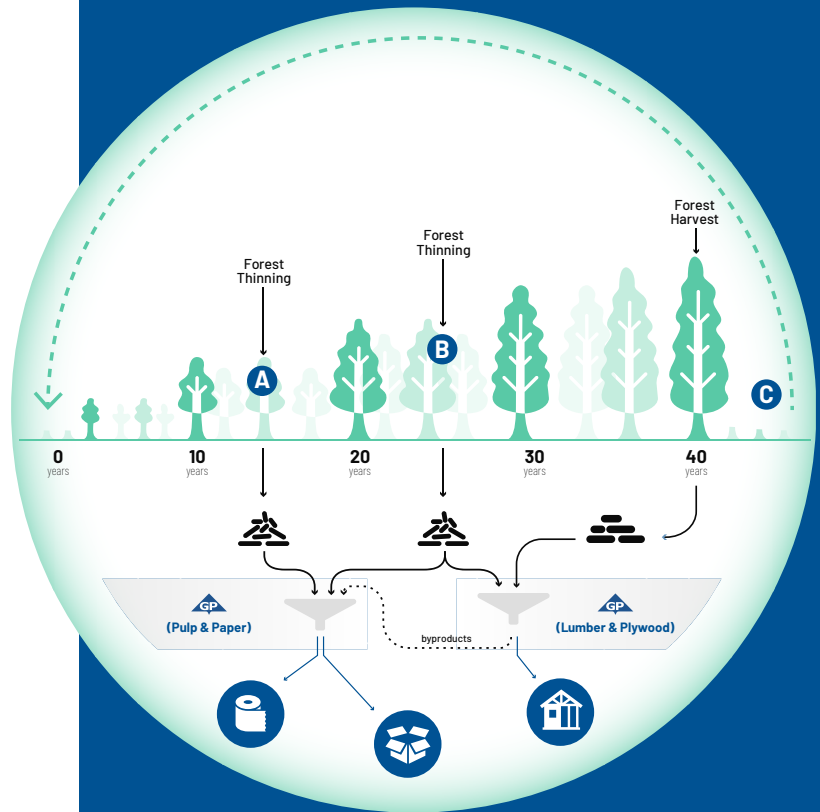
- 1 Harvesting is legal
- 2 High conservation value forests, peatlands and high biodiversity areas are assessed and protected where appropriate
- 3 Areas and issues important to local communities and Indigenous people are respected
- 4 And we avoid the sourcing of products from areas that would be deemed conflict by credible third-party certification bodies

# SEQUESTER

Forests play an important role in carbon sequestration. As such, we work with our customers who have established carbon-reduction goals for their supply chains. Trees are a critical element to helping them achieve these goals. Trees sequester carbon, and our promotion of healthy and diverse forests across the landscape helps to create a natural carbon sink.

- A** In working forests, trees sequester carbon throughout their growing years. In working with suppliers and loggers, we promote responsible forest management.
- B** This may include thinning the forest to utilize the trees that would naturally decay. This increases the growth rates on the remaining trees and reduces the risk and severity of wildfire.
- C** Landowners and suppliers may harvest the forest when they reach maturity so that they can be used for building products. At this point, our suppliers and landowners replant the trees, which helps ensure carbon will continue to be sequestered in these forests. The demand for forest products and Georgia-Pacific's commitment to responsible sourcing ensures that landowners are incentivized to replant trees.

Many of the products we make from the harvested trees, such as lumber, plywood and OSB, may store carbon for generations as part of the built environment. Other products have a shorter life span but still positively contribute to the overall carbon sequestration and storage story.



>50%

To manufacture these products, we use biomass from facility-derived byproducts, including bark, wood waste and other organic materials, which account for more than 50% of our energy needs.

CO<sub>2</sub>

We continue to invest in the efficient use of this renewable energy. Sources like these are considered carbon neutral by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Additionally, the conservation efforts that we are actively investing in, including forest restoration and tree planting, can increase the capacity of the landscape to sequester carbon.



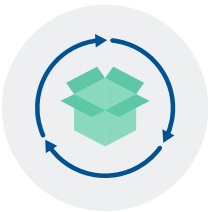


**MIXED PAPER**



**RECYCLED FIBER**

# RECOVER



Our approach to circularity is to work to keep products in their highest state. We do this by focusing on positive, society-wide benefits as we look at growth opportunities. Our

stewardship vision is to find ways to continue to make the products society values while using fewer resources, including reducing waste where possible.

Fresh and recycled fiber are both critical elements of the fiber cycle. Cellulosic fibers can be recycled numerous times but degrade over time, creating the need to supplement the fiber cycle with fresh fiber.

Paper recovered for recycling allows both fresh fiber and recycled fiber to go to their highest end use. Each type of fiber has unique qualities and performance characteristics that help us meet customers' needs while ensuring a long-term, sustainable supply of fiber. In order to produce these products, we have developed operations with increasing flexibility to recover more fiber from recycled products, innovated to capture more recyclables from the waste stream, and have a business fully dedicated to the sourcing of recovered materials that are raw materials for some of our facilities.

We recognize the importance of starting with renewable materials, designing for recyclability, utilizing recycled materials and innovating to recover fibers that can create value for society and conserve landfill space.