**Presentation 2.3:** The sustainable forest products industry, carbon and climate change

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**Abstract**

**Our carbon challenges:**  
• The connections between the forest products industry and the global carbon cycle are complex, and hastily enacted climate change policies can have unintended consequences on our industry’s future.  
• We are capital intensive, making it difficult and expensive to change technology in response to short-term policy measures.

**Our carbon opportunities:**  
• Breakthrough technologies are needed to significantly reduce energy consumption within the industry.  
• To assist in the efforts to reduce society’s energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, the forest products industry can  
  - become more energy efficient and increase its share of biomass in energy production;  
  - help supply society with increasing amounts of wood and fibre for use as a raw material and for bioenergy;  
  - strive to increase the use of recycled paper.

**Our policy recommendations**  
• Improvements in energy-and carbon-intensity can be accelerated by public policies that promote faster turnover of capital stock.  
• Biomass energy is an important component of policies to control atmospheric Co2, but unless they are balanced, these policies could significantly impact the forest products industry. Policies must secure: adequate supplies of fresh fibre; the carbon life cycle benefits associated with forest products; an increase in the recovery of used wood and fibre.
FAO IEA ICFPA International Seminar on Energy and the Forest Products Industry

THE SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY, CARBON AND CLIMATE CHANGE

KEY MESSAGES for policy-makers
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Sustainable Forest Products Industry (SFPI)

Key messages for G8 policy-makers

• Our Actions
  – Responsible managers of carbon
  – Our carbon challenges
  – Our carbon opportunities

• Our policy recommendations
  – Maximize our contribution to reducing carbon emissions
The Sustainable Forest Products Industry
Responsible Managers of Carbon

We supply products that:

– store carbon

– require lower energy inputs during their life cycle than most alternative non-wood products, and

– are highly recyclable.

We use forest resources sustainably and efficiently.

We are energy intensive, but meet most of our energy needs with carbon-neutral biomass fuels.

Our Carbon Challenges

The connections between our industry and the global carbon cycle are complex, and hastily enacted climate change policies can have unintended consequences on our industry’s future.

We are capital intensive, making it difficult and expensive to change technology in response to short-term policy measures.
Our Carbon Opportunities

Breakthrough technologies are needed to significantly reduce energy consumption within the industry.

To assist in the efforts to reduce society’s energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, the forest products industry can:

– Become more energy efficient and increase its share of biomass in energy production;
– Strive to increase the use of recycled fiber;
– Help supply society with increasing amounts of wood and fiber for use as a raw material and for bioenergy.

Our Policy Recommendations

1. Improvements in energy- and carbon-intensity can be accelerated by public policies that promote faster turnover of capital stock.

2. Biomass energy is an important component of policies to control atmospheric CO₂, but unless they are balanced, these policies could significantly impact the forest products industry. Policies must secure:
   a. Adequate supplies of fresh fiber;
   b. The carbon life cycle benefits associated with forest products;
   c. An increase in the recovery of used wood and fiber.
Summary

• The Sustainable Forest Products Industry is a **Responsible Manager of Carbon**
  – Sustainably managed forests are a renewable natural resource
  – We are energy intensive, meet most of our needs with carbon neutral biomass fuels – and are increasing biomass fuel energy efficiency
  – We are highly resource efficient – using forest fiber for products and fuel
  – Our products store carbon
  – Our products are highly recyclable and forest fiber can be repeatedly reused - as products or energy

• We are part of the **solution to climate change**

• **Avoid unintended policy impacts** that limit our ability to contribute to the world’s climate goals

To get this publication

Sustainable Forest Products Industry (SFPI) Working Group

Participants:

- Caterpillar, Global Forest Partners, Kimberly-Clark, P & G, EKA, Time Inc

Mission:

- Global platform for leading companies to collaboratively define sustainability in the forest products industry – by focusing on
  - Sustainable Forest Management, Wood & Fiber sourcing
  - Energy, Carbon emissions & sequestration

Approach:

- Collaborative relationships; Catalyze consensus building with other stakeholders; Individual and joint company leadership & action