



# CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

## SFI's Revised Standard and New Requirements

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Senior Director, Conservation Science and Strategy  
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

June 2, 2021

**Our Vision:**  
**A world that values and benefits from  
sustainably managed forests.**

**Our Mission:**  
**To advance sustainability through  
forest-focused collaborations.**

**25**  
YEARS  
1995-2020



SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE  
SFI-00001

# SFI BOARD

## ECONOMIC



## ENVIRONMENTAL



## SOCIAL



# SFI ADVANCES SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH FOREST-FOCUSED COLLABORATIONS

 SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE  
STANDARDS



 SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE  
CONSERVATION



 SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE  
EDUCATION

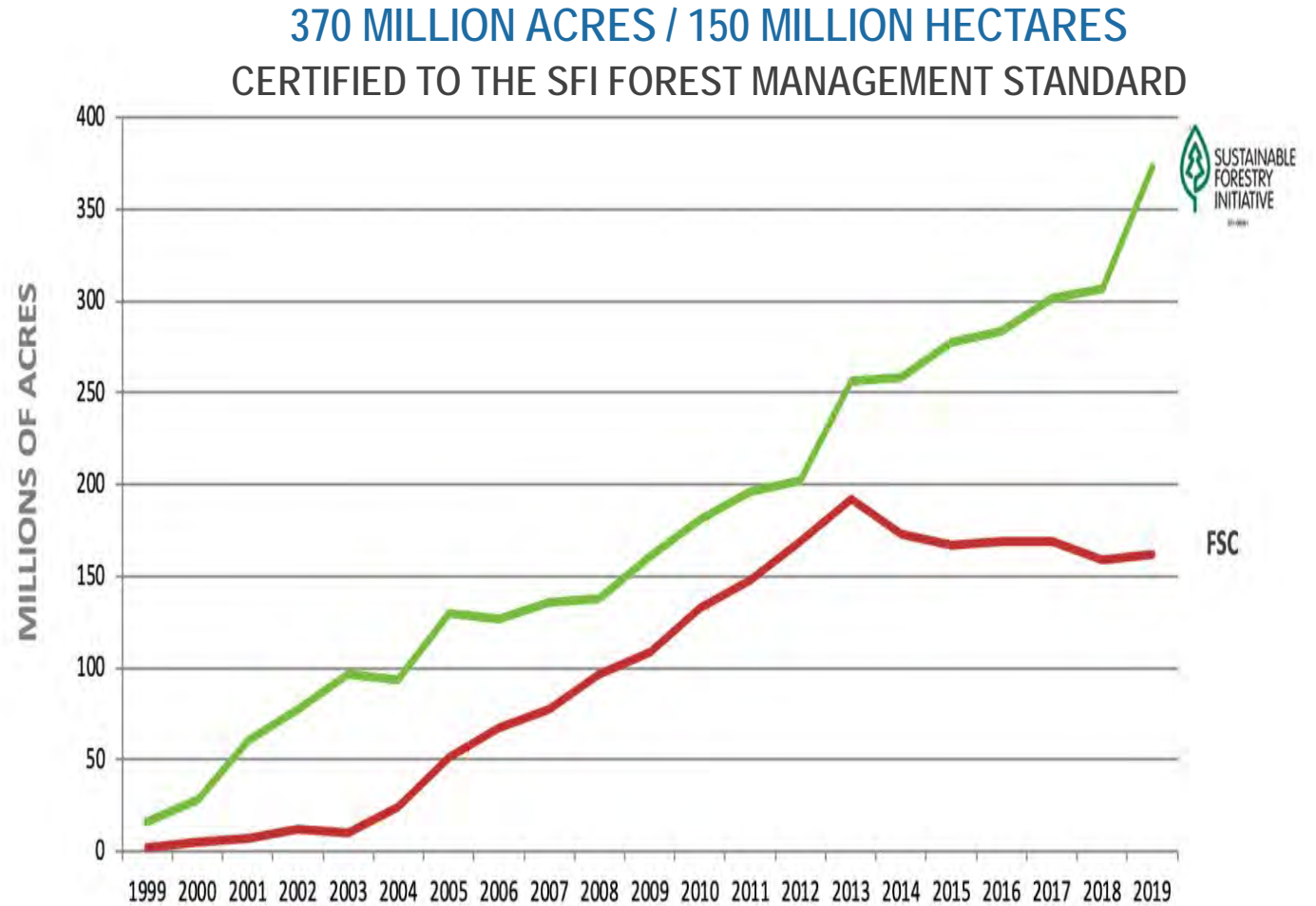


 SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE  
COMMUNITY



# SFI 2022 FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD

- Applies to organizations that own or manage forestlands in the United States and Canada.
- SFI's Forest Management Standard addresses multiple values (biodiversity, water, social, etc).
- Our scale allows SFI to be a major voice for responsible forest management not only in the US and Canada but globally.





SUSTAINABILITY, NEWS, STORE MANAGEMENT

## Environmental sustainability top priority for one in five consumers

Research indicates consumers have gradually become more and more concerned about the sustainability of the products they buy

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Got it!



## The global eco-wakening: how consumers are driving sustainability



Nature is worth \$44 trillion to the global economy, according to a recent World Economic Forum estimate. Image: Caleb Jones/Unsplash

18 May 2021

**Cristianne Close**  
Global Markets Practice Leader, WWF International



This article is part of the [Climate Breakthroughs: The Road to COP26 and Beyond](#)

AUDIO: LISTEN TO THE ARTICLE



This is an experimental feature. Some words or names may be mispronounced. Does it sound good? Yes / No

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON: DRIVING FORCES OF SUSTAINABILITY

BLACKROCK'S 2020 LETTER TO CLIENTS

## Sustainability as BlackRock's New Standard for Investing

Dear Client,

Since BlackRock's founding in 1988, we have worked to anticipate our clients' needs to help you manage risk and achieve your investment goals. As those needs have evolved, so too has our approach, but it has always been grounded in our fiduciary commitment to you.

Over the past few years, more and more of our clients have focused on the impact of sustainability on their portfolios. This shift has been driven by an increased understanding of how sustainability-related factors can affect economic growth, asset values, and financial markets as a whole.

# CONSUMERS CARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT

WHEN IT COMES TO CONSUMER CHOICE AND CLIMATE CHANGE:

**71%** OF CONSUMERS SAY THAT  
IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO

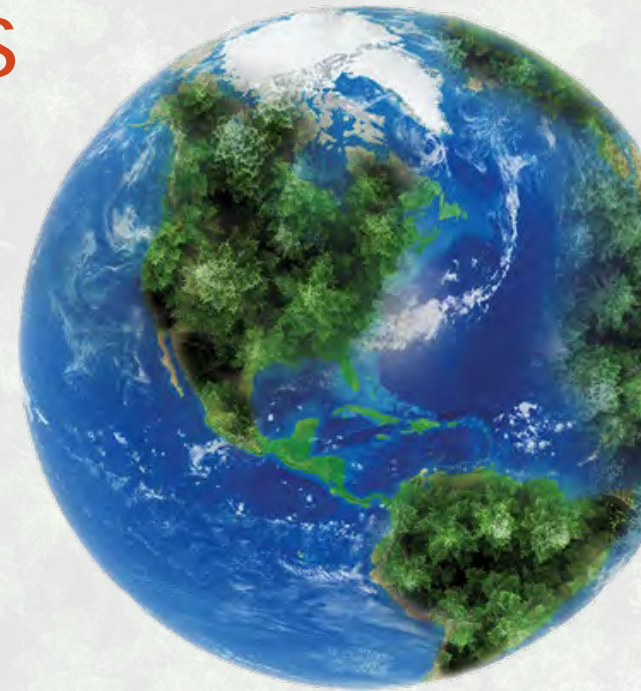
**BUY WOOD PRODUCTS FROM  
SUSTAINABLY MANAGED  
FORESTS**

IF YOU ARE SEEKING WAYS TO  
COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

**72%** OF CONSUMERS SAY THAT  
IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO

**BUY PAPER OR CARDBOARD  
PRODUCTS FROM SUSTAINABLY  
MANAGED FORESTS**

IF YOU ARE SEEKING  
WAYS TO COMBAT  
CLIMATE CHANGE



# WHY CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON?

Climate change remains a “top of mind” issue for many consumers and stakeholders.

Brand owners and companies now have sustainability goals that include climate and/or carbon.

Investment and ESG often target climate and carbon metrics.

SFI-certified companies are helping to mitigate climate change through their use of new SFI standards (Objective 9).





# CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOREST CARBON

SUSTAINABLY MANAGED FORESTS  
CAPTURE CARBON FASTER  
AND STORE MORE CARBON,  
HELPING US FIGHT  
AND MITIGATE  
CLIMATE CHANGE



## COLLECTING THE DATA

# SFI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT SURVEY

SFI's Annual Progress Report Survey is an **annual requirement** for organizations certified to the Forest Management Standard or Fiber Sourcing Standard

UNIQUE REQUIREMENT AMONG  
SFM STANDARDS FOR  
COLLABORATIVE FOREST  
RESEARCH TO INFORM  
MANAGEMENT IN  
THE FUTURE

## CONSERVATION IMPACT THEMES



**BIODIVERSITY**



**WATER**



COLLECTING THE DATA

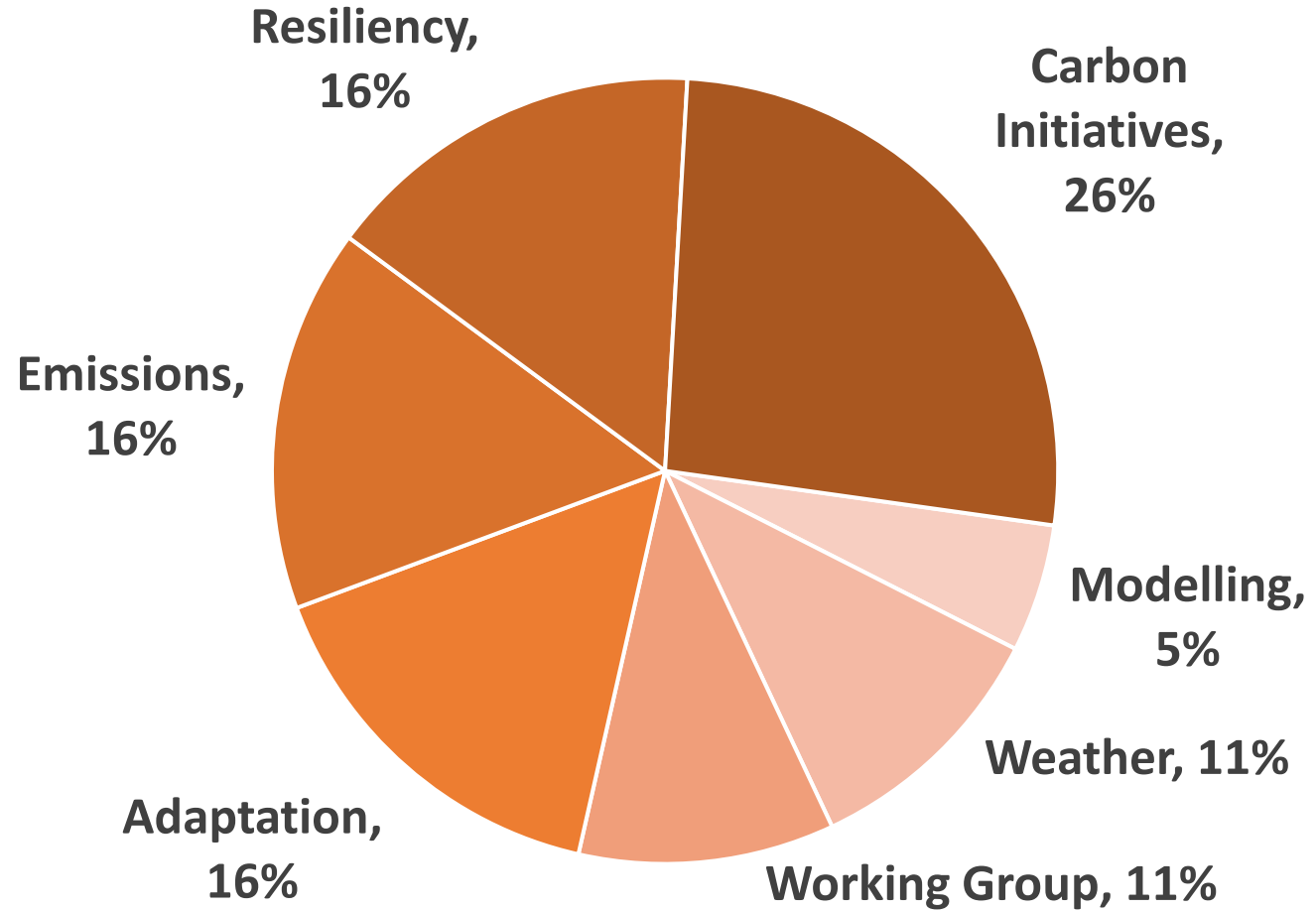
# SFI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT SURVEY



## CLIMATE-RELATED PROJECTS BY SUBTOPIC

19

CLIMATE-RELATED  
PROJECTS



## COLLECTING THE DATA

# THE CONSERVATION IMPACT PROJECT

- Help quantify the impact of sourcing from SFI certified forests and of the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard
- Help Certified Organizations and their customers understand and convey the impact of their sourcing
- Help conservation stakeholders to better understand the value of certification
- Facilitate continual improvement in SFI through improved understanding



**BIODIVERSITY**



**WATER**

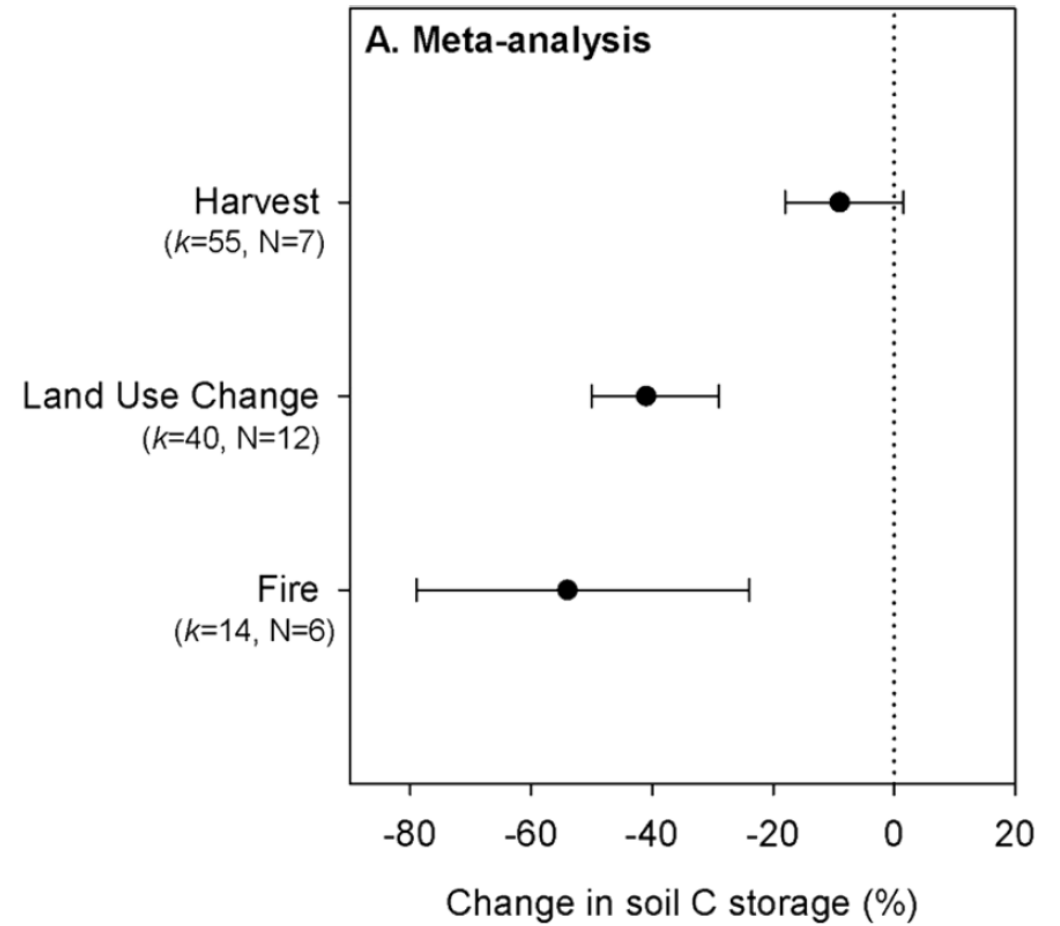
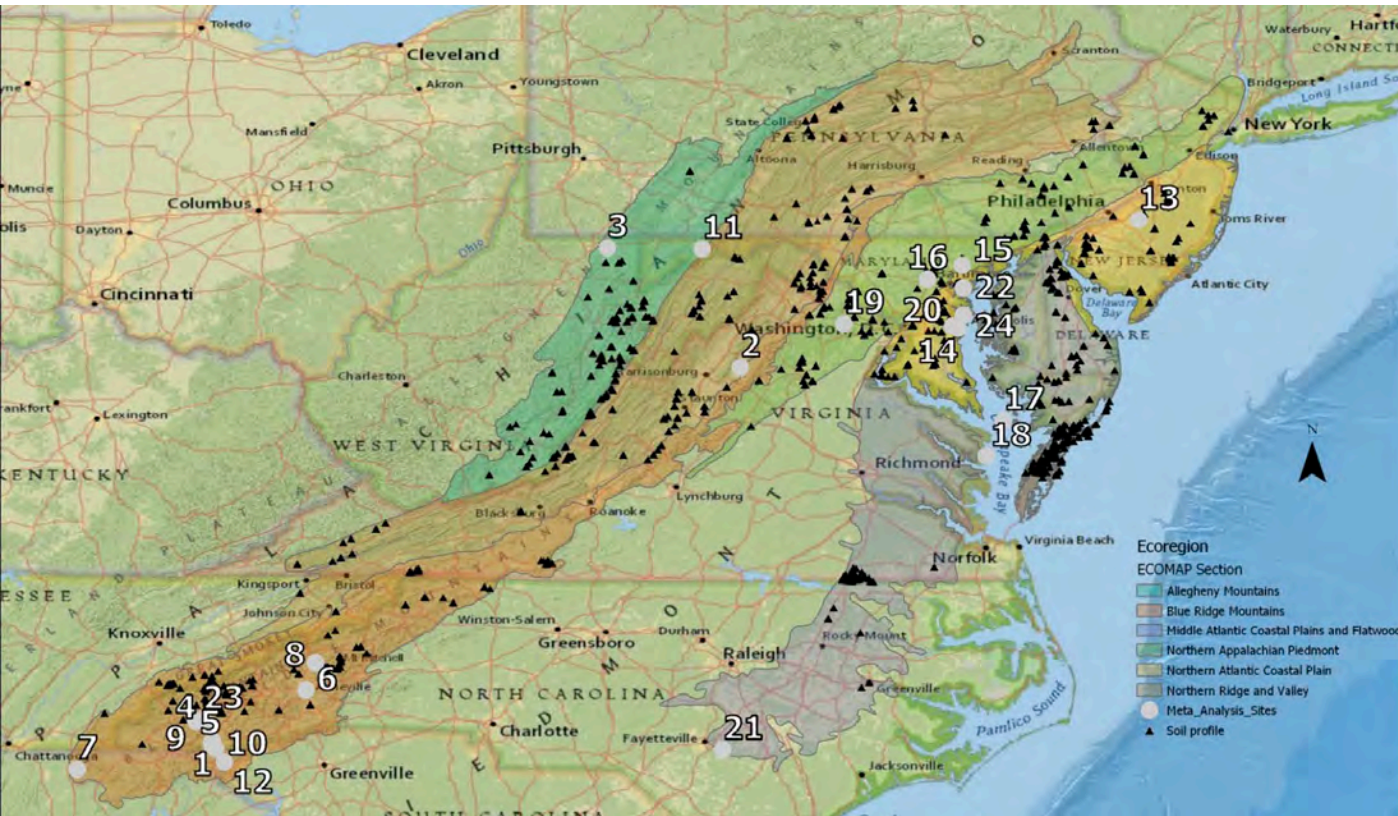


# RECENT COLLABORATIONS

# CLIMATE CHANGE

# & CARBON

BMPs on SFI certified lands (e.g., slash retention) helps conserve carbon in soils.



AMERICAN FORESTS



# RECENT COLLABORATIONS

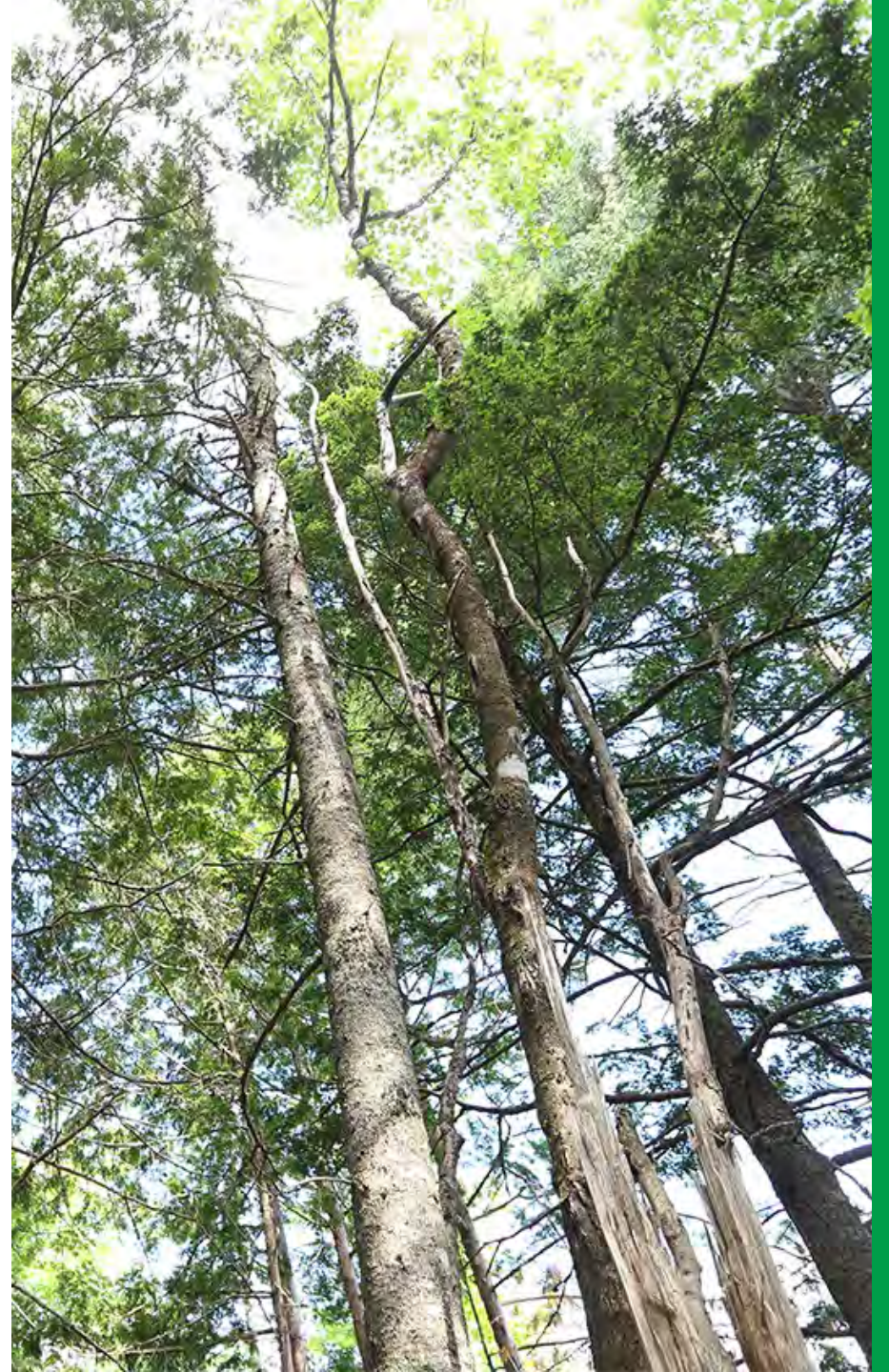
# CLIMATE CHANGE & CARBON



## BETTER SOILS FROM BETTER FOREST MANAGEMENT KEY TO A BETTER CLIMATE FUTURE

Forest soils are informing SFI objectives related to soil productivity, carbon storage, and conservation.

**Project Partners:** University of Maine, Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, Center for Research on Sustainable Forests, Northeastern Soil Monitoring Cooperative, University of Toronto



# RECENT COLLABORATIONS

# CLIMATE CHANGE & CARBON



SFI certified lands store massive amounts of carbon, an amount increasing every year *after* accounting for emissions from harvesting and fire.

FOOTPRINT	CARBON STORED (CO <sub>2</sub> E)	CARBON SEQUESTERED ANNUALLY (CO <sub>2</sub> E/YEAR)	CARBON SEQUESTERED PER HECTARE PER YEAR
Lower 48 States	>20 billion tons	>235 million tons	8.8 tonnes per year
Canadian Sample (18.3%)	>22 billion tons	>4.5 million tons	0.2 tonnes per year

# STANDARDS REVISION TIMELINE

OCT  
2019

JAN-FEB  
2020

MAR  
2020

APRIL  
2020

MAY-JUNE  
2020

SEP-OCT  
2020

FIRST PUBLIC  
COMMENT  
PERIOD

TASK GROUP  
MEETINGS

SFI RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE  
REVIEW

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
MEETING

STANDARDS  
REVISION  
WEBINARS

SECOND PUBLIC  
COMMENT  
PERIOD

TASK GROUP  
MEETINGS

DEC  
2020

JAN  
2021

JAN & FEB  
2021

APRIL  
2021

APR – NOV  
2021

JAN  
2022

BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS  
MEETING

TASK GROUP  
MEETINGS

SFI RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE  
REVIEW

BOARD  
APPROVAL

PEFC  
ENDORSEMENT  
PROCESS

RELEASE  
OF NEW  
STANDARDS





# STANDARDS REVISION REVIEW PROCESS

**3** STANDARDS REVISION  
TASK GROUPS

FOREST MANAGEMENT  
FIBER SOURCING  
CHAIN OF CUSTODY

**12** SUBGROUPS

FOREST MANAGEMENT (5)  
FIBER SOURCING (3)  
CHAIN OF CUSTODY AND LABELING (3)  
TECHNOLOGY AND AUDITING (1)

**100** PEOPLE  
PARTICIPATED  
participated on one of the Subgroups

**47** MEETINGS  
From October 2019– January 2021

**36** TASK GROUP & SUBGROUP  
MEETINGS

**5** RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**6** BOARD MEETINGS



# SFI STANDARDS REVIEW PROCESS

SECOND COMMENT PERIOD MAY 1 – JUNE 30, 2020

NEARLY  
**2,300**  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS  
REGISTERED FOR THE  
WEBINARS AND SUBMITTED  
COMMENTS ON THE FIRST  
DRAFT OF THE SFI 2022  
STANDARDS

**10** WEBINARS

FOCUSED ON KEY THEMES

Forest conservation  
Recognizing and respecting  
Indigenous Peoples' rights  
Logger training requirements  
Avoidance of controversial sources  
Investigating a new urban forestry  
standard

**DIVERSITY OF  
PARTICIPANTS**

**IN THE SECOND-COMMENT  
PERIOD INCLUDE**

Conservation organizations	Brand owners
Landowners	Resource professionals
Forest product manufacturers	Educators
Indigenous Peoples	Local communities
Academia	Government agencies
Researchers	

# SFI FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD OBJECTIVES

OBJECTIVE 1. FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING



OBJECTIVE 2. FOREST HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY



OBJECTIVE 3. PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER RESOURCES



OBJECTIVE 4. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



OBJECTIVE 5. MANAGEMENT OF VISUAL QUALITY AND RECREATIONAL BENEFITS



OBJECTIVE 6. PROTECTION OF SPECIAL SITES



OBJECTIVE 7. EFFICIENT USE OF FIBER SOURCES



OBJECTIVE 8. RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS



OBJECTIVE 9. CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY



OBJECTIVE 10. FIRE RESILIENCE AND AWARENESS



OBJECTIVE 11. LEGAL AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE



OBJECTIVE 12. FORESTRY RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



OBJECTIVE 13. TRAINING AND EDUCATION



OBJECTIVE 14. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND LANDOWNER OUTREACH



OBJECTIVE 15. PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES



OBJECTIVE 16. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC REPORTING



OBJECTIVE 17. MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT



# CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

## FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARD – OBJECTIVE 9

- Forests play a critical role in addressing climate change and storing carbon.
- Increasing global focus on climate and increased understanding about forests gives SFI an opportunity to play an important role.
- Elements of the standard already aid in addressing climate through resiliency, reforestation, and forest health.
- SFI developed a **new objective** focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation.



## ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE BENEFITS OF SFI FOREST CERTIFICATION

Examined the climate benefits of SFI Forest Certification, including a qualitative analysis of SFI programmatic documents, observations of SFI training activities, and interviews with certification professionals. Documented “Climate Smart” forestry in 3 categories

**Project Partners:** Michigan State University, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Michigan SFI Implementation Committee, and Weyerhaeuser



**Category 1:**  
Core Carbon and Climate  
Concepts



**Category 2:**  
Management and  
Carbon Storage



**Category 3:**  
Best Practices with  
Climate Benefits

# CLIMATE SMART FORESTRY

## Objective:

- Program to **identify climate change risks** to forest and forest operations and the development of adaptation objectives and strategies.
- Program to **identify opportunities** to mitigate climate-related impacts associated with forest operations.



# FIRE RESILIENCE AND AWARENESS

## WHY IT MATTERS

- The link between wildfires and climate is well-documented.
- The planet is warming with many regions experiencing increased incidence of wildfire and the undesirable impacts that are the result.
- Undesirable impacts are those that threaten public safety, human health, property, carbon emissions, water quality and quantity, air quality, and species *habitat*, or have the capacity to destroy forests on a scale that significantly impacts the inherent values of these forests.



# FIRE RESILIENCE AND AWARENESS

## SFI STANDARD REQUIREMENTS:

### ON LANDS OWNED OR MANAGED

SFI-certified organizations limit susceptibility to undesirable impacts of wildfire, promote healthy and resilient forest conditions, and support restoration of forests following wildfire damage.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

SFI-certified organizations engage in efforts to raise awareness of and take action towards benefits of fire management and minimization of undesirable impacts of wildfire.







# CONTACT INFO



# THANK YOU!

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BETTER  
CHOICES FOR  
THE PLANET

 SUSTAINABLE  
FORESTRY  
INITIATIVE

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