

# Environmental Effect of Wood As A Building Material

- Wood is the only building material derived from a renewable resource. Wood is harvested and replanted in a continually regenerating cycle while non-renewable resources such as aluminum and oil, are mined on a depleting basis. Therefore, wood helps to conserve diminishing reserves of non-renewable energy sources.
- Contrary to what many people may think, it is a fact that in North America we grow more trees than we actually harvest.
- Over 700 million seedlings are planted in Canada alone each year.
- The forest industry harvests less wood each year than that destroyed by wildfires, disease and pest infestations.
- Harvesting and replanting of trees help reduce the presence of greenhouse gases:  
A young, growing tree consumes Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and gives off Oxygen in the form of fresh clean air. However, as the forest ages, and begins the decaying process, it becomes a net consumer of Oxygen and producer of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) which inevitably contributes to global warming. Converting a mature forest to solid wood products (e.g. wood siding) locks in the Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and prevents its release into the atmosphere.
- It takes less energy to produce wood siding than other building materials such as Aluminum, Vinyl and Wood Composites.
- Wood is easy to recycle and is 100% bio-degradable - decomposes into dirt.