Wood Is Naturally Good

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Wood Products Are Nature's Products

Wood is a 100% renewable and recyclable resource.[1] Wood from responsibly managed forests meets consumers' needs while presenting many environmental benefits.

Wood is more energy efficient. Wood requires 281% less energy to produce than steel and 250% less energy to produce than concrete.[2]

Wood is strong, lightweight, and easy to use and manufacture into new products. And wood products continue to store carbon in homes, furniture, etc. for many decades after manufacture.[3]

Local wood has lower transportation costs and emissions. Locally grown wood reduces transportation costs and related emissions compared to shipping wood in from out of state or out of the country.

A wood frame house is a carbon storage unit and wins out over homes built with steel which are net emitters in CO_2 emission for a building's life cycle, according to the model:

2,100 sq ft cold climate house
(Minneapolis)

Wood vs. Steel[5]

55 metric tons of CO_2 absorbed by WOOD	**185** metric tons of CO_2 emitted by STEEL
(-55 metric tons CO_2)	(+185 metric tons CO_2)

240 metric tons of CO_2 emissions are avoided in a building's life cycle when using a wood frame design over a steel frame design—an amount equivalent to the annual CO_2 emissions of 44 passenger vehicles (cars, trucks, SUVs)[6]

Scientific "cradle-to-grave" lifecycle analyses of alternative building materials show that wood used for residential construction requires less energy and has a significantly softer "carbon footprint" than structures built with steel or concrete.[4]

1 California Forest Products Commission, "Global Thinking Needed for American Forests—Domestic activism has ignored the global implications of severe harvesting restrictions here in the states,"
2 Lippke, Bruce; Edmonds, Lucy. October 2006. "Environmental performance improvement in residential construction: The impact of products, biofuels, and processes."
3 Patrick Moore, Ph.D.,"Forest Management: Part of the Climate Change Solution," California Forests Winter 2006: 8-9
4 Lippke, Bruce; Wilson, Jim; Perez-Garcia, John; Bowyer, Jim; Meil, Jamie, "CORRIM: Life-Cycle Environmental Performance of Renewable Building Materials," Journal Forest Products, Vol. 54, No. 6, June 2004, Table 3
5 Lippke, Bruce; Wilson, Jim; Perez-Garcia, John; Bowyer, Jim; Meil, Jamie, "CORRIM: Life-Cycle Environmental Performance of Renewable Building Materials," Journal Forest Products, Vol. 54, No. 6, June 2004, Table 6
6 Using the estimate of the metric tons of CO_2 per passenger vehicle produced per year from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Energy-Calculations and References, http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/refs.html

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