

Climate Change & Forests

TREES ABSORB CARBON—FOREST PRODUCTS STORE IT



TREES ABSORB CARBON

Carbon sequestration is a natural process of tree growth. Through photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere in their leaves, roots, and wood fiber. Trees also continue to store that carbon.

YOUNG TREES ABSORB CARBON FASTER

Because of their faster growth rate and higher overall “metabolism,” young trees soak up and store carbon quickly. As these young trees age, they continue to absorb and store carbon, but at a slower rate.

DECAYED TREES RELEASE CARBON

All the good that comes from storing carbon in trees goes away if over-mature trees decay and die, or they’re burned in forest fires. In either case, carbon that had been stored is released back into the atmosphere.



FOREST PRODUCTS CONTINUE TO STORE CARBON

Wood products like tables and fences store carbon for decades, and even centuries. Think of the framing inside a house built in the 1800s—it’s still storing carbon, even though the tree was harvested long ago.