

BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA



FORESTRY & WOOD



PRODUCTS

Your future grows here

British Columbia is a global leader in sustainable forest practices and innovative wood products. We are home to 22 million hectares of working forests, with more of our forests certified to international sustainability standards than any other sub-national jurisdiction. Our history of sustainable management is matched by our focus on manufacturing high-quality value-added wood products – from engineered wood for mass timber construction to bioproducts and biofuels.



British Columbia's forest sector advantages

With diverse timber resources, a skilled workforce and a proven commitment to environmental, social and governance (ESG) goals, British Columbia is the right choice for your forestry investment.

A DIVERSE TIMBER RESOURCE

British Columbia is home to 22 million hectares of forests that support commercial harvesting and are used to produce lumber, panel products, engineered wood, pulp, paper, biofuels and bioproducts. Our forests include 12 softwood species suitable for a wide range of applications and four hardwood species in high demand for millwork, flooring, cabinetry and furniture.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

British Columbia's forests are managed to be healthy, sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change. We have more forests audited and certified to internationally recognized [sustainable forest management](#) standards than any other jurisdiction, other than Canada as a whole. This third-party certification verifies our practices meet ESG criteria for responsible forestry, an important consideration for consumers and investors. Companies who want to achieve ambitious sustainability targets also benefit from the province's clean electricity, with 98 per cent of our grid powered by renewable sources.

PROVEN INNOVATION

B.C. is a global leader in creating innovative engineered wood products, including mass timber, that are stronger, safer and more versatile than traditional lumber in many applications, and that have environmental advantages over concrete and steel in building construction. The province is also advancing research on innovative and high-value bioproducts in the construction, manufacturing, chemical, consumer packaging and health care industry to meet the growing market demand for lower-carbon options.

A SKILLED WORKFORCE

From on-the-ground foresters and heavy equipment operators to millwrights and industrial engineers, workers in this sector share a commitment to excellence – one that stretches back multiple generations in many rural communities. B.C.'s post-secondary institutions offer educational and training opportunities to meet industry's evolving needs for innovative problem-solvers in the forest, on the manufacturing floor and in the lab.

INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIPS ADVANCE RECONCILIATION GOALS

Over 5,300 Indigenous people are directly employed in the sector, more than in any other resource industry. In 2019, close to 120 First Nations or affiliated businesses sold approximately \$250 million in sector-related goods and services, with benefits flowing to communities throughout the province.

AN ECOSYSTEM OF PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Our innovation is driven by the long-standing partnerships between B.C.'s public, private and academic sectors on applied research, the development and commercialization of new technologies, and the pursuit of new market opportunities. [FPIInnovations](#), one of the world's largest private scientific research centres, is developing solutions to increase the Canadian forest sector's global competitiveness. The [BC Council of Forest Industries](#), [Forestry Innovation Investment](#) and [BC Wood](#) are other examples of industry trade associations and Crown corporations that provide networking opportunities while working to expand national and international markets for B.C. products.

SUPPORTIVE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

From tax credits to funding, the Canadian and British Columbian governments offer a range of initiatives to support the sector, including:

- A provincial logging tax credit on income earned from logging operations
- The provincial Mass Timber Demonstration Program, which provides funding for the design, research and construction of mass timber buildings
- Federal programs that focus on expanding market opportunities, commercializing low-carbon projects and supporting Indigenous-led economic development projects

PRIME MARKET ACCESS AND CANADA'S LARGEST PORT

Supported by a fully integrated port, rail and road transportation system, B.C. has easy access to global markets in Asia, Europe and North America. The Port of Vancouver connects B.C.'s forest industry with over 170 economies around the world, while the Port of Prince Rupert is home to North America's deepest natural harbour and North America's fastest shipping route to China.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCTS

British Columbia is meeting the world's growing demand for high-quality and sustainable forest products. More than 7,000 companies produce lumber, engineered wood, pulp, paper, wood pellets and other forestry products that account for 29 per cent of the province's exports.

WOOD PRODUCTS

We are North America's largest producer of softwood forest products, with customers worldwide choosing B.C. wood for its aesthetics, natural resistance to insects and structural performance. British Columbia exports 85 per cent of its lumber for wood-frame construction and interior and exterior applications that include wood siding, furniture, doors and window frames, decorative elements and architectural details.

MASS TIMBER PRODUCTS

The growing requirement for lower-carbon construction materials is expanding the market for mass timber construction. According to the *Economist*, mass timber could account for US\$1.4 billion of the global construction industry by 2025 and many national building codes are being modified to allow mass timber to be used in buildings up to 18 storeys. These engineered wood products can be used as an alternative to concrete in residential multi-family, mix-use commercial and industrial buildings where they exceed the structural performance of concrete or steel while reducing carbon emissions by up to 45 per cent. Strong, sustainable and safe, mass timber is a versatile option for load-bearing structures like beams and trusses and is equally well suited to long-spanning structures and custom curvilinear shapes.

ENGINEERED WOOD

Plywood and oriented strand board offer excellent lightweight strength and performance. Our manufacturers make engineered wood products for both structural and non-structural uses, as well as specialty applications in the marine sector and furniture manufacturing.

PULP AND PAPER

The long, slender, thin-walled fibres of British Columbia's softwood tree species create pulp with excellent tensile strength, consistency and sheet dimensional stability. The province's mills produce newsprint, specialty papers, tissue, towelling, containerboard and paperboard.

WOOD PELLETS

Wood pellets are a prime example of how rethinking our concept of waste can create value. Made from harvesting and sawmilling residuals, wood pellets are a low-carbon biofuel used in domestic and industrial applications, where they can significantly reduce carbon emissions when co-fired in coal electrical generating facilities or dedicated biomass electrical generating utilities. B.C. produces more sustainably certified wood pellets than any sub-national jurisdiction in the world, exporting 99 per cent of its production to markets in Europe and Asia.

BIOPRODUCTS

Bioproducts are a renewable alternative to fossil-based carbon sources for plastics, textiles and electronics, offering the same product qualities with the benefit of being completely biodegradable. B.C. can meet growing demand with its existing infrastructure of pulp and paper facilities and access to the cellulose and lignin feedstock needed to develop and commercialize high-value bioproducts.



WHY WOOD?

Wood is a product of choice in the construction, manufacturing and design industries for its immense versatility, beauty and superior structural strength. It's valued for qualities that include:

- Performance: Wood meets rigorous performance standards and is resistant to wind, fire and earthquakes.
- Health: Research shows that wood in interior spaces can reduce stress and increase mental well-being.
- Sustainable: Wood is a renewable resource with a lower carbon footprint and less energy-intensive manufacturing process than construction materials like concrete and steel.
- Thermal: A natural insulator with low thermal conductivity, wood helps buildings to achieve energy-efficiency targets.



BUILD YOUR FUTURE WITH US

If you're looking to invest in the forestry and wood products sector, British Columbia is the natural choice. With our sustainably managed forests; clean, low-cost energy; skilled workforce; fruitful public, private and academic sector partnerships; and commitment to environmental, social and governance goals, we're leading the way in innovative and sustainable practices. In B.C., you can invest with confidence in a green future.

REVITALIZATION AND RECONCILIATION GO HAND IN HAND

In 2018, the Huu-ay-aht First Nations and Western Forest Products signed a Reconciliation Protocol Agreement outlining a shared vision and framework for revitalizing the Alberni Valley forest sector. This framework increases the participation of First Nations through tenure ownership, employment and business opportunities, and sustained domestic manufacturing, all supported by strong environmental stewardship. In 2021, the Nation acquired an additional interest in a tree farm licence located on its traditional territory, in a deal that is expected to create long-lasting opportunities for Huu-ay-aht citizens, Western Forest Products and the region.

10% of the world's certified forests are in BC – the same percentage found in Norway, Germany, Brazil and Sweden combined."

MASS TIMBER REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

Engineered wood products like mass timber can deliver up to seven times the economic value of milling logs for lumber. B.C. is at the forefront of this emerging sector, and the growth of the mass timber sector in B.C. illustrates the commitment of the province's public, private and academic sectors to sustainability and innovation. Technical advances in engineered wood are complemented by innovative designs and policy changes that have made British Columbia a leader in the production and use of mass timber. Since 2007, more than 370 mass timber buildings have been completed in the province and more are planned as building owners and occupants embrace green building practices to meet climate action and carbon management goals.

Trade and Invest British Columbia has international representatives in 17 locations around the world. We offer tailored advice and support for investors, including access to government and industry contacts; opportunities to meet with experts in tax, real estate and law; familiarization tours; and a single point of contact to explore business location and expansion opportunities.

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