

# Are Forests, Carbon and Climate Change Related?



Increases in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere result in higher air temperatures. Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is released through such processes as volcanic eruptions and forest fires, as well as through human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels. Scientists generally agree that human contributions to global climate change are increasing, and they are concerned about its implications for the future.

## Trees Use Atmospheric Carbon to Grow

Forests absorb large quantities of carbon dioxide and reduce its presence in the atmosphere. Growing forests turn water, sunlight and atmospheric carbon dioxide into solid carbon and oxygen and continue to store significant amounts of carbon when they are old.

## Wood Products Store Carbon Long Term

Wood products store carbon and reduce its presence in the atmosphere in contrast to steel, concrete and plastic, whose production requires the use of much more fossil fuel.

## Agriculture and Development

The significant loss of forests worldwide to agriculture and urbanization – particularly tropical forests – has also affected our climate. Keeping forestland in forest uses is crucial to capturing and storing atmospheric carbon in the future.

## Forest Fires and Climate

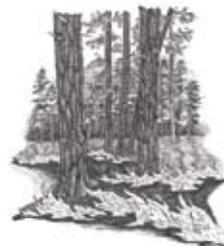
A warmer climate makes dense, overstocked forests even more vulnerable to wildfire. Forest fires release huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

## Forestry Can Reduce Atmospheric Carbon:



Keep forestland in forest uses

Plant and grow healthy forests



Thin forests for fire resilience

Use wood products vs. alternatives

**Wood products store carbon and reduce its presence in the atmosphere.**



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