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Ontario Construction Article- Mike Phillips – OWTFa

Wood and its role in green building.

What does green mean to you? We all value it differently, we have had to make our minds up about it, as we are being constantly bombarded from all areas of media – green this, greener that

The construction industry hasn't escaped the green wave. Construction shows and conferences globally, are turning towards embracing this green opportunity. The public and design community are demanding greener materials and solutions. Manufacturers involved in the building industry have to understand how their products fit into sustainable – greener design and empower their sales teams with the knowledge to know where and how they fit into this building segment.

Building a project to a sustainable or green design standard, a design team attempts to utilise products that demonstrate efficiencies in the following areas: Energy efficiency, durability, site selection, building orientation, indoor air quality, better resource use, materials and waste management.

Wood is a natural, fully sustainable building material that satisfies many of the criteria that form the intent of being green. It has captured carbon dioxide throughout its growth cycle, and sequestered the carbon, at harvest, and stored it inside the wood building products - a carbon sink. Its low embodied energy makes wood products very attractive to design teams to explore wood possibilities. Carbon stored in the wood products makes it possible for designers to consider the carbon footprinting their buildings.

Our proximity to sustainably managed forests make wood an appealing material to "buy local" design philosophies. Transportation impacts of shipping products from manufacturing to supply to site are kept to a minimum.

The use and acceptance of engineered wood products (EWP) over the last few years is no accident. EWP products process fibre from faster growing, under-utilized tree species - to produce components that structurally can produce greater span and design capabilities.

How we build is changing. Prefabricated wood building components are emerging as a faster, more efficient way. Faster site and building times have significant financial advantages, off-site factory conditions can better utilize materials, minimize site waste, and generally have in-house quality control standards that produce high quality options. Available locally prefabricated options may include: Metal plated light frame roof truss, Structural Insulated Panels (SIP), prefabricated wall and floor panels, timber frame kits, glulam and heavy timber packages.

This article was drafted by Steven Street of Wood-WORKS! It is an industry led initiative of the Canadian Wood Council that promotes the use of wood and wood products in construction - providing free technical assistance. Contact Wood-WORKS! for more information. Toll Free: 1-866-886-3574 or [www.wood-works.org](http://www.wood-works.org)

The OWTFA is a member of Wood-WORKS! The OWTFA represents the common interests of the truss industry in Ontario, including promoting the use of wood trusses in residential, commercial and agricultural structures. For more information please contact Mike Phillips, Executive Director of the Ontario Wood Truss Fabricators Association (OWTFA) at 416-235-0194 or [www.owtfa.com](http://www.owtfa.com)