



**YOUR SOURCE  
FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION  
ON WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS!**

**SWST**

The Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST) is a technical and professional organization for scientists and engineers working in academia, government, consulting and the forest products industries and is dedicated to providing education and expertise in finding better ways to use and produce wood products.

This paper was prepared by the Critical Issues Committee of the Society to assist academic, industrial and government leaders in understanding the environmental implications of using wood-based products.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** As more demands are made on the world's forest resources by a growing and consuming population, the development of new technology through research is essential to meet these demands in an environmentally acceptable way. Wood scientists and forest products technologists are vital links to meeting consumer and environmental demands on our forests. SWST, whose membership consists of these professionals, adheres to several important precepts to help society balance the environmental and consumer demands placed on our forest resources.

**SWST Position  
on the Environmental Implications for  
Use of Wood-Based Products**

- ◆ Science and technology play a key role in reaching decisions on forest management and the use of forest products.
- ◆ Sustainable development and the conservation of forest resources has been and remains a major goal of the membership of SWST.
- ◆ Consideration of how to meet human needs for materials and still maintain or enhance other needs for the forest is vital. Forests cannot be isolated from human influence or from human needs.

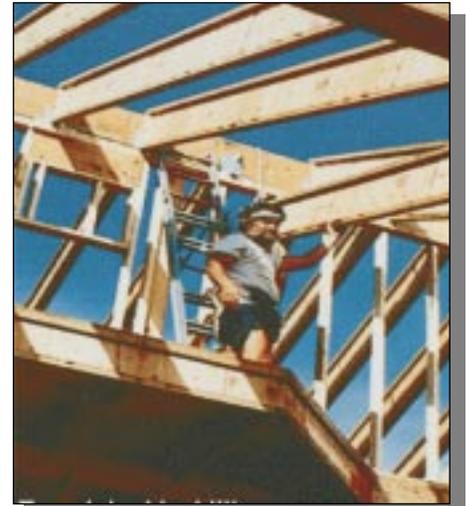




◆ The proper management of forests and use of forest products have a largely positive impact on potential global climate change in the world.

◆ Recognition that raw material importation from the forest of one part of the world

can impact the environment in another part of the world is critical to sound environmental policy making.



◆ Wood and fiber products are beneficial to humans and for many uses are an environmentally preferable alternative to other materials.



◆ Wood scientists and forest products technologists should play a key role in the policy decisions which attempt to achieve sustainability of our resources.

◆ The effect of wood use on the environment continues to be a major

consideration for wood scientists and forest products technology professionals. A primary objective is to minimize negative effects and enhance positive effects.



◆ Research in wood science and forest products is essential to the enhancement of conservation and environmental conditions by achieving more efficient and effective utilization of wood and fiber resources.

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**Contact:**

**Ms. Vicki Herian, Executive Director**  
Society of Wood Science and Technology  
One Gifford Pinchot Drive  
Madison, WI 53705-2398

**Phone: (608) 231-9347**  
**Fax: (608) 231-9592**  
**Email: [vicki@ws13.fpl.fs.fed.us](mailto:vicki@ws13.fpl.fs.fed.us)**  
**<http://www1.fpl.fs.fed.us/swst/>**