



# The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Climate Change & Carbon Sequestration



Louisiana Sustainable Forestry Initiative

[www.laforestry.com](http://www.laforestry.com)

Climate change is a topic of much discussion today. Greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), are thought to be a significant cause of climate change. Climate change may also be caused by natural factors or processes, such as changes in the sun's intensity, changes in ocean circulation or by human activities that affect the composition of the earth's atmosphere (burning fossil fuels which release greenhouse gases, etc.). Our carbon footprint, put simply, is the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> our activities generate. To reduce your carbon footprint you must reduce both direct and indirect emissions, promote storage or sequestration and when possible, avoid emissions altogether.

Forest and forest products are a "storage sink" of carbon. As trees grow, they absorb CO<sub>2</sub> through photosynthesis. Since the amount of carbon in the world is a constant, when there is more carbon sequestered in long-term sinks, such as trees and forest products, there is less carbon entering the atmosphere.

When trees are burned for energy, die/decay or when wood products reach the end of their useful life and are disposed of, stored carbon is recycled to the environment. Since these products are not adding new carbon to the atmosphere, they are considered carbon-neutral compared to burning fossil fuel which

adds new carbon to the atmosphere.

Landowners are encouraged to check with the LSU Ag Center ([www.LSUAgCenter.com](http://www.LSUAgCenter.com)) or their local county extension service office to learn more about the developing carbon trading markets that support sustainable forest management and recognize the role forests can play in mitigating climate change.

For more information on climate change visit:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon\\_sequestration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon_sequestration)

<http://biocarbonsinks.org/>

