WOOD & RETROFIT: GOOD FOR THE CLIMATE

Timber Trade Federation

growing the use of wood

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SCA Wood


Steico UK


MEDITE SMARTPLY

You may think of sustainability and wood in terms of whether or not a product carries sustainable sourcing certification. Yet timber plays a much wider part in helping the climate. Growing trees take CO_2 out of the atmosphere and store it in their wood fibre for its lifetime in use, whether that's as carcassing, wood-based panels, or decorative mouldings. Wood is also good for retrofit projects.

Retrofit means installing measures to prevent heat loss, saving energy in homes. Organisations like the Federation of Master Builders are calling on government for greater investment in retrofit. The National Federation of Builders have estimated that around 28 million homes may need retrofitting for Britain to reach its legally binding climate change commitments. Yet what has all this to do with wood? Explore this leaflet and discover the opportunities.

Find a TTF member near you: www.ttf.co.uk

Open here for to see retrofit wood products

WHICH PRODUCTS WILL HELP?

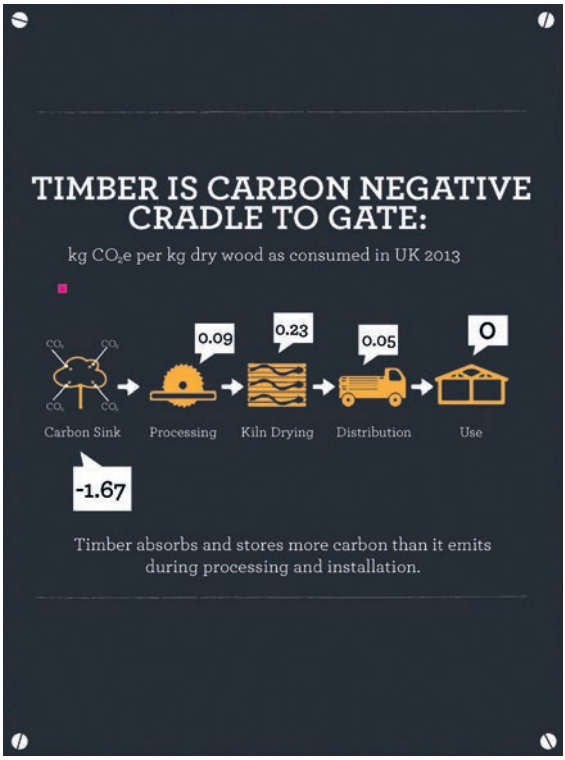
Wood plays many roles in the fight against climate change. Energy-efficient timber windows and doors can help reduce energy loss. Using a sub-floor base panel below any flooring being renewed will help to keep heat in and draughts out. Wood fibre insulation has the advantage of breathability, reducing humidity and mould. Interior wood cladding can also help to retain heat.

WOOD FOR WELLBEING

Research for the Wood Window Alliance found that 49% of consumers felt having natural materials in their home made them 'discernibly happier'. The wellbeing aspect and natural aesthetic of timber is another factor to be considered when retrofitting homes.

WORKING WITH ARCHITECTS?

Under RIBA's 2030 Climate Challenge, the low embodied carbon of timber offers architects a significant benefit in their calculations. See back page for further details.



Source: All Party Parliamentary Group on the Timber Industries' report: How the Timber Industries can help solve the housing crisis, November 2019.

Open here to see retrofit wood products ➡

TIMBER FOR RETROFIT

Be climate-friendly: harness the benefits of wood to your retrofit projects. Find out more about wood and climate change at: ttf.co.uk

WOOD FIBRE INSULATION

Putting air quality up front

Energy efficiency needs to go hand-in-hand with internal air quality in retrofit projects, if they are to provide long-lasting value for customers. Wood fibre insulation helps to regulate humidity within a building, reducing the build-up of mould and dust mites, both of which can cause or exacerbate conditions such as asthma.

Wood fibre insulation comes as flexible or rigid boards, some with Tongue & Groove profile options, for use in roofs, ceilings, walls, and floors. It is also available in an air-injected form. Rigid boards can be used to insulate lofts or to retrofit cold walls. Flexible insulation can be useful for retrofitting older properties where walls may be uneven. Products are also made for specialised situations such as wedge-shaped sections for window cills.

Steico UK

PANEL PRODUCTS

Designed for specific purposes

Airtightness tests show where the greatest heat is being lost from a property. Panel products are now being specifically designed to improve airtightness, to act as an air barrier but also to control vapour. The key to selling the right product is to question your customers on what they are trying to achieve and find a product that matches their requirements.

SMARTPLY ProPassiv

More day-to-day panel products, such as OSB and chipboard, are also applicable to retrofit projects. OSB3 is used as internal sheathing to cover insulation being installed between studding in walls and loft conversions. It is also available in Tongue & Groove format to cover loft floors under which new or additional insulation has been installed. Chipboard can also be used for boarding over insulation on loft floors.

BSW Timber

WINDOWS, DOORS & FLOORS

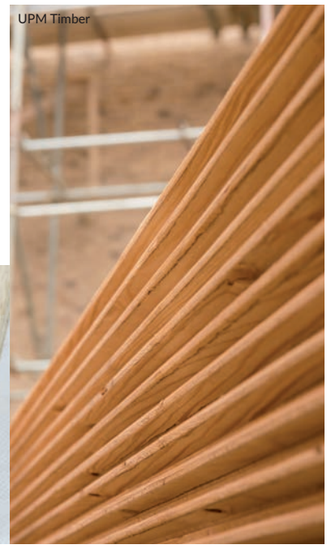
Keeping heat in, saving energy

Heat escaping through windows and doors can be a substantial factor in heat loss. Highly efficient timber windows can make a big difference to household energy saving. Today's timber windows and doors are also made from certified sustainable timber, adding to the climate change benefits by embodying CO_2.

Research has shown that there are more homes in England today that were built before 1900 than from any other era. Around 38% of all housing now existing was built prior to World War 2. Draughts at floor level can be a major issue in older homes. Sub-floor plywood products, used when flooring is being renewed, can contribute to reducing draughts and increasing heat retention in retrofit projects.

Wood Window Alliance

Hanson Plywood



UPM Timber

Arbor Forest Products

CLADDINGS & MOULDINGS

Every-day products for retrofit

Metsä Wood

Timber is a natural thermal insulator, which makes interior timber cladding a good option for retrofit projects. Claddings can be installed either as wainscoting, covering the lower half of a wall, or as full wall cladding. Customers will need battening to fix the cladding in place. Combining panelling with, for example, breathable wood fibre insulation, can add an extra layer of heat retention within a home.

Other every-day wood products also have their uses. Simple mouldings such as Scotias and Quadrants can be used to fill in gaps around windows and doors and between ill-fitting skirtings and walls, reducing draughts. Softwood mouldings can also be used to create secondary glazing systems where it may not be possible to replace window frames.

WHAT IS EMBODIED CARBON?

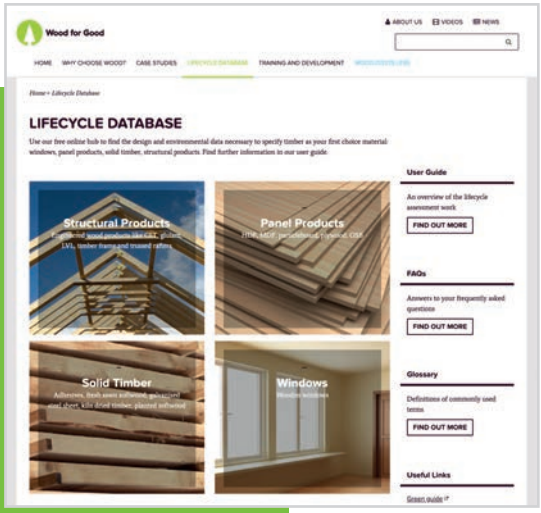
The embodied carbon in a building comprises the carbon emissions associated with sourcing materials, manufacturing them into products, transporting those products or building elements to site, and installing them in the building. For timber and wood products, this includes growing and harvesting the trees, processing them and suppling them to the builders' merchant.

Timber has the best – namely the lowest - embodied carbon of any material that you work with. It therefore gives you advantages when dealing with architects working on RIBA 2030 Challenge schemes.

LIFE CYCLE ADVANTAGE

The timber industry has co-operated to produce a number of Life Cycle Analysis calculations to cover everything from construction timbers to wood windows. It is also underlining wood's beneficial contribution to climate change in a campaign called 'Wood CO_2ts Less'. These details are important to architects and home-owners concerned about climate change. Visit: www.woodforgood.com for further information.

Wood CO_2ts less



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