

Role of Northeastern Forests and Wood Products in Carbon Sequestration

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The 73 million acres of Northeast forestland, dominated by hardwoods, are an abundant carbon sink. Additionally the region's forest products displace fossil fuels directly as biofuels; and indirectly as building materials and furniture substituting for steel, concrete and other energyintensive materials. Carbon storage via the increase in forestland acreage until recently, and in the existing biomass growth today, exceeds removals by one million cubic feet per year. This report discusses the potential and limitations of the Northeastern forest to accelerate its carbon sequestration through forestry management practices, biomass plantations, and through the recycling and extended life spans of forest products. It argues that stocking control treatments and regeneration alone can increase net annual growth by 10 million tons per year in the region, offsetting 14% of current carbon emissions by the end of the next century. The report describes the forest carbon models which account for carbon sinks and flows, and focuses on the states as planners and executors of carbon initiatives in the contexts of agricultural, energy, and waste disposal policies.