



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**900 COURT ST NE**  
**SALEM, OR 97301**

## **Sustainable Building Programs**

**HB 4166**

### **LEED Certification**

LEED is a point-based system where projects earn LEED points for satisfying specific green building criteria. LEED certification is available in four progressive levels with a maximum of 100 base points: Certified 40–49 points; Silver 50–59 points; Gold 60–79 points; Platinum 80 points or above.

Within each of the LEED credit categories, projects must satisfy particular prerequisites to earn points. The categories include: Sustainable Sites 26 Possible Points; Water Efficiency 10 Possible Points; Energy and Atmosphere 35 Possible Points; Materials and Resources 14 Possible Points; Indoor Environmental Quality 15 Possible Points; Innovation in Design 6 Possible Points; Regional Priority 4 Possible Points.

### **Sustainable Forestry Initiative**

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program was created to certify forests in North America- it only certifies the United States and Canada. SFI is the largest single forest management standard in the world, with 195 million acres of certified lands in the United States and Canada.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative Program is the most widely used forest certification standard in North America. SFI Inc. is an independent, non-profit organization operating under the direction of a multi-disciplinary, 18-member board equally represented by environmental, social and economic sectors. SFI's forest land standard applies specifically to U.S. and Canadian forests, but extends to international procurement through SFI's chain of custody and fiber sourcing requirements. With more than 195 million acres/79 million hectares certified to the SFI Standard, SFI is the largest single forest standard in the world. The standard is based on principles and measurements that promote sustainable forest management and consider all forest values, and includes unique fiber sourcing requirements to promote responsible forest management on all forest lands in North America.

Forest certification can be a proof point that wood products are from well-managed forests where the perpetual growing of trees is integrated with protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality; where responsible forestry is practiced; and where loggers, foresters and family forests landowners are trained in best management practices. Chain of custody certification confirms that a process in

the place to track fiber from certified forest content, responsible sources, and/or post-consumer recycled content.

### **Forest Stewardship Council**

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organization devoted to encourage the responsible management of the world's forests. While SFI standards are the same across North America, FSC standards vary depending on the forests. Landowners and companies that see timber or forest products seek certification as a way to verify to consumers that they have practiced forestry consistent with FSC standards.

FSC has numerous standards worldwide. Only 10% of the total FSC certified forests are in the US. The rest are certified to standards outside the US.

Any policy that states FSC-only fails to recognize 90% of FSC certified forests are outside the US, giving preference to FSC products from offshore. By choosing SFI certified products, one is promoting markets for products from responsibly managed forests, conserve those forests, protect jobs, and viability of local communities within the US.

FSC certifications are variable, driven in part by voting structure rather than the differences in the forests. As a result, certifications are not commercially reasonable in some places and often discriminate against good forest practices (such as in the PNW) and favor products from forests practices that are at least no better in other countries (such as in Canada and Russia).

### **American Tree Farms**

The American Tree Farm System is a network of more than 83,000 woodland owners sustainably managing 26 million acres of forestland. It is the largest and oldest sustainable family woodland system in America, internationally recognized, meeting strict third-party certification standards.

Certification standards include: Commitment to Practicing; Sustainable Forestry; Compliance with Laws; Reforestation and Afforestation; Air, Water, and Soil Protection; Fish, Wildlife, and Biodiversity; Forest Aesthetics; Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities

### **Oregon Forrest Facts**

- 1) State forests are about 3% of the forestland, and when combined with other public (like parks, ODOT & College of Forest) totals 4%.
- 2) Private forestland ownership is about 34%, with large (industrial) private at 19%, and small (woodlands) private at 15%.
- 3) 2,900,655 acres are SFI certified (27.3%)
- 4) 807,508 acres are American Tree Farm System certified (7.6%)
- 5) 560,289 acres are FSC certified (5.3%)
- 6) Of the total acreage (4,268,452) certified by one of the three standards: (68%) SFI certified; (19%) American Tree Farm Association certified; (13.1%) FSC certified.