

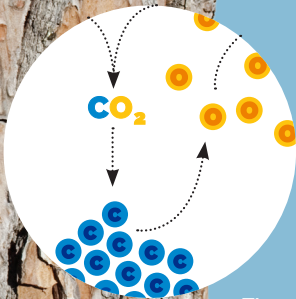
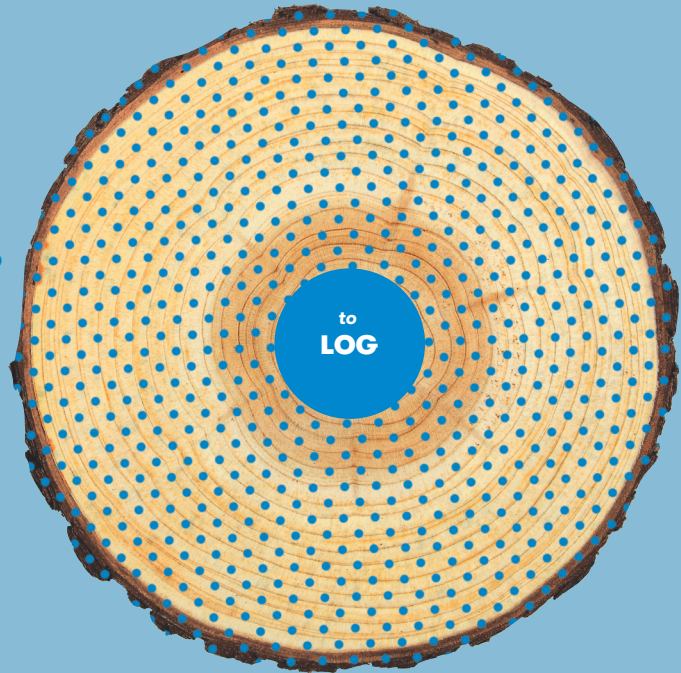
THE UNDERSTORY

# Storing carbon for life

Forests store carbon. And so do products made from trees. Combined, United States' forests and wood products sequester and store 16% of nationwide emissions from burning fossil fuels. The longer wood products last, the more effective they are at helping to slow climate change.



Wood is made up of **50%** carbon



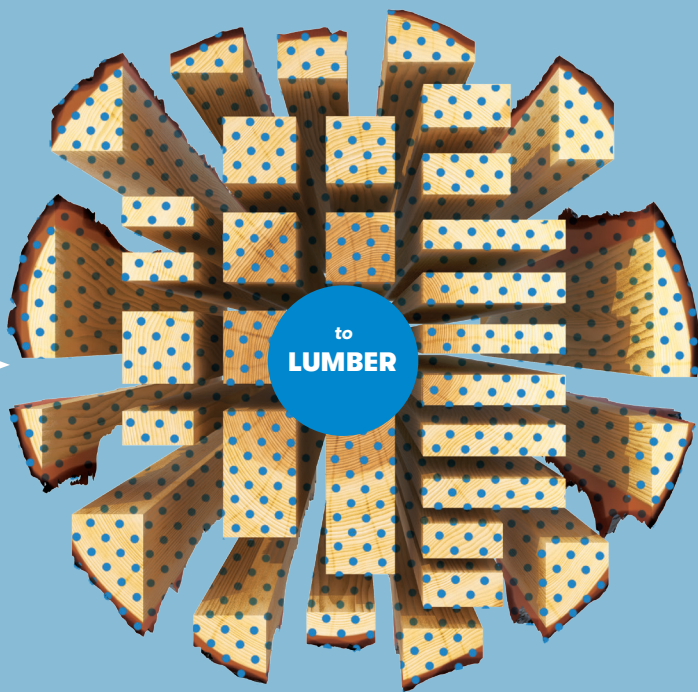
Through photosynthesis, trees take in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere, giving back the oxygen and **keeping the carbon, which fuels tree growth.**

After a tree is harvested, as long as the wood is still intact, that carbon is **still being stored and providing a climate benefit.**



**Sustainable forestry, in which we grow more wood than we harvest and manage for long-term healthy forests, and increasing wood use are important pathways for climate action.**

The U.S. has committed to reducing emissions to at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2030. To meet this goal, we must pull more carbon out of the atmosphere — and trees are our best technology to do that.



Wood products, including lumber, currently hold 108.5 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, **accounting for 14% of the annual climate benefit** we get from our forests.

**Using more long-lived wood products, like building materials,** from sustainably managed forests could increase our forests' climate benefits by 10%.

### **Investing in greater wood use has various cross-cutting benefits:**

1

Wood products help support a variety of jobs, from forestry to manufacturing to architecture.

2

Manufacturing processes for wood building materials emit less carbon than those for non-wood building materials.

3

Demand for harvested wood products can drive sustainable forestry, keeping forests as forests.