



Wood Encouragement Policies

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADING THE WAY

Local, state and national governments around the world are working hard to find ways to help tackle climate change. Local governments in particular are often leading the way with energy saving and green building. Building with responsibly sourced wood can help meet climate change targets as well as bringing other benefits like increased speed of construction and exceptional thermal insulation properties meaning buildings consume less energy.

HELPING TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Responsibly sourced wood is unique in that it stores carbon and in most cases there are less carbon emissions associated with its production than other building materials such as concrete or steel.

WHAT DOES A WOOD ENCOURAGEMENT POLICY MEAN?

A wood encouragement policy generally requires responsibly sourced wood to be considered, where feasible, as the primary construction material in all new-build and refurbishment projects. This is usually limited to public sector buildings but could be applied across residential and commercial.

WOOD ENCOURAGEMENT POLICIES AROUND THE WORLD

Councils in Australia and New Zealand have recently adopted wood encouragement policies following in the footsteps of other countries such as Canada, France, Finland and the Netherlands.

Latrobe City Council, Australia

In 2014 Latrobe City Council became the first council in Australia to implement a wood encouragement policy. It aims to promote the use of wood as the preferred material in both the construction and fit out of Council buildings and infrastructure.

Rotorua District Council, New Zealand

More recently, in 2015 Rotorua District Council implemented a wood first policy which mandates the use of wood for all public buildings in the area and encourages all others to think about using wood as an option for construction.

British Columbia, Canada

Since October 2009, all newly constructed publicly funded buildings such as schools, libraries or sports complexes, must consider wood as the primary building material.

Finland

The Finnish government has put in place land planning incentives to encourage the increased use of wood in small house construction.

The Netherlands

Legislation here makes it compulsory to provide environmental impact information for all new buildings. This favours wood products.



Library at the Dock, Victoria Harbour, Melbourne



EXAMPLES OF WOODEN PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Library at the Dock, Victoria Harbour, Melbourne

Melbourne City Council's 'Library at the Dock' is constructed primarily from certified cross-laminated timber and is Australia's first six-star green star building. The library stores 250 tonnes of carbon helping to tackle climate change. Its passive design promotes natural ventilation, daylight and fresh indoor air quality, resulting in reduced energy consumption and an improved indoor environment. It also uses solar panels and rainwater harvesting.

The three-storey building offers an interactive learning environment, an impressive digital collection, multi-purpose community spaces and a performance venue that holds 120 people.

Bayside Police Station, Melbourne

Bayside Police Station has been designed as a truly central, community building using wood to make it inviting, accessible and part of the civic fabric of the neighbourhood. The workspaces, meeting rooms, sally port, holding rooms and gymnasium within the station are gathered around a central top-lit atrium lined with wood.

Surry Hills Library and Community Centre, Sydney

Surry Hills Library (a City of Sydney building) has been designed and constructed with sustainability at heart incorporating responsibly sourced wood, energy efficiency measures and water conservation. Sections of timber panels are made of automated louvre systems that filter and control sunlight and views.

It incorporates a library, a community centre and childcare centre for the local population.

NMIT building, Nelson, New Zealand

The Arts & Media building at the Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology, New Zealand showcases the latest in structural timber technology. All the timber used is grown and manufactured within 100km of Nelson and its extensive use in the structural elements, framing and internal linings represents a significant carbon sink, reducing the overall carbon footprint of the building.

Whistler Public Library, British Columbia, Canada

Whistler public library was designed to recreate the alpine architecture and uses local natural materials and contemporary wood detailing as a way to improve energy efficiency. The roof structure is designed to carry an intensive green roof plus additional snow loads. The wood was locally sourced, processed and fabricated. In addition to its environmental benefits the building makes a huge social difference to the community and has quickly become a defacto living room for local residents and seasonal workers.



Have you considered a wood encouragement policy?



For more information visit MakeItWood.org



Bayside Police Station



Surry Hills Library and Community Centre



NMIT building



Whistler Public Library