



## Wood – the eco-balance of a raw material!

What does using wood have to do with  
climate protection?

### Wood - The greatest product comes from nature

#### Active climate protection by means of carbon dioxide storage (carbon sequestering)

Every tree in the forest produces wood in the course of its lifetime. Apart from sunlight and the nutrients of the soil dissolved in water, it needs for that purpose above all carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>. Carbon dioxide, commonly known as a greenhouse gas, is largely responsible for climate change. While growing, trees are constantly extracting large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and storing it as carbon in the wood. Additionally, oxygen is produced along the way, which is all-important for animal and human life.

Using wood from sustainable forestry, which is mandatory according to German Federal Forest law (Bundeswaldgesetz), is storing the greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub> in wooden products, while new trees can grow back on the same forest area. This is an important contribution to active climate protection.

#### Passive climate protection by means of saving energy

When producing construction wood or wood as raw material, only a fraction of the energy is needed compared to the production of steel, aluminum, concrete or plastics and thus, considerably less CO<sub>2</sub> is discharged in the process. In addition to its property as an “active” storage of CO<sub>2</sub>, wood is therefore also a “passive climate protector” and ecologically very much superior to the competing materials made of fossile commodities due to its inherent energy savings.

#### Wood does not know any problems of recycling

Even the best product will eventually reach the end of its lifespan, and even then, wooden products are especially environment-friendly. Whereas products made from fossile commodities end up as an ecological problem, when time comes for their disposal, wooden products can be used in a CO<sub>2</sub>-balanced way. Wood is natural and organic and is a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral source of energy when burnt as fuel.

### More information on the following pages:

[Beechwood - winner of near-natural forestry](#)

[Wood as a raw material](#)

[PEFC chain-of-custody](#)