Cleaning Our Air

Did you know that Georgia’s 22 million acres of working forests provide clean air for you to breathe every day?

Carbon dioxide (or CO₂) is released into the atmosphere through both natural processes (such as decomposition and respiration) and non-natural causes (such as burning fossil fuels). High levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere is considered by many a contributing factor of global climate change. While trees are growing, they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen during photosynthesis, and, even after the tree is harvested, carbon is stored (or sequestered) in the wood fiber. That’s why we call them working forests, because they produce oxygen for us to breathe everyday while sequestering carbon in the products we use.

HERE’S A FEW FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT CLEAN AIR AND WORKING FORESTS.

26% less net CO₂

Wood framing in a home produces 26 percent less net CO₂ emissions than steel and 31 percent less than concrete.¹

50% Carbon

Wood is 50 percent carbon by dry weight.²

$37 Billion

The estimated annual value of the ecosystem services — including clean air — provided by Georgia’s working forests is.⁴

830 Million+ metric tons of CO₂

Trees in the U.S. sequester more than 830 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents annually — the equivalent of the greenhouse gas emissions from 177 million passenger cars over a year.³

U.S. forests offset 10 to 20% of U.S. carbon emissions each year.⁵

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the amount of carbon stored annually in forest products in the U.S. is equivalent to removing more than 70 million tons of CO₂ from the atmosphere every year.³