

ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT COMPARISON TOOL

A tool for understanding environmental decisions related to the pulp and paper industry



EFFECTS OF DECREASED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ON ENERGY USE

Carbon Storage in the Forest and in Products

Increasing carbon in the forest will normally have little direct effect on energy consumption in the forest products value chain. Indirect effects are possible if, for instance, carbon is retained in the forest via practices that result in fewer products being manufactured that would have displaced more (or less) energy-intensive products in commerce. These effects, however, can only be understood by focusing on particular products.

Increasing the carbon stored in products is not expected to significantly affect the energy consumption in the forest products value chain. The one potential direct effect worth noting is the opportunity for generating energy from used forest products at the end of life because this potential will be related, in part, to the amounts of carbon stored in products. As is the case with forest carbon, indirect effects are also possible if the increased carbon storage is accomplished by producing more products that are less (or more) greenhouse gas intensive than the products they displace.