MAKE IT WOOD
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PLANET ARK

FACTSHEET

Wood Encouragement Policies

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADING THE WAY

Local, state and national governments around the world are working hard to find ways to reduce 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 and it's becoming increasingly clear that wood and biophilic design can provide significant health and wellbeing benefits.

HELPING TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Responsibly sourced wood is unique; it is renewable, it stores carbon and produces significantly lower CO_2 emissions than other more carbon-intensive building materials such as concrete or steel.

WHAT DOES A WOOD ENCOURAGEMENT POLICY MEAN?

A Wood Encouragement Policy generally requires that responsibly sourced wood should 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 construction.

WOOD ENCOURAGEMENT POLICIES AROUND THE WORLD

An increasing number of 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.

Australia

In December 2014 Latrobe City Council became the first local council in Australia to implement a Wood Encouragement Policy, and in June 2017 Tasmania became the first state in Australia to adopt a state-wide policy. Both aim to promote the use of wood as the preferred material in both the construction and fit-out of council buildings and infrastructure.

New Zealand

In April 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

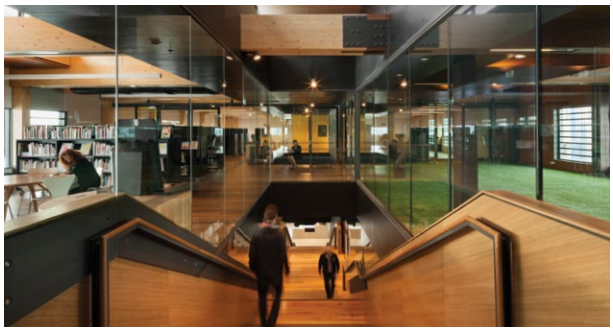
Legislation in the Netherlands makes it compulsory to provide environmental impact information for all new buildings. This favours wood products.

Library at the Dock. Design: Lendlease with Clare Design and Hayball. Photography: Diane Snape and Emma Cross.

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 (CLT) and glued laminated timber (glulam) and is Australia's first six-star green star building. The library stores 250 tonnes of carbon. In addition, its passive design promotes natural ventilation, daylight and fresh indoor air quality, resulting in reduced energy consumption and an improved indoor environment. 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.



Library at the Dock. Design: Lendlease with Clare Design and Hayball. Photography: Diane Snape and Emma Cross.

Bunjil Place, Narre Warren, Victoria

Bunjil Place is a multipurpose arts, civic and community facility for the City of Casey in the outer Melbourne suburb of Narre Warren. The project provides a broad range of spaces for council and community organisations and serves a number of functions. The complex holds a library, 800-seat theatre, gathering and meeting spaces, council offices, an art gallery, a flexible event space and an outdoor plaza. The design was heavily influenced by the history of the land and the stories of the area's traditional landowners, the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri people.

Bunjil Place. Design: FJMT. Photography: John Gollings.

Bold Park Aquatic Centre, City Beach, WA

The designers of Bold Park Aquatic Centre selected timber as the major structural element as it is the physical embodiment of sustainability. In particular, they wanted to use the public building to help create a higher level of awareness of sustainable building. The timber sits in harmony with the bushland setting, bringing nature into the building, and softening the entire building with sweeping ceilings of acoustically perforated plywood.

Bold Park Aquatic Centre. Design: Donovan Payne Architects & Andrew Volkmann & Kim Donovan. Photography: Emma Van Dordrecht – F22 Photography

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