



Where does your timber come from?

Help for Local Authorities

Do you specify and/or buy any of the following?

- Construction products such as timber joists
- Products for repairs & maintenance such as plywood
- Furniture
- Paper
- Wooden benches
- Fencing
- Wood chips for energy production
- Pallets
- Other forest products

If the answer is YES to any of the above read on.....

FACT 1

The UK is the world's 4TH LARGEST net importer of timber

FACT 2

Public Sector (central & local) account for OVER 20% of all timber purchases

FACT 3

ENDS revealed ONLY 7.5% of councils have timber or paper procurement policies



Properly managed, timber is the world's most renewable building material as well as the most commonly used. However, in many countries with valuable forests, these resources are diminishing fast – due to the practice of illegal logging and the greater profitability of competing land uses such as palm oil. In July 2008, WWF estimated that 16 to 19% of all timber imports in the UK derive from alleged illegal or suspicious sources.

The 2007 Stern Report concluded that deforestation accounts for more than 18% of all global carbon emissions, more than the entire transport sector. The report also advocated that protecting the world's forests was of paramount importance to mitigate climate change. Timber acts as a carbon store and in recent years there has been a clear need for both business and public authorities to consider their environmental impact and reduce their carbon footprint. Additionally, millions of people around the world depend on forests for their livelihood – providing the basic needs of a home, food, water, and some way to generate an income.

Buying timber doesn't need to cost the earth. There are simple steps to responsible purchasing which mean you can reduce your environmental footprint and make a significant contribution to protecting the world's forests and the local communities they support!

How can local authorities make a difference to forests and address climate change?

The Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET), the Timber Trade Federation (TTF) and WWF are working together and are committed to supporting Local Authorities in implementing a timber policy through responsible purchasing. We encourage Local authorities to do their bit by;

- Issuing a clear policy on what timber and paper to buy for authority work and use
- Always asking for legal and sustainable forest products, or recycled products
- Checking and recording basic information on whether what you bought met your policy

We all believe these three steps are effective in eliminating illegal and non sustainable timber from the UK market.

Doing this may not be perfect from the beginning, but the intention is to help break down the task into manageable steps that can be monitored.

We can help you by:

- Working with you to develop a simple yet effective policy
- Providing templates and tools to implement and monitor your policy easily
- Advising on the availability of legal and sustainable goods in the UK market
- Help with training & providing a telephone helpline and website with supporting information





Six steps to implementation

STEP 1:

Identify who is responsible

Identify or assign a staff member(s) to take responsibility for implementation and monitoring.

STEP 2:

Formulate and approve the timber policy and make it public

A model policy for Local Authorities is available.

STEP 3:

Inform all relevant personnel in your Local Authority, as well as your suppliers and contractors, of your policy commitment

- Identify where the majority of timber products are used in your work
- Identify internal and external people who need to know about the policy such as Officers (planning, environment, engineers, architects, parks & gardens, highways, housing & regeneration etc), Councillors & Contractors
- Implement training programme – training workshops can be delivered free by CPET

STEP 4:

Specify legal and sustainable timber explicitly in your contracts and for your purchase orders.

The policy should apply to all forest products, such as furniture, paper, woodfuel and construction timber, including timber used temporarily (hoardings and scaffolding). In practice, we would recommend focusing on your major purchases.

STEP 5:

Check compliance

CPET recommends that evidence of legal and sustainable production includes timber certified under the forest certification schemes FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) and PEFC (Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes). Full guidance is available on the CPET website, which also covers additional types of evidence you may encounter. If your products are delivered and claimed to be certified products, check invoices or delivery notes for proof of certification. In cases of non-certified timber, request alternative evidence of compliance. More information on how to check evidence of compliance is available here: <http://www.proforest.net/cpet/evidence-of-compliance>.

STEP 6:

Keep a record

Simple records on goods received are easy to set up – CPET can provide sample spreadsheets. To reduce the burden for Local Authority personnel, it is also recommended that suppliers are requested to provide regular data on the sourcing of timber with basic details as a condition of the contract.

We would like you to take action on sustainable procurement of forest products. It doesn't have to be hard, expensive or difficult to demonstrate progress! In return our commitment is to support you and help dispel the following myths.....

**MYTH 1 –
Finding these products is hard and they
are always more expensive**

Local Authorities should specify legal and sustainable timber as a first choice. Evidence of sustainability includes timber certified under forest certification schemes, and CPET advises that the two main international systems are the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The majority of timber used in the UK is softwood, and around 90% of UK grown and imported softwood is certified, as are all UK produced panels such as MDF and chipboard. So in many cases, for buyers, specifying certified timber should not be a problem and at no extra cost. However, in some cases, particularly specialist tropical hardwood timber products, certified timber is less available and could incur additional cost. If you have difficulties contact us.

**MYTH 2 –
It requires a lot of work and resources**

We acknowledge the limited resources available to Local Authorities' personnel. That is why we offer free tools, support and practical advice. CPET support via the CPET helpline is free to Local Authorities and their suppliers and contractors and provides regular workshops on responsible purchasing of forest goods. The WWF also has free online publications to help you.

**MYTH 3 -
Showing we have done the right
thing is too difficult**

We can provide very simple tools to help you check your purchases and record the information. Even a simple yes or no listing as to whether you could tell your product was from a certified source is a good start. WWF will be setting up pledges that help lead you through different steps to change, and to demonstrate your commitment to sustainability.

Contact us:



CPET is a UK government funded body which provides free impartial advice, practical support and assistance. The website provides detailed information (see www.proforest.net/cpet/local-authorities). CPET's helpline, website and workshops are free of charge for contractors and suppliers to Local Authorities.

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The TTF is a membership organisation of timber trade businesses who are committed to responsible purchasing. Member companies of the TTF source from all over the globe and information on what timber and timber products they supply are found on the TTF website.

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WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network is a mechanism which operates in 35 countries. All are working to encourage the more responsible use of forest products, eliminate illegal logging and improve the management of valuable and threatened forests.

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