A MESSAGE FROM THE KITCHEN CABINET MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

KCMA

ARE YOUR KITCHEN CABINETS STORING CARBON?

IF THEY'RE MADE FROM WOOD, YES.

WOOD-BASED CABINETS ARE

CLIMATE POSITIVE NOW

- Every kitchen built with wood-based cabinets is storing literally **hundreds of pounds** of naturally captured carbon
- This carbon remains sequestered for as long as that kitchen is in use
- Durable surfaces and finishes, and quality hardware that protect the beauty and functionality of kitchen cabinets add years to their **climate positive benefits**
- The domestic composite wood used by the North American Kitchen and Bath industry in 2021 alone is sequestering over 3,313,476 metric tons of naturally captured carbon. This is **a measurable, real-world benefit for our environment**

3 MILLION+

METRIC TONS STORED ANNUALLY

WOOD, AS A MATERIAL, IS ALREADY CLIMATE POSITIVE[1]

WOOD-BASED CABINETS ARE CLIMATE POSITIVE NOW BECAUSE...

FORESTS ARE NATURE'S PERFECT CARBON SCRUBBERS.

Trees naturally capture CO_2 from the air, split off and release the oxygen atom back into the atmosphere, and use the carbon to grow their woody mass.

50% OF THE CHEMICAL MAKEUP OF WOOD IS STORED CARBON.

The carbon captured and stored by trees isn't released until that tree, or products made from it, decomposes or burns. In kitchens, captured carbon may remain sequestered for decades.[2]

DENSER WOODS SEQUESTER MORE CARBON.

Hardwoods store more carbon than softwoods. Because composite wood panels like particleboard and MDF are denser than hardwood, they store even more carbon.[3]

COMPOSITE WOOD PANELS BEGIN LIFE AS A RECYCLED PRODUCT.

When trees are harvested for lumber, flooring, and siding, half of that wood fiber is left over. Particleboard and MDF use over 99 percent of that remaining fiber. The tiny bit still left over becomes fuel for heating factories and kilns.[4,5]

EVERY SHEET OF PARTICLEBOARD IS STORING 40 LBS. OF CAPTURED CARBON.

That's 36% more carbon—14.4 lbs.—than is released in the production and use of that panel. If a typical kitchen uses 11 sheets of particleboard, it's storing 400 lbs. of carbon.[6]

MANAGED FORESTS ARE HEALTHY FORESTS.

Active management maximizes forests' ability to clean our air and water, and provide healthy habitats for wildlife. Even with growing demand for housing, paper and energy, the total volume of trees grown in the U.S. is actually increasing.[7]

DURABLE FINISHES AND LAMINATES EXTEND WOOD'S CARBON BENEFITS.

The longer your cabinets are in use, the longer that carbon is stored. Even when engineered wood eventually makes its way to landfills, there is growing evidence that the carbon losses remain extremely low.[8,9]

REFERENCES

[1] Climate Positive Now website, 2022.
[2] "Forest Carbon FAQs," USDA website.
[3] "Forest Carbon," Vermont Dept. Forests, Parks & Recreation website.
[4] Cradle to Gate Life Cycle Assessment of U.S. Medium Density Fiberboard Production (2013). Maureen Puettmann, WoodLife Environmental Consultants, LLC; Elaine Oneil, CORRIM; Jim Wilson, Oregon State University
[5] Cradle to Gate Life Cycle Assessment of U.S. Particleboard Production (2013). Maureen Puettmann, WoodLife Environmental Consultants, LLC; Elaine Oneil, CORRIM; Jim Wilson, Oregon State University
[6] "Benefits of Working Forests," National Alliance of Forest Owners, 2022
[7] "U.S. Forest Facts on Forestland," Steve Nix, ThoughtCo, Aug. 27, 2020.
[8] "The Decomposition of Forest Products in Landfills," J. A. Micales & K. E. Skog, USDA Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory, 1996.
[9] "Research on carbon release from decomposition of wood and paper products," NSW (Australia) Department of Primary Industries

THE KCMA IS PARTNERING WITH CLIMATEPOSITIVENOW.ORG TO SHINE A LIGHT ON THE ROLE ITS MEMBERS PLAY IN HELPING TO CREATE A HEALTHIER, MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD.

THIS MOVEMENT IS PART OF A LARGER EFFORT TO EDUCATE DESIGNERS, MANUFACTURERS, AND CONSUMERS ABOUT THE POWER THEY HAVE IN THE MATERIAL CHOICES THEY MAKE.

KCMA

WE BUILD WITH MATERIALS THAT ARE

CLIMATE POSITIVE NOW