



# SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES LINK PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO FORESTS

**The SFI Program works across the U.S. and Canada through 34 SFI Implementation Committees. People work together on these diverse committees to help meet the SFI Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing Standards. Committees are made up of SFI Program Participants, conservation organizations, government agencies, forestry and professional associations, private landowners, Project Learning Tree, loggers and Indigenous groups.**

SFI Implementation Committees are our strongest asset for community leadership. This grassroots network support logger training, youth education, conservation research and community engagement activities. SFI Implementation Committees are a critical part of our work promoting the SFI Standards, collaborating on the training of harvesting professionals and connecting people and communities to the forest.

The committees also support youth engagement and education initiatives to encourage future leaders. And the public's connection to our forests is further enhanced by having 96% of all forestland certified to the SFI Forest Management standard available for outdoor recreation.

All SFI Program Participants owning or operating primary forest product facilities, owning or managing forestland, or procuring fiber within the state or province are expected to participate in their local SFI Implementation Committee. This approach to training and implementation of responsible forestry practices is unique to the SFI Program — no other forest certification program in the world has this level of grassroots support to promote responsible forestry, best management practices for water quality and training.



## SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES CORE PRIORITIES

SFI Implementation Committees are an integral part of the SFI program and play a vital role in promoting training and landowner outreach, maintaining integrity of the SFI program and supporting and promoting responsible forestry and the SFI program at the state, provincial and regional level.

**LOGGER TRAINING AND EDUCATION:** SICs establish criteria and identify delivery mechanisms for logger and forester training to reach the thousands of independent contractors that are the key to the quality of forest harvesting operations.

**RESPONDING TO INCONSISTENT PRACTICES INQUIRIES:** SFI Implementation Committees – through monitoring of inconsistent practices – offer a forum to provide information or answer questions about local forestry operations, and they also provide a process to respond to questions or concerns about forestry practices on lands certified to the SFI Standard and beyond.

**LANDOWNER OUTREACH:** SICs provide sustainable forestry information and support to family forest landowners in collaboration with local conservation groups, government agencies, university extensions, forestry and professional associations, landowner groups and many others. These landowner outreach efforts seek to improve forest management on both certified and uncertified lands.

**INCREASING SFI PROGRAM RECOGNITION:** SFI's unique grassroots network seeks to increase SFI program recognition, awareness and support with local government agencies, legislative officials and key stakeholder groups, like architects and green building advocates.

**ANNUAL REPORTING:** SICs annually report successes at the local level from membership, outreach activities, research, to conservation and community partnerships projects.

**PROTECTING SFI PROGRAM INTEGRITY:** SICs are protecting the integrity of the SFI program by ensuring proper logo usage and alerting SFI Inc. of improper communications or misleading claim. conservation and community partnerships projects.

## INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY

SFI Implementation Committees have the freedom to develop projects, programs and activities and make decisions – within their local membership – about the best way to achieve on the ground results.

Across Canada and the United States, over 375 million acres/150 million hectares are certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard. Given this landscape's vast scale and the diversity of the social, jurisdictional and ecological factors involved, SFI Implementation Committees have a significant amount of autonomy to:

- Establish governance and leadership structures;
- Design and implement locally-developed projects;
- Determine the best way to achieve the results they desire.

## TAKING ACTION, MAKING PROGRESS

SFI Implementation Committees partner with many local organizations, raising awareness about sustainable forest management and sustainable communities. For example, SFI Implementation Committees work with local Habitat for Humanity affiliates across North America to put low-income, working families into their own homes. These efforts have included more than 4,000 volunteer hours and countless amounts of donated certified building materials. Some projects have even tracked the wood used to build the home back to the forest where the wood was grown. This helps homeowners understand the link between their new home and sustainable forest management.

## DIVERSITY

SFI's diverse grassroots network makes measurable progress on sustainable forestry, logger education, landowner engagement and community outreach. SFI Program Participants represent nearly 60% of committee membership, with the remaining 40% being other supporting organizations. The diversity of community members ensures representation of many different perspectives, fresh ideas, and the capacity to implement the work members deem important to their core mission and priorities.