

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH FOREST FOCUSED COLLABORATION



October 2023

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES AND FORESTS

SFI welcomes the USDA Forest Service's historic announcement of investing \$1 billion toward urban and community forests. We are proud to be named a recipient of the 2023 Grants Program, authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act, and look forward to leveraging the **SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard** to support this work.



EXPLORE YOUR ENVIRONMENT K-8 ACTIVITY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE IN CANADA

SFI and **Project Learning Tree Canada** (PLT Canada) are celebrating the back-to-school season in Canada with the launch of the *Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide!*



This cutting-edge environmental education resource offers a complementary curriculum guide to engage students in exploring their environment. The guide includes 50 hands-on, multidisciplinary activities to connect children to nature and increase young people's awareness and knowledge about their environment.

Purchase the guide and professional development for a formal or non-formal educator in your community to help spark a love of nature in learners!

JOIN THE NATURE OF FIRE WEBINAR SERIES

Join PLT Canada on October 10 and again on October 17 from 3 P.M. to 6 P.M. ET for a captivating webinar series exploring the latest **PLT** and **PLT Canada** activity collection around the *Nature of Fire*. These webinars (ideal for educators and community leaders working with Grades 6-8) will guide you through three engaging hands-on activities that investigate the role of fire in our ecosystems.

PLT CANADA

NATURE OF FIRE WEBINAR SERIES

OCTOBER 3, 2023 3 PM PT / 6 PM ET

OCTOBER 10, 2023 3 PM PT / 6 PM ET

OCTOBER 17, 2023 3 PM PT / 6 PM ET



FOREST AND HEALTH CHALLENGE

We're thrilled to be one of the winners of the **World Economic Forum's UpLink Challenge** for Forest and Health, educating teachers and youth about the benefits of forests and nature. Joining a community of innovators, we'll be amplifying our efforts to emphasize the vital connection between forests and human health. The World Economic Forum's UpLink is a digital platform to source innovative solutions for the world's most pressing problems.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' PARTICIPATION IN FOREST MANAGEMENT IS ESSENTIAL

Paul Robitaille, Senior Advisor of Indigenous Relations at SFI, joined forest sector leaders to discuss the growing recognition of Indigenous communities' important role in forest management and sustainability. Deepening relationships and collaboration between Indigenous communities and the forest sector marks a positive step toward sustainable resource management.



PROMOTING THE VALUE AND BENEFITS OF SFI AT GREENBUILD

SFI's Annie Perkins, Sr. Director of Green Building and Supply Chains, spoke at the Greenbuild Women in Green Luncheon, addressing over 700 women who joined the conversation.



Greenbuild was an opportunity to highlight SFI-certified wood for recognition by LEED through its legal wood compliance path. SFI-certified wood products provide assurances for **risk reduction**, **landscape biodiversity**, **water conservation**, and more. **Learn more** about how SFI-certified wood offers better building solutions.

SFI'S FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND STANDARD IS NOW AVAILABLE

Last month, SFI attended the **International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) 2023 International Conference**. SFI President and CEO Kathy Abusow was the keynote speaker during the closing ceremony.

We celebrated the **new SFI Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard**, thanking all who contributed, including American Forests, Arbor Day Foundation, the International Society of Arboriculture, the Society of Municipal Arborists, and Tree Canada. The conference attracted 800+ attendees from 22 countries and represented an important opportunity for us to share more details about the SFI Standard and generate interest in its implementation. **View the press release and partner quotes.**



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- SFI observed National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day in Canada on September 30. We invite you to join us and commemorate Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 9 in the US. Find resources to further your learning and read more about **the actions taken by SFI and PLT Canada** to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- During National Forest Week in Canada, Catherine Langille, **Indigenous Relations Coordinator at SFI, was recognized with a 2023 Skills Award for Indigenous Youth** by the Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC). Learn more about her green career pathway and the mentors she's had along the way.
- The Women's Forest Congress held a virtual gathering, sponsored by SFI**, focused on intentionally identifying and preparing more women for leadership positions. SFI's new Chief Education Officer, Dr. Reagan Flowers, presented PLT programs, resources, and inclusive efforts underway to increase engagement of Black and Indigenous Peoples in the forest and conservation sector. SFI takes pride in its diverse team, with women representing 70% of our staff and an impressive 71% of the SFI Senior Leadership Team. We continue to work to include more diverse voices and to increase the nearly 30% representation of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) on our staff.

SAVE THE DATE

2024 SFI ANNUAL CONFERENCE



JUNE 4-6, 2024

LOEWS ATLANTA HOTEL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

