SFI and Habitat for Humanity DC team up to build homes in the nation’s capital

A different tone of voices from the forest product sector got significant for a good cause.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is passionate about forests and sustainable forest products being used for projects that improve the social quality of life of people all over the world. Last week, working with their partner, Habitat for Humanity, SFI put this passion into action with a team build in DC’s southwest neighborhood at which 550 low-income housing units were completed in the next year.

On June 26th, a “Women in Wood” Build Day was held by Kathy Acker, SFI’s President and CEO. She was joined by a diverse team of women from the forest product sector, who all share a passion for making a difference in their communities and positively impact on the environment.

“I was so glad to be in DC for this build with Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC. SFI and Habitat are working together to address the role of women in shaping change and providing affordable housing to those in need. Playing a new role in this social challenge of affordable housing really represents SFI’s commitment to communities,” said Kathy Acker, SFI’s President and CEO.

The SFI community has donated countless volunteer hours and certified products to make more than a dozen Habitat for Humanity builds across Canada and the US in the past few years. Their partnership highlights the important role of forest sectors, responsible sourcing and sustainable communities, and adds to DC’s Habitat’s mission of providing energy-efficient, safe, affordable homes for low-income families in DC.

“Women in Wood” is a national campaign that encourages women to take on leadership roles in building, which increases energy costs for women. Our partners and communities on the environment both thrive and contribute to climate change. Partnering with SFI is an organization that shares our commitment to sustainability and to giving back to the community—just a natural fit, and we couldn’t be more excited to work alongside friends at the ‘Women in Wood’ Day,’ shared DC Habitat President and CEO, Elaine Raines.

Debora Rabin, CEO of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, said, "It is important to recognize that women play a leadership role in the forest product sector, and it is essential to support their efforts to build a sustainable future.

Another way SFI exemplifies its commitment to sustainability is by encouraging the use of products certified to SFI standards. This project included framing lumber from Weary, lumber from Canadian Mills, and lumber from Pacific Innovations. The use of sustainably harvested timber in this project is an important step towards reducing our carbon footprint.

For more information about SFI and its partners, please see https://www.sfi.org.

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