A SUSTAINABLE COMMITMENT
Consumers are increasingly aware that individual product decisions have global consequences. Nowhere is this more true than in building materials. From framing to decking, people who care for the environment are looking for sustainable solutions. At Universal Forest Products, we aim to provide those solutions by integrating green principles into every part of our business.
OUR BUSINESS
Universal Forest Products is a link in the lumber and building material distribution chain in the United States and the world, and a leading secondary manufacturer and distributor of lumber and building products.

Although Universal does not own forests or harvest logs, our business and success are built on lumber; we have a vested interest in ensuring a healthy environment in which trees can grow and thrive.

OUR COMMITMENT
We carry the mantle of leadership with a great respect for our resources and a great sense of responsibility to our customers, our people and, critically, our environment.

We pledge to be mindful of the environment so our business can thrive and so future generations can prosper on a healthy planet.

OUR SOURCES
Universal purchases lumber from around the world and nearly all continents. In South America and New Zealand, we buy primarily North American pines transplanted from the U.S. and grown on plantations.

The wood we buy from China and Europe also is plantation-grown. Because our resources come from suppliers worldwide, we have adopted policies and strategies that globally address economic costs and environmental impact.

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT WOOD?
EARTH-FRIENDLY: Wood is renewable, sustainable, recyclable, durable and biodegradable. Steel and plastic, on the other hand, are made from nonrenewable resources.
OUR PRACTICES

WITH VENDORS
We are particular about our suppliers and demand they share our sense of environmental concern. We review and monitor vendors’ operations through regular dialogue, on-site visits and independent certification of their operations and standards. We recognize vendors that use third-party certification agencies dedicated to verifying environmentally sound business practices. Today, at least 95% of our panels and 85% of our lumber come from vendors that are third-party certified, and those numbers continue to grow.

IN OUR OPERATIONS
We promote value engineering to add value and minimize waste. Our finger-joint, truss, wall panel and industrial operations allow us to utilize small pieces of wood—which might otherwise have been waste—to manufacture usable structural lumber. We are active recyclers and discourage vendors from “overpackaging” the products we purchase from them.

We minimize waste by using all parts of a canted log for our four markets: appearance-grade for interior and exterior applications like moulding and fencing (DIY/retail); stronger tensile grades for engineered components (site-built construction and manufactured housing); standard grades for trusses and framing lumber (manufactured housing and site-built construction); and lower grades and downfall from other operations for crates, packaging and other components (industrial).

We may be the only lumber supplier to offer this total fiber utilization. It’s just one example of Universal’s ability to make a strong connection between smart business and smart environmental policy, and to find opportunity in our commitment to the environment.

In addition, our commitment to continuous improvement and lean manufacturing practices requires that we maintain a steady focus on eliminating waste in all areas of our operations and administration.

The photovoltaic array atop our Thornton, Calif., plant powers the electrical needs of the entire operation.
ENERGY CONSERVATION AND WASTE REDUCTION

Our manufacturing and engineering departments team up to drive down energy consumption in our offices and operations. Among the initiatives recently created to propel us toward greater sustainability are:

- Use of solar rooftop panels to cut energy use.
- Recovery of all wood waste, to heat plants or to be upcycled by our own operations or other industries.
- Energy efficient motors and lighting.
- Power monitoring systems and use of calculators to maximize energy efficiency in all operations.
- People-Net GPS systems in our private trucking fleet to increase fuel economy.
- Factory recycling programs to drastically reduce landfill-bound waste. The pilot program saw a diversion rate of more than 90%.
- MPG requirements for UFP passenger car sales fleet.
- Construction/repair projects that include recycling containers on site to separate waste for diversion from landfills.
- Recycling asphalt from surface repairs at plant sites, reusing it as gravel base for new surfacing.
- Improved dust collection systems that recapture warm, filtered air and send it back into plants in cold climates instead of venting it to the outside.

Among the certification programs we recognize are the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), the International Standards Organization (ISO 14001), the Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC), and other qualified organizations devoted to the sustainability of the world’s forests, wildlife and watersheds.
**OUR PRODUCTS**

As a leading manufacturer of engineered wood products, we enhance the sustainability and use of wood.

- Our computer-designed wall panels, roof trusses and Open Joist™ floor trusses typically are made from fast-growing species cultivated in managed forests. They’re manufactured with less waste and carry greater loads over longer spans than their stick-framed counterparts.
- Factory-assembled components also have less embodied energy than competing, non-wood products.

As the nation’s leading wood treater, we also use fast-growing species from managed forests.

- We use less energy per board foot produced than manufacturers of comparable steel or plastic products.
- Pressure-treated lumber extends the life of wood products. In North America each year, using pressure-treated wood saves millions of trees from being harvested.
- Our treating facilities are environmentally protective, closed-loop systems that are operated and monitored by our staff of scientists and production and regulatory specialists. We recycle the solution used to treat lumber, and our treating plants have zero wastewater discharge. Our policies are designed to ensure safe operation with minimal waste.

As a manufacturer of wood composites, Universal practices active recycling on a significant scale. We use recycled polyethylene, and we recycle and re-extrude our composite downfall for industrial products.

**GREEN BUILDING PROGRAM RECOGNITION**

Many UFP products qualify for points under several green building certification programs, including LEED® and the NAHB National Green Building Standard.
PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER

Preserved wood is an environmentally responsible choice. Universal’s ProWood® Micro pressure-treated wood products are clean, odorless and safe for a wide variety of applications when used as recommended. Pressure-treated wood saves trees; requires substantially less energy to produce than alternative building products such as concrete, steel and plastics; and is manufactured with renewable and recycled ingredients.

ProWood Micro is produced from plentiful species of trees harvested from managed forestland, not from old-growth or Third World rain forests.
DID YOU KNOW?

In a study comparing stick framing to component framing in a 2600-square-foot house, component framing demonstrated the following advantages:

- 26% less board footage used
- One-fourth the scrap
- 57% less labor to erect

Source: Wood Truss Council, *Framing the American Dream*
OUR PRODUCTS, CONT.

WALL PANELS AND ROOF TRUSSES
Universal’s pre-assembled wall panels and roof trusses save on lumber use, energy consumption and waste during manufacture and installation. Our wall panels and roof trusses are made from sustainably harvested lumber, often using small blocks of lumber that might otherwise have gone to a landfill. All sawdust is captured and recycled for other uses.

OPEN JOIST™
Our Open Joist all-wood floor truss uses short lengths of sustainably harvested lumber, often from downfall from other processes, minimizing waste. Since Open Joist is not made from a nonrenewable material such as steel or aluminum, and its manufacture does not require heat and pressure, it has less embodied energy than competing products. Each joist is individually tested so there are no “culls” at the job site.

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT WOOD?
WOOD PRODUCTS HELP PROVIDE CLEANER AIR: Young-growth trees remove millions of tons of carbon from the atmosphere each year, significantly reducing greenhouse gases.
Our bottom line

We believe we will contribute to the economic and environmental success of our company, stakeholders and planet by:

- Working with vendors who share our beliefs in maintaining environmentally sound purchasing and manufacturing standards.
- Minimizing waste in our operations and through our unique, diverse business model.
- Building success from the world’s most renewable, sustainable, recyclable, durable and biodegradable resource—wood—and maximizing its lifecycle and use.
- Committing to continuously improving all that we do.

The Universal Family of Companies has approximately 80 operating locations in the United States, Mexico and Canada. Our close proximity to the markets we serve means there is less freight involved in getting our products to our customers. The fewer miles we drive, the less energy we use.
Did you know this about wood?

WOOD IS NATURE’S PURIFIER
A 2,400-square-foot house locks up 28.5 tons of carbon dioxide, or roughly seven years of emissions from a small car.

MORE ABUNDANT TODAY
The U.S. has more trees today than it did in the 1920s—even though the population has increased by 143%. More than 1.78 billion trees are planted each year in the U.S. Since 1940, we have been growing more wood than we’ve been harvesting. Today, growth exceeds harvest by 28%.

STRONG INSULATION VALUE
As an insulator, wood is 4 times more efficient than an equivalent thickness of cinder block; 6 times more efficient than brick; 15 times more efficient than concrete; 206 times more efficient than steel; and 1,770 times more efficient than aluminum.

MANUFACTURING PROCESSES USE LESS ENERGY
Wood products make up 47% of all industrial raw material manufactured in the U.S., yet consume only 4% of the energy needed to do that. Comparing total energy costs of other building materials—the costs to acquire the raw material, transport it, process it into a useful product and then use it—wood outshines its competitors.

LIFE-CYCLE ASSESSMENT SHOWS LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
A steel wall requires 3 to 6 times more energy to extract, manufacture and construct than a wall made of wood; manufacturing the steel wall also uses 25 times the amount of water as a wood wall, and releases 3 to 6 times more carbon dioxide. Manufacturing concrete generates 2 to 3 times more carbon dioxide than wood and 5 times the solid waste.

Sources: American Plywood Association, American Forest and Paper Association, Southern Pine Council and Beconstructive.com