Today, wood’s responsibilities in the supply chain is to serve as a fundamental and sustainable part of moving goods from one point to another safely, quickly, and efficiently. It does so every day, millions of times a day. Wood pallets and wood packaging truly do move the world, and it’s done sustainably.

FROM CRADLE-TO-GRAVE, WOOD PALLETS ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY FAVORABLE

There is no other commonly-used building material that requires so little energy to produce as wood. Thanks to photosynthesis, trees are able to use an abundant natural resource (i.e. the sun) as it captures CO2 in the air, combining it with water these plants get from the soil to produce an amazing organic material, wood.

Wood pallets and packaging are naturally almost completely made out of wood. And wood’s strong environmental credentials have been captured in various Life-Cycle Assessment studies and Environmental Product Declarations. The American Hardwood Export Council’s Life Cycle Assessment of Rough-sawn Kiln-dried Hardwood Lumber and the Canadian and American Wood Council’s Environmental Product Declaration further the clear, fact-based, scientifically proven, and independently third-party verified environmental attributes of choosing wood.

According to the CEI-BOIS, here is a great example of the real-life benefits of using wood over alternative materials:

Every cubic meter of wood used as a substitute for other building materials reduces CO2 emissions to the atmosphere by an average of 1.1 ton CO2. If this is added to the 0.9 tons of CO2 stored in wood, each cubic meter of wood saves a total of 2 tons CO2. Based on these figures, a 10% increase in the percentage of wooden houses in Europe would produce sufficient CO2 savings to account for about 25% of the reductions prescribed by the Kyoto Protocol.

North America’s forests are now growing at twice the rate of what is removed for consumer use. Collectively we are planting significantly more to further expand this forest cover, which has already grown by 11.3 million acres in just the last ten years, the size of New Hampshire and Vermont combined. Each year 1.7 billion trees are planted in the United States — more than five trees for every man, woman and child in America — an average of 4.8 million seedlings each day, assuring the rapid expansion of forest cover will continue for generations to come.

The American Hardwood Export Council’s Life Cycle Assessments, July 2012

CHOOSE THE SUSTAINABLE WAY

Increase the use of wooden packaging through educating and informing customers, packaging specialists and packaging students of wood’s environmental benefits over other materials. Promote the use of wood based packaging and pallets to users seeking sustainable, responsible and economical packaging solutions. NATURESPACKAGING.ORG