2025 ANNUAL REPORT

AMERICAN WOOD COUNCIL

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND CEO

Dear AWC Members and Friends:

This past year marked significant wins for our industry. Together, we focused our efforts on AWC's core competencies and advanced policy, education, codes, and standards that strengthened markets, safeguarded material choice, and positioned wood products as key solutions to housing affordability and sustainability.

At the federal policy level, we helped secure the permanent and expanded Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC), a major milestone that will support increased access to affordable housing, encourage housing starts, and ultimately lead to increased demand for wood products. We also advanced regulatory reforms grounded in the best available science, including progress on permitting modernization and formaldehyde risk evaluation, reducing uncertainty for manufacturers.

We released updated environmental product declarations (EPD) to round out the suite of industry EPDs, answering the call from the market for more transparency and further strengthening our position as the most sustainable building product on the market. AWC was also instrumental in the completion of ISO 13391, which is a critical standard that has the potential to serve as an alternative to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol's organizational reporting.

In codes development, AWC continued to navigate thousands of public comments and multiple hearings in the 2027 I-Codes process, securing key wins that protect safe, cost-effective wood construction and ensure fair treatment across competing material interests.

The standards team also made strong contributions that shaped wind and seismic standards by demonstrating the performance-tested resiliency of wood products, while also keeping AWC's essential ANSI design standard references on track for the 2027 I-Codes.

In addition to these wins, targeted education and outreach throughout the year increased the understanding of AWC's core ANSI building standards, mass timber and construction fire safety, equipping building and code officials and fire departments across the nations with the resources they need for safe construction.

Our industry's story remains a compelling one — we manufacture a renewable product that is critical to solving the housing crisis, supports rural economies and protects the long-term health of our forests.

As we look to 2026, we are well-positioned to continue to support safety and market access in building codes and standards, advocate for reasonable regulation, advance data-driven, science-based sustainability policies, and expand opportunities for wood across the built environment.

Thank you for your continued support of AWC and its mission!

Sincerely,

SEAN MCLAREN

President & CEO, West Fraser
AWC Chairman of the Board

JACKSON MORRILL

President & CEO
American Wood Council

PROTECT AND EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOOD USE

ISSUE 01

ADVOCACY

At the federal level, AWC helped LIHTC get included in the One Big Beautiful Bill, significantly increasing demand for structural wood products. AWC also engaged with a wide variety of issues important to our industry in the states, ranging from lumber grading to carbon in the built environment to wildland urban interface.

Read More...

ISSUE 02

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

From securing a key win on the formaldehyde risk assessment to testifying before the House Subcommittee on Environment on the realities of permitting gridlock under the Clean Air Act and PM NAAQS, AWC engaged on a number of regulations crucial to our industry in 2025.

Read More...

ISSUE 03

MARKETS & SUSTAINABILITY

The year saw valuable updates to the suite of industry Environmental Product Declarations and, most notably, a key win in the finalization of the ISO 13391 process, which offers an alternative to organizational greenhouse gas reporting.

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ISSUE 04

CODES

In the midst of continuing with strong wins in the 2027 I-code development process, AWC led education efforts on Wildland-Urban Interface issues including direct engagement on the ground after the January wildfires in California and as experts on multiple presentations at conferences and webinars.

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ISSUE 05

STANDARDS

Through ANSI-approved standards and technical leadership in seismic, wind, and wildfire criteria, AWC ensures wood construction is grounded in proven science and engineering. Our research and testing protect market access and expand safe, resilient design options nationwide.

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ISSUE 06

FIRE SERVICE ENGAGEMENT

AWC expanded our national impact through a construction fire case study that became an effective educational tool. The team also prevented misinformation after construction fires, delivered trainings, and redesigned the CFSC website to improve access to prevention tools.

Read More...

ADVOCACY

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

AWC's advocacy spans the federal and state levels, and throughout 2025, engaging in a wide variety of issues important to our industry. At the federal level, AWC helped LIHTC get through a chaotic Congress and was included in the One Big Beautiful Bill, significantly increasing demand for structural wood products. At the state level, AWC continues to fight proactively against legislation that could be harmful to wood products while seeking legislative opportunities to support new markets.

Comprehensive Advocacy on Housing Results in Key Win and Increased Demand

With clear member direction, AWC strategically engaged on housing policy initiatives and legislation throughout 2025. With the affordability of homes being a bipartisan concern, AWC has strategically positioned wood products as a partner in addressing our nation's housing crisis and advocated for the role our mills and manufacturers play in rural communities. In a highly divided and unpredictable Congress, AWC targeted where and when we engaged, resulting in a consequential legislative win for the industry: the permanent extension and expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).

Congress passed, and the President signed into law the "One Big Beautiful Bill," which permanently authorized LIHTC and included a 3% increase to the original credit. Previously subject to continuous short-term extensions, LIHTC now offers long-term certainty for housing markets and the manufacturing supply chain. The impact on our industry and communities include:

IMPACT OF LIHTC EXPANSION

1.22 MILLION
New affordable homes every 10 years
Source: Novogradac

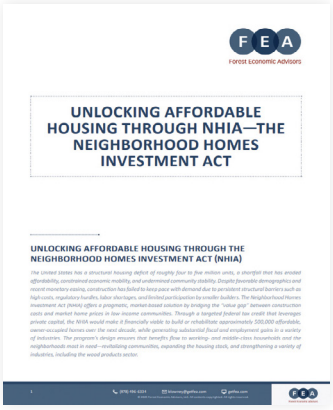
1.9 BILLION
Board feet of wood product demand annually
Source: Forest Economic Advisors

AWC's leadership on housing also opened discussions with federal decision makers and national partners, including:

- A field meeting with U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz on the ground in Georgia, highlighting mill operations and rural economic impacts.
- An invitation-only roundtable discussion with Senator Mike Crapo and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Scott Turner on affordable housing.
- A featured speaking role for AWC President & CEO Jackson Morrill at the American Institute of Architects' Housing Summit on the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act (NHIA), where he spoke on how to capitalize on the current bipartisan support for solving the ongoing housing crisis.

Building on these successes and targeting existing, viable legislative opportunities, AWC has joined the NHIA coalition in early 2025 to lend manufacturing and materials expertise to outreach efforts. The Act offers a tax credit to incentivize new home construction and rehabilitation projects, which is estimated to spur the construction or rehabilitation of 500,000 homes. AWC retained Forest Economic Advisors to develop a white paper that concluded that NHIA would support an annual demand of 500 million board feet of lumber and additional millions of square feet of plywood and oriented strand board.

The white paper, entitled **"Unlocking Affordable Housing through NHIA – The Neighborhood Homes Investment Act,"** has served as a valuable tool for educating lawmakers on how NHIA supports manufacturing economies and identifies often forgotten supply-side issues.


FEA
Forest Economic Advisors

UNLOCKING AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGH NHIA—THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES INVESTMENT ACT

UNLOCKING AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES INVESTMENT ACT (NHIA)

The FEA paper was used during National Forest Products Week, where, even amid a government shutdown, AWC secured staff-level meetings on Capitol Hill to discuss how the U.S. wood products industry is a key partner in addressing housing affordability. AWC's engagement and success in reaching members of Congress and getting a Letter-to-the-Editor placed early in the year led the coalition to invite AWC to become a core member, showing our leadership and the recognition of the valuable role our industry plays in housing.

With the 2026 federal legislative session underway, AWC remains focused on advancing policies to increase the housing supply and promote the use of wood products, such as NHIA.

Cross-Discipline Teamwork Protects Material Choice in California's WUI Response

AWC's Government Affairs team tracks and engages on state policy nationwide to support legislation that reflects the value and benefits of U.S. wood products and oppose or improve legislation that could restrict market access. In 2025, the team reviewed over 2,000 bills and sent 30 letters on specific measures in 12 states around the nation, with the highest engagement in Washington, Oregon, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and California.

One of the key successes of our state-level advocacy came from our proactive engagement in California, where early wildfires heightened pressure for immediate legislative action on wildland-urban interface (WUI) construction. AWC moved quickly to monitor post-fire sentiment, engage key decision makers, and keep members informed through two member-only briefings, one online and one at the annual Spring Meeting, focused on the potential impacts to codes and legislation in California, and how those could set precedent for other states.

AWC's effectiveness in the state was driven by coordinated teamwork across the Codes, Fire Service Relations and Government Affairs teams. Each has long-standing relationships in the state among legislators, the fire service, building code experts, academia, and local officials. These strong relationships were critical to gaining early insight into potential regulations and legislation, as well as the credibility to engage from a technically grounded position.

Importantly, the Codes team's multi-year effort on the development of Chapter 7A performance requirements, the WUI chapter in California's Building Code, set the foundation for the Government Affairs team's policy strategy. In conversations with local officials and legislators, AWC was able to point to Chapter 7A as the state's existing, robust, performance-driven framework for WUI safety and that post-fire concerns were already addressed in the code. This technical foundation helped steer the response away from reactive legislation that could have overreached into building code territory or created unnecessary material restrictions.

As a result, California's post-fire response did not translate into new WUI legislation affecting material choice. Instead, the provisions of Chapter 7A have now been updated to become California's standalone Wildland Urban Interface Code. This ultimately protected market access for wood products and further strengthened our position as leading authorities and technical experts in California.

North Carolina's Ungraded Lumber Bills Defeated

AWC's advocacy efforts successfully prevented all vehicles of ungraded lumber legislation from advancing in North Carolina during the 2025 legislative session, protecting both building safety and industry standards. These bills threatened the industry by allowing state residents to mill and self-grade lumber for sale and structural use after taking an inadequate short certification course. This approach would have bypassed existing, robust lumber grading practices and weakened building codes critical for safe construction. This marks another year of success in a long-standing effort to protect building safety and prevent unvetted lumber from entering the market.

AWC's advocacy efforts also centered on strengthening existing partnerships and fortifying collaborative strategies for future legislative advocacy. AWC partnered closely with the North Carolina Forestry Association (NCFA) and the American Lumber Standard Committee (ALSC), while facilitating strong member engagement to ensure lawmakers understood the risks posed by ungraded lumber. These coalitions proved critical to our success. With this groundwork, AWC worked closely with ALSC and its subscribers, who are accredited lumber grading agencies, urging further involvement and designing a plan of action for future legislation. Moving forward, ALSC is positioned to be the primary voice of opposition as the established representatives for accredited lumber grading agencies while receiving AWC's technical and advocacy support.

ISSUE 02 | Science-Based Engagement Reshapes Key EPA Actions

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

Over the last year, AWC engaged on a number of regulations important to our industry, from securing a key win on the formaldehyde risk assessment to testifying before the House Subcommittee on the Environment on the realities of permitting gridlock under the Clean Air Act and PM NAAQS. Our work is protecting mills' ability to continue to run, showcasing our industry's commitment to safety and demonstrating the crucial impact our mills have on our local and national economies.

EPA Changes Course on Formaldehyde Risk Analysis

At the end of 2024, the EPA issued its Formaldehyde Risk Evaluation under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). While it included some hard-earned positive provisions concerning consumer exposure to wood products, it still relied on outdated science to set a low-risk value that could have serious implications for the industry. AWC immediately responded, calling for a new approach to the Formaldehyde Risk Evaluation arguing that the EPA should apply best available science and weight of the evidence analyses as required by TSCA to arrive at a risk value that was, at the very least, in line with global precedent. Through direct outreach to the EPA and close work with partner organizations, such as the American Chemistry Council and Composite Panel Association, AWC was able to help shape a new path forward that has remarkable implications for the industry's decades-long battle for sound science.

Thanks in part to AWC's efforts, the EPA issued a draft memorandum late in 2025 that proposes significant changes to the 2024 TSCA Formaldehyde Risk Evaluation that, if finalized, would have positive implications for our industry. Most notably, the memorandum proposes to adjust the risk threshold up to 0.3 ppm (or 300 ppb), which is in line with European and other international precedents and significantly higher than the value in the 2024 Risk Evaluation. The EPA supports this revised risk value by rejecting the outdated Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment previously relied upon in the 2024 report and instead using a best available science analysis. Other changes that are noteworthy include: reducing the uncertainty in the scientific data and enforcing the position that formaldehyde does not align with Haber's Law. This final measure eliminated the need for any duration adjustment in the risk evaluation. The updated and best available science approach allowed EPA to recalculate formaldehyde risk, and in so doing it found that "adhesives and sealant chemicals in wood product manufacturing no longer contribute to significant risk." This is the methodology that AWC has actively supported and is consistent with Europe and other key jurisdictions.

AWC is preparing comments that support EPA's revised analysis of inhalation exposure and address remaining, limited concerns with the Agency's dermal analysis. In addition, AWC will be coordinating closely with industry and association partners to ensure alignment.

Along with the EPA's revised analysis, the Small Business Administration is convening a Small Business Advocacy Review panel in which multiple AWC member companies are participating. The panel will review the formaldehyde risk management rule, with the goal of identifying ways to ensure the rule is not overly burdensome to small businesses. AWC is helping coordinate member engagement, which will be critical in reinforcing the importance of the significant proposed changes to the Risk Evaluation, particularly as applied to worker exposure requirements.

Should the EPA's proposed revisions be incorporated into the final Formaldehyde Risk Evaluation, this would provide the wood products industry with an incredibly hard-fought win that spans decades of investment in research and scientific analysis to ensure that best available science is used to make decisions. It would also pave the way for a much more workable Risk Management process that will apply the final Risk Evaluation to determine if any regulatory measures will be required for wood products. If the EPA follows TSCA timelines for chemical evaluation, then this Administration should be well-positioned to complete the formaldehyde analysis within the remaining three years.

PFAS Reporting Narrowed Thanks to AWC Outreach

The EPA released a proposal to narrow the scope of the Biden Administration's polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) reporting regulations, reducing unnecessary reporting requirements while maintaining the ability to obtain important use and safety information on larger users of PFAS. As a result of AWC's advocacy and technical engagement, the proposal indicates that most AWC members will not be required to report under the revised rule.

The proposed exemptions focus on activities that manufacturers, like the wood product industry, are least likely to know or reasonably determine the presence of PFAS. The exemptions are:

1. PFAS manufactured (including imported) in mixtures or products at concentrations of 0.1% or lower,
2. Imported articles,
3. Certain byproducts,
4. Impurities,
5. Research and development chemicals, and
6. Non-isolated intermediates.

AWC will develop supportive comments on the proposed changes and continue to monitor EPA's actions on PFAS. This outcome reflects AWC's ongoing work to advocate for practical, science-based policies that protect the sector from disproportionate regulatory impacts.

PCWP MACT Updates Near Court-Ordered Deadline

AWC continued pressing for key changes to the 2023 proposed Plywood and Composite Wood Products (PCWP) MACT to align with our comments to EPA. AWC supports a reasonable and durable rule based on the Clean Air Act that acknowledges both the efforts of mills to reduce emissions and the critical work of producing wood products that contribute to affordable housing.

EPA is under a court-ordered deadline to promulgate the rule by June 30, 2026, which AWC believes is an aggressive but achievable timeline, even amid ongoing transitions at EPA. The Agency's support of many new provisions affecting sawmills and panel plants puts our industry in a strong position during this final phase before the deadline.

AWC will continue to work with EPA to complete the regulations in 2026, supporting alignment with the Clean Air Act and current business practices. This continued engagement is critical to securing a PCWP MACT standard that maintains environmental integrity without imposing unnecessary or unworkable requirements on mills.

AWC Takes Multi-Prong Approach to PM NAAQS

AWC is pursuing a multi-prong strategy to address the 2024 fine particulate matter (PM) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), a standard the industry views as unachievable for many rural manufacturing facilities. As part of a coalition, AWC challenged the 2024 PM NAAQS, and coalition briefs to the D.C. Circuit Court persuaded the Trump Department of Justice (DOJ) to ask for vacatur of the rule based on procedural errors in EPA's issuance. A decision on the vacatur is expected in 2026, a ruling that could reset the regulatory landscape for PM compliance.

While the court challenge and DOJ work is ongoing, AWC has been working with both the EPA and Congress on ways to modernize the air permitting program to account for variability of emissions and operations, as well as account for where people spend time around facilities. The suggestions are consistent with the Administration's permitting improvement priorities and are modest and doable. AWC and its coalition partners will continue to advocate for these (and other) improvements to make the permitting process more realistic and efficient so mills can invest in new technologies and continue producing vital wood products.

ISSUE 03	Advancing Environmental Transparency and ISO Alignment

MARKETS & SUSTAINABILITY

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

AWC's Markets and Sustainability team spent the year updating valuable industry EPDs and engaging in the development process for important sustainability standards. Most notably, the team secured a key win in the finalization of the ISO 13391 process, which offers an alternative to organizational greenhouse gas reporting. Our work in sustainability helps demonstrate the sustainable practices of our industry and the inherent sustainability of our products through transparent, robust data that enables the industry to dispel misconceptions and pursue new opportunities for market access.

Entire Suite of EPDs Updated, Regional EPDs for Softwood Lumber, Plywood Released

AWC released updated versions of 10 **Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs),** including new U.S. regional EPDs for softwood lumber and softwood plywood to meet the growing market demand for more granular environmental data. The new softwood lumber EPDs cover four regions: Inland Northwest, South, North, and Pacific Coast. Similarly, softwood plywood moved from a single, North American EPD to two distinct regions, South and West. Moving from a single North American EPD to U.S. and U.S. regional EPDs is a major accomplishment that reflects years of member commitment to robust data reporting through AWC's Life Cycle Survey.

The Life Cycle Survey continues to be the backbone of the industry's EPDs, and recent improvements have streamlined the submission process. The 2025 iteration was the first to pre-populate values from the previous year, which saved member companies significant time and improved data accuracy.

AWC also completed key automations within the Life Cycle Survey, allowing for third-party-ready EPD outputs at the press of a button for all products. This improvement significantly reduces the time and cost associated with producing EPDs

at the regional, national, or mill level (for companies who may want them). This is a major step toward making our industry's environmental reporting more accessible and responsive to market demands for data.

The EPDs were shared with Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) tools, such as Building Transparency's EC3 and OneClick LCA. Aggregated data from the LCAs is being shared with USDA's Forest Products Laboratory to update the LCA Commons, a public database of background data for use in LCAs. Feedback from groups, such as the Carbon Leadership Forum and Building Transparency, has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly regarding the increased representativeness and transparency provided by regional EPDs.

Our members' continued commitment to providing annual, high-quality life cycle data and transparent insight into our practices provides our industry with new ways to expand market access and tell the sustainability story of U.S. wood products with robust data.

Building Trust and Visibility Through Partnerships

Over the last year, AWC strengthened and expanded partnerships across a wide variety of organizations to ensure our industry is well positioned to engage in national and international conversations about sustainability. These relationships are essential to building trust with key stakeholders, understanding emerging expectations, and ensuring that the carbon and performance benefits of wood products are accurately represented in major policy and market forums.

In 2025, the Markets & Sustainability program initiated targeted outreach to Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOs) engaged in forestry and wood products issues. Working with member guidance, AWC held listening sessions to better understand perspectives on fiber sourcing, traceability, and other issues influencing the industry's operating landscape. The input received from these sessions is being compiled and will inform next steps. This outreach marks an important shift toward proactive engagement, creating clearer pathways for collaboration where interests align.

AWC also continued to grow engagement internationally. For example, AWC strengthened our work with the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction **(GlobalABC)**, a leading UN-hosted platform focused on decarbonizing the built environment. After participating in the GlobalABC Annual Assembly in Germany, AWC was officially accepted as a member. Membership gives us the opportunity to continue building our international network, help shape dialogue and action on buildings and construction, and engage in the GlobalABC's hubs and materials-focused working groups. Members of the GlobalABC include influential voices in the buildings and construction space, such as the American Institute of Architects, Architecture 2030, Carbon Leadership Forum, and U.S. Green Building Council. AWC's membership provides an opportunity for wood products to have a strong presence in the group and to be discussed in a fair and accurate manner.

AWC was also deeply involved in the development of Built by Nature's Principles for Sustainable Wood Use, which were launched at COP in 2025 and have been endorsed by over 200 entities globally, including ENGOs, governments, and major industry stakeholders. The principles include accounting for whole life carbon (whole building life cycle assessment), maximizing the carbon storage potential of wood, and ensuring sustainable forest management – all concepts AWC supports. The principles promise to promote increased and responsible wood use globally in the built environment and be a center of gravity where common ground can be found around what constitutes sustainable wood use. Global harmonization around the attributes of sustainable wood use in buildings provides assurances the market is looking for to feel confident in their procurement decisions.

Together, these efforts are building a stronger foundation of trust, visibility, and influence, ultimately positioning the industry to participate meaningfully in conversations that shape future market access and sustainability expectations.

Sustainability Standards, Technical Work Helps Protect Long-Term Market Access

AWC's work on sustainability standards has become increasingly critical as international expectations evolve and market access depends more heavily on credible, science-based environmental reporting. With global efforts to define how materials are evaluated for carbon and sustainability performance, AWC has positioned the wood products industry as a leader in protecting long-term market access and ensuring wood is accurately represented in standards used throughout policy, codes and green building programs.

A major milestone this year was the completion of the four-year effort to develop the ISO 13391 series, a suite of three standards focused on value chain emissions, harvested wood products, forest carbon balance, and displacement effects. This standard offers a globally recognized alternative to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol for organizational reporting, making involvement essential for the wood products sector. AWC initiated and led the Technical Advisory Group that enabled direct participation in the development process, and is now working closely with members to understand potential pathways for implementing the standard.

Following completion of the ISO 13391 series, AWC convened a meeting that included member companies and external stakeholders to discuss how it can be used in organizational reporting, including from organizations in the European Union that are beginning to use the standard. The conversation provided valuable insight into how ISO 13391 may shape the broader and increasingly complex sustainability reporting landscape for U.S. manufacturers.

AWC Markets and Sustainability also engaged on a number of ancillary standards that impact member companies, including topics such as blockchain for European Union Deforestation Regulation tracking/transparency and various proposals that emerge from standard developers that may have future impacts on the wood sector.

Collectively, these efforts, and many others not specifically mentioned but happening among the standards listed in the infographic, help maintain a fair, credible, and scientifically grounded standards landscape. That landscape, in turn, protects long-term market access and supports the growing recognition of wood's sustainability benefits.

SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS ENGAGEMENT

AWC's Sustainability Team engages on a wide variety of standards that govern three main areas: **greenhouse gas reporting**, **green building/embodied carbon standards**, and **LCA/product sustainability**. The international, national and state level standards listed here represent AWC's engagement on critical issues affecting the U.S. wood products industry. In addition to the ones listed here, AWC monitors dozens more.

ASTM

ASTM E2921 – Standard practice for minimum criteria for comparing whole building life cycle assessments for use with building codes, standards, and rating systems
ASTM D7612 – Standard practice for categorizing wood and wood-based products according to their fiber sources
ASTM D7480 – Standard guide for evaluating the attributes of a forest management plan
ASTM F49.06 – Clarity, measurement, and authenticity of information

ASHRAE

ASHRAE 189.1 – Standard for the design of high-performance green buildings
ASHRAE 240p – Quantification of life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions of buildings
ASHRAE 90.1 – Energy standard for sites and buildings except low-rise residential buildings

Why should wood products engage in sustainability standards?

- Ensure we have a seat at the table
- Protect our products' access to key markets
- Promote the carbon benefits of wood products

Additional Standards

Residential Energy Services Network
RESNET/ICC 1550 – Standard for quantifying, verifying, and reporting the embodied carbon of buildings with dwelling and sleeping units

American Center for Life Cycle Assessment
2022 ACLCA PCR Open Standard
ACLCA Working Groups – biogenic carbon; mass balance; background LCI data quality; counterfactuals in LCA; allocating burdens and benefits

Green Building Initiative
Green Globes for New Construction
Green Globes for Existing Buildings

U.S. Green Building Council
LEED v5 – Rating system – Building design and construction: new construction core and shell

United Nations Environment Programme
Biogenic Carbon in LCA – Guidance for treatment of biogenic carbon in life cycle assessment

California
CALGreen – California green building standards code

Structural Engineering Institute
SEI Prestandard – Prestandard for assessing the embodied carbon of structural systems for buildings

Manufacturing Supply Chain Certifications
SFI Chain of Custody, FSC Chain of Custody, SFI Fiber Sourcing, FSC Controlled Wood

ISO Standards

ISO 13391-1, -2, 3 – Wood and wood-based products – Greenhouse gas dynamics
ISO 14025 – Environmental labels and declarations
ISO 14064-1 – Greenhouse gases – Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals
ISO 14064-2 – Greenhouse gases – Part 2: Specification with guidance at the project level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions or removal enhancements
ISO 14067 – Greenhouse gases – Carbon footprint of products – Requirements and guidelines for quantification
ISO/Greenhouse Gas Protocol Collaboration
ISO 21930 – Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services
ISO/WD 14077 – Life cycle assessment – Requirements and guidelines for application of Chain of Custody (CoC) approaches in Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
ISO 14021 – Environmental labels and declarations – Self-declared environmental claims
ISO/TR 26325 – Net zero aligned organizations
ISO/TR PWI – Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – an overview of the concept of avoided emissions and related concepts
ISO/FDIS 8347 – Measurement procedures associated with the chain of custody in native tropical forest management areas
ISO 38200 – Chain of custody of wood and wood-based products
ISO/CD TR 25460 – Gap analysis between ISO 38200 and the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
ISO/AWI 25970 – Wood and wood-based products – Biodiversity dynamics in managed forest landscapes
ISO/AWI TR 26091 – Wood and wood-based products – Background and examples of calculating the forest carbon balance
ISO/TR PWI – Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works – Climate change mitigation actions – Options for strategies and measures, and related examples – Part 1: Buildings
ISO/GHG Protocol collaboration on greenhouse gas reporting standards

AMERICAN WOOD COUNCIL

CODES

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

AWC continued to mark wins in the 2027 I-code process, ensuring wood products are treated fairly in code updates and preventing attempts by other industries to discredit their performance. While managing a busy schedule of I-code hearings and comments, AWC led education efforts on Wildland-Urban Interface issues including direct engagement on the ground after the January wildfires in California and as experts on multiple presentations at conferences and webinars.

2027 I-Code Development Continues: AWC Secures Key Industry Wins

AWC and our Subcommittee on Codes and Product Evaluation (SCAPE) continued advancing member priorities throughout the development of the International Code Council's (ICC) 2027 I-Codes, the model building codes adopted nationwide and essential to maintaining safe, cost-effective, and accessible wood construction.

During the multi-year development process for the 2027 I-codes, which began in 2024 and will conclude with final public hearings in April 2026, AWC secured a series of wins in 2025's Group B Committee Action Hearing (CAH 2).

Several high impact proposals from competing material interests were successfully defeated, including a concrete and masonry proposal that attempted to roll back allowances for exposed mass timber ceilings in Type IV-B construction, preserving hard-won gains from the 2024 *International Building Code* (IBC). A proposed appendix on embodied greenhouse gas emissions reporting, well outside the scope of a life safety code, was also disapproved. Additionally, a comment from the concrete industry that would have complicated approval pathways for floor framing assemblies under ASTM D8391 was rejected. Two proposals supporting structural use of salvage lumber were approved with AWC-driven modifications that ensure consistency and safety. These outcomes stem from extensive preparation by AWC staff and SCAPE, who reviewed more than 500 comments for CAH2 and closely coordinated industry positions to ensure wood products were treated fairly across dozens of proposals.

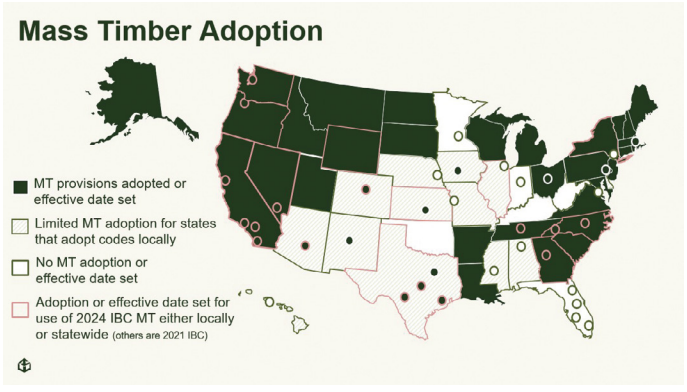
AWC also secured additional wins through our own comments submitted for CAH 2, strengthening clarity, reducing unnecessary costs, and expanding safe wood construction options. These included aligning "preservative treated wood" terminology with the IBC, clarifying when field treatment of engineered wood products is not required, removing an unnecessary slope limitation on wood roof rafters, refining the use of the term "heavy timber," updating the definition of "modular component" to support new offsite construction standards, clarifying permissible cutting and notching requirements, and revising concealed space protection requirements in Type IV-HT construction to eliminate redundant cavity insulation.

In December, SCAPE met to review potential AWC public comments for the last stage of the process in April. Planned submissions include adding a reference to AWC's *Fire Design Specification for Wood Construction* (FDS) in Chapter 23 of the IBC, refining top of wall bracing provisions, and updating salvage lumber criteria in coordination with the American Lumber Standards Committee. Public comments were submitted in early January.

AWC will remain fully engaged throughout the final months of the development process to safeguard fair, performance-based code requirements and argue against proposals that unfairly restrict the use of wood products.

Mass Timber Adoption & Education Spans Country

By the end of 2025, mass timber adoption had expanded to 44 states, or states with adopting jurisdictions, that have incorporated either the 2021 or 2024 *International Building Code* (IBC) mass timber provisions. Rhode Island and Vermont adopted the 2021 IBC, while the city of Phoenix and New York State have adopted the 2024 IBC.



AWC played a central role in this progress, providing direct support to states and jurisdictions considering the mass timber provisions for the first time, as well as providing education where they have already been adopted and are enforced. From New York City to Florida to Hawaii, AWC's codes team tailored education presentations and resources to meet the specific needs of each jurisdiction to increase understanding of mass timber and encourage its use according to the provisions in the IBC.

In New York City, AWC participated in key code committee meetings where a limited adoption of the new mass timber provisions of the IBC were considered. In response, AWC's Phil Line and Jason Smart presented to the committee to clarify technical questions and establish AWC as a technical resource.

In Florida, AWC continued our multi-year effort to support mass timber adoption, leading a significant education and outreach campaign prior to the State's key Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) meetings in October. The TACs reviewed 29 AWC change proposals for the 2026 Florida Building Code, with 22 receiving committee support. Despite this strong technical backing, the Florida Building Commission did not approve the mass timber provisions at its December meeting, influenced heavily by competing material interests and misleading testimony.

AWC is already exploring alternative regulatory and/or legislative routes. In the meantime, **AWC's Florida Mass Timber Alternative Materials and Methods Guide** serves as a key resource to help bridge the gap between the current adopted provisions in Florida and what is allowable in the 2024 IBC.

In Hawaii, AWC's Fire Service Relations Manager Greg Womack worked throughout the year to build relationships with the state's first State Fire Marshal, Dori Booth, and other fire and building officials as the state considers how to incentivize and promote mass timber construction. In October, Womack traveled to Hawaii to lead a presentation to an audience of over 125 architects, engineers, developers, builders, fire officials, and members of the local Carpenters Union. Focusing on mass timber construction and addressing fire concerns surrounding mass timber, Womack was able to demonstrate the resiliency and safety of building according to the mass timber provisions in the I-codes. Booth attended the presentation and also spoke to the group, reinforcing the state's growing interest in mass timber as a path toward more resilient, sustainable construction.

Across the country, AWC's technical guidance and education efforts are helping states adopt and correctly enforce mass timber provisions, expanding safe access to mass timber construction and supporting member companies in this fast growing sector of the built environment.

AWC Advances Performance-Based WUI Code in California

As detailed in the Government Affairs section, AWC's coordinated engagement in California helped steer the state's post-wildfire response away from reactive legislation that could have restricted material choice. Well before the California wildfires in early 2025, wildland urban interface (WUI) issues were already a leading concern for California building code and local officials and became an even more urgent topic.

Building on multiyear participation, AWC helped guide California's shift from Chapter 7A requirements to a standalone Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUIC). After extensive meetings and public comments, during which AWC staff served as chairs and members on multiple workgroups, the California Building Standards Commission approved the 2025 WUIC and set the effective date for January 1, 2026. AWC's leadership and expertise in the workgroups helped preserve key performance-based provisions for wood products.

California has already begun working on intervening cycle amendments to the WUIC that will be considered in 2026. Some proposals have included the elimination of combustible materials and vegetation as well as updating the criteria for roofing, vents and windows, all subjects that were spotlighted by the fire service, legislators and the media after the Palisades and Eaton wildfires. AWC staff continue to be involved with the State Fire Marshal's office and Building Standards Commission activities to ensure these revisions are grounded in data, reflect fire resilient design principles, and do not impose unjustified restrictions on wood products.

In parallel, the California State Fire Marshal expanded the enforcement of the new CA WUIC into High Fire Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs). The emergency regulations also eliminate the July 1, 2008, trigger for additions and remodels, meaning all such projects must now comply with the CA WUIC. AWC views these expansions as reasonable steps toward more consistent wildfire mitigation statewide and continues to participate in workgroups to ensure wood products are evaluated fairly and based on performance. Discussion about these changes was robust and is expected to continue into 2026.

AWC's leadership in this space was reinforced through our appointment to the CalPoly San Luis Obispo (SLO) Wildland Urban Interface Fire Institute's Advisory Board. The Institute seeks to address issues around fire, research, training and education in the WUI, and its recommendations are poised to influence regulatory approaches across California and the broader West. AWC's appointment demonstrates the longstanding and trusted expertise we have established in California and gives our industry an important seat at the table in the development of WUI regulations.

Outside of California, AWC leadership in WUI codes and testing led to the Senior Director of Fire Engineering, Jason Smart, joining technical panels at WoodRise and a SLB-sponsored National Institute of Building Sciences webinar. The technical panel sessions positioned AWC and the industry as experts in the WUI code, highlighting how recent fire tests support performance-based provisions and help ensure fair treatment of wood products.

STANDARDS

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

AWC's leadership in developing and updating ANSI-approved consensus-based wood design standards – and in shaping seismic, wind, and wildfire criteria across other organizations – directly strengthens the future of wood construction. Our research and testing are driving national conversations on resiliency, influencing how other standards bodies treat wood products, and ensuring designers have clear, science-based pathways to use wood safely and efficiently. This work is vital to protect market access and expand opportunities for wood in the building codes.

ANSI Reaccreditation Reinforces AWC's Leadership in Wood Design Standards

AWC successfully completed the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) reaccreditation process, allowing for the continued development and maintenance of AWC's wood design standards as ANSI American National Standards. This accreditation is essential to safeguarding industry access to rigorous, performance-based design resources and maintaining the credibility and widespread acceptance of wood construction standards. The periodic reaccreditation process includes a comprehensive audit of AWC's operations and processes related to standards development.

The auditor ultimately found that the five audited AWC standards were compliant and commended many aspects of the program, reinforcing our reputation for technical excellence and procedural integrity.

1. *National Design Specification* (NDS) *for Wood Construction*
2. *Wood Frame Construction Manual for One and Two-Family Dwellings* (WFCM)
3. *Fire Design Specification* (FDS) *for Wood Construction*
4. *Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic* (SDPWS)
5. *Permanent Wood Foundation* (PWF) *Design Specification*

This reaccreditation is especially important as we continue to work to update the SDPWS and PWF. The 2027 SDPWS and 2027 PWF have gone through multiple rounds of balloting and commenting throughout the year and are on track to meet the International Code Council's deadline for reference in the 2027 I-codes. Maintaining ANSI accreditation ensures these updates can move forward seamlessly and remain authoritative resources for engineers, designers, and code officials.

Shaping Seismic and Wind Design Criteria

Updates to the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) Provisions are winding down, marking an important milestone for seismic design criteria that ultimately influence the code-referenced ASCE 7 and the nation's building codes. AWC played a leading role throughout the update cycle, particularly in developing the seismic response factor, Rs, for CLT diaphragms designed using AWC's *Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic* (SDPWS) standard.

Another major outcome of this cycle was the NEHRP update committee's renewed support for the use of two-stage analysis method for podium structures. This support is crucial given the initial negative review of its use for designing wood-frame

buildings on concrete podiums. The change in position was based on thousands of building simulations conducted by AWC staff to demonstrate that wood-frame buildings on concrete podiums will perform well. The 2026 NEHRP provisions provide the basis for many changes proposed to the seismic provisions in the ASCE 7 load standard, making AWC's involvement and ability to demonstrate the research behind the two-stage analysis especially impactful. This ultimately helps protect continued use of the multi-story wood structure above a concrete podium in seismic zones.

As the NEHRP provisions were under development, ASCE 7 began balloting its complete revamp of its wind design provisions. The revised approach will combine the main wind force resisting system (MWFRS) provisions from Chapter 27 (buildings of all heights) and Chapter 28 (low-rise buildings) into a single set of MWFRS provisions. The result is expected to increase wind design loads for low-rise buildings. AWC actively participated in these technical debates and successfully redirected the design requirements for torsional wind loading to a simpler and less restrictive methodology for buildings with flexible diaphragms, such as those with wood structural panel sheathed roof and floor assemblies. While this represents a big improvement, significant changes to low-rise wind design are still anticipated when the new MWFRS requirements are adopted into the building codes.

In preparation for the impact of these changes, AWC is analyzing the design load increases in the development of new wind design provisions in AWC's 2030 *Wood Frame Construction Manual for One and Two-Family Dwellings* (WFCM) standard. Because the WFCM is referenced in both the *International Building Code* (IBC) and the *International Residential Code* (IRC), the calculations and design requirements are the basis for prescriptive wind design provisions in the IBC and IRC in relatively low-wind regions. Thus, this work will be critical in helping designers apply the upcoming code changes efficiently and accurately.

Fire Testing Supports Wood Performance in Wildfire Standards

AWC continued our leadership in wildfire-resilient construction standards through active participation in the International Code Council's (ICC) Multi-Hazard Resiliency for Residential Construction Standards Committee (MHRRC). The Committee was developing the ICC 605 *Standard for Residential Construction in Regions with Wildfire Hazard*, which would have been a new standard aimed at strengthening wildfire resilience of residential structures through site and area requirements, and design strategies that can both reduce structural loss and facilitate post-wildfire recovery. However, in December 2025, the ICC Board of Directors ruled that the ICC 605 standard will not proceed in development, but instead, the work done to date will be handed over to the ICC Fire Code Action Committee (FCAC) for consideration of potential changes to the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* (IWUIC).

AWC had been involved throughout the development of the ICC 605 standard and had raised early questions about its scope and intent, specifically whether it would replace or supplement IWUIC. When the Board ruled late last year, its response was consistent with the same concerns AWC had raised two years earlier.

Despite more than two years of work and the initial intent that the standard would be independent of the IWUIC, the new effort under FCAC will consider provisions in the current draft standard for inclusion in the 2030 IWUIC. AWC is a member of FCAC and will continue to stay engaged throughout the development of 2030 IWUIC. Specifically, there are potential conflicting provisions between the ICC 605 draft and the IWUIC that FCAC will begin working through this year.

Even though the ICC 605 standard is no longer in development, WUI and fire safety issues remain top priorities in codes. To further support the industry's ability to demonstrate the performance of wood products with data, AWC ran exterior wall fire propagation tests using the provisions of a new ASTM standard proposed by Underwriters Laboratories. Early results from the tests show promising performance for both beveled wood siding and T1-11 plywood siding, demonstrating their ability to meet the proposed criteria. These findings will help inform standard development processes and support the continued inclusion of wood products as safe, resilient options in wildfire-prone regions.

AWC will build on these test results in 2026 as the ICC 605 draft is folded into the 2030 IWUIC, ensuring wildfire-related provisions are grounded in robust fire test data and performance-based evaluation.

FIRE SERVICE ENGAGEMENT

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

The Fire Service Engagement team continues to solidify its place as a leading expert in fire safety, code compliance, and education. That trust helps prevent misinformation after incidents, strengthens code literacy among decision-makers, and supports fair acceptance of wood in fire and building codes.

Driving Fire Safety Education Where it Matters Most

AWC's Fire Engagement Team strengthened relationships with fire service leaders and led expanded education efforts across the nation. Through conference presentations, webinars, and on-site visits following fire incidents, AWC reinforced its role as a trusted technical resource and advanced a more accurate understanding of how wood products and building codes contribute to a fire-safe job site.

A central highlight of the year was AWC Director of Fire Service Relations Ray O'Brocki's work on the 2023 South Park construction fire in Charlotte, North Carolina, an incident in which he played a direct role in the on-the-ground investigation and a television interview explaining how the fire started. Drawing from that experience, O'Brocki developed a detailed case study that became an effective educational tool throughout the year.

The South Park case study was featured prominently at the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Annual Conference, where O'Brocki walked attendees through the details of the fire and how construction fire safety practices and codes can help prevent loss of life and property. The Fire Marshal of Charlotte happened to be in attendance and thanked O'Brocki for giving a fair and accurate description of the fire. The case study's reception at NFPA underscored its credibility and value, and it served as a foundational presentation for multiple fire service audiences throughout the year.

In addition, the team responded to several construction fire incidents across the country and met with local fire chiefs to offer expertise, help dispel misinformation, and provide technical resources. These meetings included visits to Ottawa, where a fire was initially mischaracterized as involving mass timber; North Las Vegas; Ogden and Lehi, Utah; and Denver. AWC began preparing a construction fire safety course to be presented to the North Las Vegas fire departments and officials in 2026.

Following a construction fire in Amherst, Massachusetts, the AWC team not only visited the site and met with local fire officials, but WoodWorks also connected AWC with the developer of the building to assist with any incoming media inquiries. A WoodWorks staffer was also scheduled to sit on a multi-family mass timber discussion panel in Boston shortly after the fire. AWC provided talking points in the event that questions were raised from the audience, as well as a slide with information and links to the Construction Fire Safety materials.

Each of these opportunities to speak, educate, and meet with members of the fire service are crucial to building trust and strengthening AWC's reputation as a reliable, science-based resource for the fire service. Years of dedication and relationship building have now positioned AWC as a leading voice in construction fire safety, helping ensure wood products are understood accurately and viewed as part of a safe, code-compliant built environment.

Updated CFSC Website Improves Usability to Meet Needs of Fire Service

AWC and the Construction Fire Safety Coalition (CFSC) launched an updated **website** and rebrand to better meet the needs of the fire service, construction crews, and building officials. With a new logo and a more user-friendly design, the new website is designed to help users more quickly find the key resources they need.

The site was rebuilt based on user feedback, and the updated resource hub now includes a more streamlined search and filter function, making specific documents easier to access. The website also prominently points users to the popular Construction Fire Safety Checklist App, which continues to get positive feedback during the Fire Service Engagement Team's education outreach.

The coalition's work continues to unite the fire service, construction crews, and regulatory experts to prevent construction fires and educate on safety and code measures.

Fire Service Team's Expertise Leads to Article, Radio Interview, and NIBS Webinar

The Fire Service Engagement Team's leadership and expertise continued to gain national visibility in 2025, leading to valuable opportunities to serve as expert guests for other organizations. Ray O'Brocki authored a **case study on the South Park fire** for the National Fire Protection Association Journal, which saw more than 400,000 views. O'Brocki was also invited to join ICC Region I Radio to discuss construction fire safety and best practices, including using the South Park fire as an example of how code compliance could have prevented loss of life and property.

To close out the year, O'Brocki joined the National Institute of Building Sciences for an SLB-sponsored webinar called, "Understanding the Challenges of Preventing Construction Site Fires." He joined MCM Industries' Chris Towski and Space Age Electronics' Joseph Cervantes to discuss how to identify risks to construction sites, how code compliance is an important factor to mitigate risk and how emerging technologies can work with codes and standards to keep sites safe. With attendees primarily from the fire service, engineering and building code inspection sectors, this webinar was a far-reaching and important opportunity to reinforce code compliance and best practices alongside other leading experts.

Together, these engagements highlight the growing demand for AWC's expertise and reflect the credibility the Fire Service Engagement Team has built through years of consistent, technical, and trusted leadership.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