



# Washington Tree Farmer

March 2010

*Announcement*

## Your Input Needed on LEED Green Building Rating

Green building, a trend in building construction to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, is THE fastest growing construction market in the country, and even in these tough economic times, the market continues to flourish. Unfortunately, Tree Farmers and the sustainable wood products produced from your land, are being left out of these markets!

The US Green Building Council has been an important force in the green building movement, and unfortunately, their Leadership In Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building rating system, only accepts wood certified by one system, the Forest Stewardship Council. A bias remains against landowner certification systems, like the American Tree Farm System, that are tailored to meet the needs of small landowners.

Please take one minute to sign [this petition](#) (it's simple and easy to use!), urging USGBC to open their rating system to additional credible certification systems, like the American Tree Farm System. This has been an ongoing issue, and we need your help to send a message to USGBC that there is a large community of family forest owners out there that are not happy with the current USGBC rating system.

Green building markets are important markets for you, and the tens of thousands of other family forest owners who have made an investment to sustainably manage your woodlands. Please forward this email, add the petition link to your facebook page, tweet on your twitter account, or make a simple phone call. Urge your friends and family, your colleagues, and anyone you believe cares about our forests, communities, and the future of green building to sign this petition. The more names we gather, the louder our collective voice and the harder it will be for the USGBC to ignore.

We also want to thank those of you who submitted your comments last week to the USGBC on their latest draft of their "Forest Certification Benchmarks" for their LEED green building rating system. AFF also submitted our comments, along with a letter to Rick Fedrizzi, USGBC President and CEO. I know this was not a simple action, and for those of you who took the time to submit comments, we greatly appreciate your help.

If you have a question or comments, please contact:

Sherry Fox, Washington Tree Farm Committee Chair

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