

# WORKING TO PROTECT OUR CLIMATE

The importance of finding ways to reduce green house emissions is recognised by us all and Timber Communities Australia is very proud of the contribution our forest industry is making in meeting this challenge.

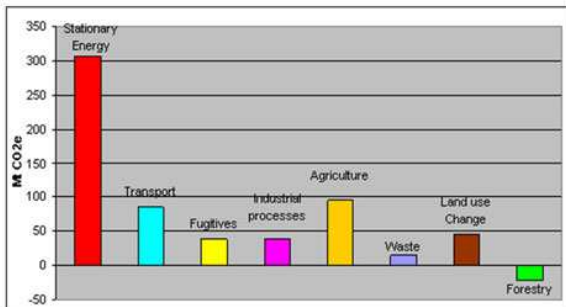


The carbon storage benefit gained from forestry is not just restricted to that which is stored in our sustainably managed forests. It extends to the wood and wood-based products that are made from the wood we harvest. The wood we use and rely on every day, be it the timber framing of our family home, our timber furniture, or the treasured collection of books handed down from our grandparents, is playing an important and continuing role in storing carbon.

This massive storage benefit and its contribution to helping the fight against global warming, is confirmed by the United Nations 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, from which it reported that:

“In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit[1].”  
[1] Chapter 9 Page 543

The Australian Greenhouse Office has also confirmed the same important reality as outlined in the following graph from the AGO (2006). 2006 Tracking to the Kyoto Target: Australia’s Greenhouse Emissions Trends 1990 to 2008-2012 and 2020.



• **Figure 1:** Australia's projected sectoral emissions for 2010[1]  
 • [1] AGO (2006). 2006 Tracking to the Kyoto Target: Australia's Greenhouse Emissions Trends 1990 to 2008-2012 and 2020.

In Tasmania, the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) has also identified the major contribution forestry is providing in reducing greenhouse emissions, in that Tasmania has achieved a overall reduction of 23.4% in GH emissions from the base year (1990) up to the latest AGHO report being 2005.

Unfortunately some people incorrectly equate forestry with deforestation. They are two very different things!

The AGO is very clear on what constitutes deforestation. It states that it is ‘the deliberate, human induced removal of forest cover and replacement with pasture, crops or other uses e.g. urban development’

The Australian model of internationally certified sustainable forestry clearly does not fit this definition. TCA is very proud of the role our forest industry’s in the international effort to mitigate the effects of climate change. Timber Communities Australia is proud to be working alongside our nations certified forest managers as we all play our role in helping our working forests deliver the world’s largest sustained mitigation benefit.

To view TCA's overview of Australia's response to Climate Change via the Garnaut Climate Change Report and The Government's Discussion Paper, Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme - The Green Paper July 2008 or for further information on whether forestry is part of the problem or part of the solution of Climate Change please visit the Reports/Submission page of the TCA website.