



## Washington's Working Forests Newsletter September 2020

### What are "Working Forests?"

A Working Forest is professionally managed to provide a continuous supply of renewable, sustainable wood products for building materials -- with a focus on protecting fish, water and wildlife. Using scientific practices and adhering to comprehensive state forestry laws, Washington's working forests work to give back to our entire state. Growing working forests absorb carbon, wood products store carbon, and the forest sector taken as a whole currently operates with a negative carbon footprint that supports greenhouse gas reduction goals and rural economies across Washington, a fact that is recognized in state law.



---

## The Good News from the Woods

### Researchers and architects are envisioning new, innovative roles for wood in a sustainable future

The place wood and wood products has in all of our lives is pretty hard to miss. If you're like millions of Washingtonians, you're certainly aware that wood is a primary material in your housing. There's a good chance that wherever you are when reading this you can reach out and touch *something* that was manufactured with wood. The average person's relationship with wood isn't just as a consumer, but is also hands-on when we build things ourselves. (For more on that, continue reading this newsletter for results of a recent poll that may surprise you.)

Add to the most familiar uses of wood – two-by-fours, plywood, and things like cabinetry, furniture and finished carpentry – an emerging category of products that use wood-derived cellulose. Wood in all its forms may just be the most ubiquitous material on Earth. Because of trends toward preferring sustainable, natural materials, planners and engineers are finding even more ways to leverage wood as a renewable resource of the future.

The forestry industry has long integrated innovative approaches and new technology into its operations. After all, active forest management relies on the latest science and best practices to promote healthy, resilient forests. And just as active forest management is essential to practicing sustainable forestry, incorporating technology and new advances has helped foresters and working forests better manage their [working forests](#). From the most recent post at the One Voice for Working Forests blog:

Transparent wood, electronic components made from trees, and the City of Seattle's most traveled bridge made from innovative wood products? This may sound like futuristic wishful thinking, but researchers, architects and renewable resource proponents say such ideas are not only possible but applicable today.

#### Wooden computer chips

In a US Department of Agriculture's Forest Products Laboratory (FPL) blog posted in early summer, it was reported that [researchers] were working together to construct a microwave amplifier circuit on a substrate of cellulose made from wood fiber. ...

Researchers hope that the electronic components made from wood could be applied to make flexible screens, foldable phones, thin electronic displays, wearable health sensors, computer chips and other bendable electronic components.

#### See-through wood

... [Researchers are] helping with the applicable development of an "alternative transparent material to glass that is made from wood." ...

So far, researchers have found the transparent wood outperforms glass in thermal insulation, transfers less heat and energy and is able to withstand significant stress before deformation. The see-through wood also is more durable, lighter and an even transparent material than glass.

## A bridge to the future

This summer, ... Toronto-based B+H Architects submitted **a proposal [to rebuild] the West Seattle bridge using a combination of mass timber and steel.**

Described as a “more sustainable and designed-focused approach,” the lighter wood-steel design would reuse the current bridge’s existing concrete foundation and piers, decreasing construction time while demonstrating Seattle’s commitment to the environment.

Click [here](#) to read the entire post and share with friends and co-workers.

---

## Have You Signed?

Our drive toward the creation of a special Washington state vehicle license plate to support working forests is still moving forward. Your help is still needed. If you haven’t already, [sign our petition](#) today and then please share with your friends. Thank you for helping to make sure our voices are heard.

**[SIGN THE PETITION TODAY!](#)**



---

## Did You Know?

According to a recent survey of more than 5,000 Washington state voters, 52% reported having purchased wood or wood products within the last 6 months for use in a “do it yourself” or home improvement project. Very handy, Washington.

“Within the past 6 months, have you completed a “do it yourself” project, or home improvement project for which you purchased wood or wood products?”



