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So what is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification?

By Jillian Tamblyn

FSC is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization. It was founded in 1993 by a diverse group of representatives from environmental and conservation groups, the timber industry, the forestry profession, indigenous peoples' organizations, community forestry groups and others.

The FSC supports environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

While there are other certification schemes in Canada and throughout the world, only FSC certification has the support of such conservation groups as World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network. It is also the only certification in demand by the major retailers and home builders in the US, including IKEA and Home Depot in Edmonton.

Unfortunately since very few forestry companies have met the high standards of forest planning and practices required by FSC, little FSC certified wood is available to the consumer- and none is available in Edmonton at present.

It is hoped that this Good Wood Project will help to change the situation. We hope that in the near future concerned Edmonton consumers will be able to make an informed choice about what wood to purchase and where to purchase it, so that their decision can have a positive effect on the preservation of the best of the last areas of representative forests, and on improving forest practices.

(The AWA is now a member of the Forest Stewardship Council. Our representative is Jillian Tamblyn, our Conservation Specialist in Edmonton.)