

QUICK FACTS - SUSTAINABLE BUILDING SERIES

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WOOD Survey on Green Building in Canada

BACKGROUND

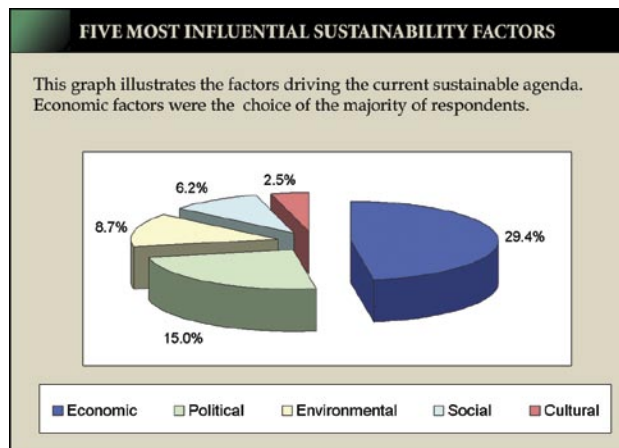
In 2004, the Canadian Wood Council undertook a survey to gauge Canadian stakeholder perceptions about green buildings and sustainable development. The survey was sent to 285 targeted individuals and organizations and resulted in 160 responses, a response rate of 56%. Survey respondents included architects, engineers, builders, all levels of government, and associations.

ISSUE

The responses record a strong and growing interest in green building issues in Canada, and indicate that this group views wood as the most environmentally sustainable product. As the second figure illustrates, about half of respondents thought that wood is the preferable product, versus 16% and 11% who viewed concrete and steel, respectively, as being preferable.

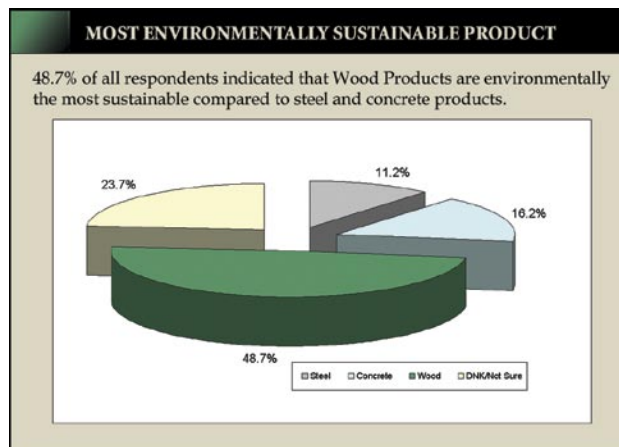
The survey also yielded other useful results. The survey indicated that economics (the costs of choices) remain a critical part of the decision making process. As can be expected, this is more important to building practitioners than it is to non-practitioners.

- wood is renewable and recyclable - 89.7%
- wood is low in embodied energy - 19.2%
- wood reduces carbon gases - 6.4%



More than half (53.7%) of the respondents indicated that engineered wood products are more suitable than sawn lumber because engineered wood products use less of the raw resource. Only 16.2% favoured conventional sawn lumber.

The most frequently mentioned green building rating systems were LEED and Green Globes. LEED was mentioned by 39.4% of all respondents, whereas Green Globes was mentioned by 8.1% of all respondents. Green Globes is a building rating system used primarily by the federal government, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and BOMA (Building Owners and Managers Association) and is less well known to building designers.



In the case of certified wood products, LEED currently only recognizes the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, whereas Green Globes takes a more inclusive approach accepting all forest

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A total of 48.7% of respondents indicated that wood products are environmentally the most suitable choice, when compared to steel and concrete products, for the following reasons:

certification in use in Canada.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact the Canadian Wood Council for a copy of the complete survey at www.cwc.ca.

