

naturally:wood

British Columbia wood. Sustainable by nature. Innovative by design.

BENEFITS 4

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

WOOD AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY



As much as one third of the energy produced in North America is used to heat, cool and operate buildings. Wood lowers operating costs because it has better insulating properties – 400 times better than steel and 15 times better than concrete. Wood’s cellular structure contains air pockets, which help to minimize the energy needed for heating and cooling. Concrete and steel are solid throughout and as a result they can facilitate heat loss in many climates, increasing energy consumption.

Wood helps to minimize energy consumption in several ways. In terms of embodied energy – which includes all the energy, direct and indirect, required through the life of a product – life cycle assessment studies show that wood significantly outperforms steel and concrete.

A study conducted by the Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM) used life cycle assessment to compare the environmental impact of homes framed with wood and steel in Minneapolis and wood and concrete in Atlanta – the framing types most common to each city. It found that the homes framed in steel and concrete would require 17 and 16 per cent more embodied energy than their wood-framed counterparts.

Additional information

Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM)
www.corrim.org

Canadian Wood. Renewable by Nature. Sustainable by Design
www.bcforestinformation.com/assets/pdf/brochure_june10.pdf

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British Columbia, Canada, is home to over 40 native wood species and innovative structural and finishing products that offer a wide range of building and design solutions. It also has responsible producers who harvest legally; regenerate promptly; reduce waste and support recovery and recycling; reduce greenhouse gases and help fight climate change; and welcome independent scrutiny of how forests are managed.

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For more information, visit www.naturallywood.com*

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