



## NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

Representing the forestry profession in New England

### POSITION STATEMENT

#### *Climate Change in New England*

##### Summary

The New England Society of American Foresters (NESAF) recognizes the phenomenon of climate change, and supports the use of the scientific and practical application of silviculture, in the many forest types and ecosystems found in New England, as a means of reducing greenhouse gases through the sequestration of carbon in the forests, as well as in various forest products. Regional or national policies related to the reduction of greenhouse gases should recognize the benefits to be gained by the maintenance of healthy forest ecosystems and quantify the additional positive effects this activity will have on the resource base of the local economies.

##### Issue

The Carbon Coalition, Clean Air-Cool Planet, and other climate change groups are asking for required reductions of greenhouse gas emissions using new sustainable energy technologies, thereby stimulating new job and investment opportunities. New England's forests play a crucial role in maintaining the carbon balance. The many forest types in New England are a critical resource to the local economies. These forests provide manufacturing jobs, maple syrup production, recreational opportunities of all types, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and recharge areas for our water supplies. Forest management on the New England landscape is necessary to have a healthy forest with many age classes to enhance carbon sequestration. Carbon stores contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases and help to stabilize the world's climate.

Research has demonstrated that the highest contribution of forests to the reduction of carbon loading is direct substitution of fossil fuel, and materials which have higher embedded energies resulting from the use of fossil fuels in their manufacture and delivery.

##### Background

Many approaches to the climate change issue are one sided and do not take into account the many aspects involved or the negative effects they may have on people and the economy. The issue should be addressed in such a manner that all aspects are considered.

##### Expiration

This position will expire five years from the date of acceptance. Accepted March 20, 2007.

##### Literature Cited

Carbon Coalition Fact Sheet 5: N.H. Impacts of climate change on the environment and economy of NH. *Online at:* [http://www.carboncoalition.org/education/FactSheet\\_5\\_NH\\_Impacts.pdf](http://www.carboncoalition.org/education/FactSheet_5_NH_Impacts.pdf)

Clean Air-Cool Planet fact sheets. *Online at:*  
<http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/information/factsheets.php>

Lippke, Bruce, Jim Wilson, John Perez-Garcia, Jim Bowyer, & Jamie Meil, 2004. Corrim: Life-cycles environmental performance of renewable building materials. *Forest Products Journal*, 54(6):1-12

New England Regional Assessment Group (NERA), 2001. Preparing for a changing climate: the potential consequences of climate variability and change. *New England Regional Overview*, U.S. Global Change Research Program, 96pp, University of New Hampshire.