

CSA CARBON INDICATOR

TPAG Meeting April 10, 2025 Marie-Eve Leclerc, MSc, RPF mleclerc@westernforest.com Carbon Forester



OUTLINE



- CSA carbon indicator refresher
- Scope of CSA carbon indicator
- Review methodology of each component within the carbon indicator
 - Carbon uptake
 - Short-lived products
 - Fuel consumption
 - Debris burned





Indicator 4.1.1: Net Carbon Uptake

Element: 4.1 Carbon Uptake and Storage Maintain the processes that take carbon from the atmosphere and store it in forest ecosystems.						
Value	Objective	Indicator	Target	Variance		
The uptake of carbon	The net rate of carbon uptake by the forest is positive over time	Net carbon uptake	The net annual carbon uptake on the DFA is positive	1 year negative		

History

Core Indicator under CSA Z809-08. Title updated for CSA Z809-16.

Basis for the Target

The basic premise of a sustainable forest management organization is that it should be at least carbon neutral from the onset. In this context, carbon neutrality is a demonstration that harvest levels are sustainable. Forest management should be shown to be a positive contributing activity for global ecological cycles over time.

The variance is meant to help account for fluctuation in yearly cut levels due to market conditions and license obligations under provincial legislation.

Current Status & Results

The net carbon uptake on the DFA is simply defined as the difference between the total carbon uptake on the DFA by its growing stock, minus the net carbon removed from the DFA through harvest operations and the total carbon emitted through fuel consumption during forest management operations.

Year	Description	CO2e (tonnes)	Target Met (Y/N)	Variance Met (Y/N/N/a)
2023	Carbon uptake (from growing stock TFL 44)	599,580	-	n/a
	Carbon removed (to short-lived products1)	-136,775		
	Fuel Consumed (harvest & transport)	-3,608	Y	
	Debris burned (debris disposal/operational fires)	-68,748		
	NET Carbon Uptake	390,468		

Scope of Indicator 4.1.1 Net Carbon Uptake





McKinley, D.C., Ryan, M.G., Birdsey, R.A., Giardina, C.P., Harmon, M.E., Heath, L.S., Houghton, R.A., Jackson, R.B., Morrison, J.F., Murray, B.C., Pataki, D.E., and Skog, K.E. 2011. A synthesis of current knowledge on forests and carbon storage in the United States. Ecological Applications 21:1902-1924. https://doi.org/10.1890/10-0697.1.

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Wang, X., Padgett, J.M., De la Cruz, F.B., and Barlaz, M.A. 2011. Wood biodegradation in laboratory-scale landfills. Environmental Science & Technology 45:6864-6871. https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/es201241g.

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Carbon Uptake (from growing stock TFL 44)



Harvested area in 2023 = 500ha Total area of TFL 44 = 137,268ha 0.3% area harvested in 2023 **Previous Year** Current Year

Carbon Uptake (from growing stock TFL 44)





- Net carbon uptake:
 - Current inventory volumeprevious year's inventory volume derived from growth and yield curves
 - Volume by species
 - Convert m³ by a carbon factor (t/m³) to get t of CO₂e
 - Different factor by species

Decay





- Forest ecosystems release emissions from decaying organic matter
 - Organic matter comes from snags, branches, needles, leaves etc.
- Clearcuts increase the rate of decay as they create ideal conditions for decay
 - Create an open area with increased solar radiation and precipitation







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2022	Carbon uptake (from growing stock TFL 44)	626,151		
	Carbon removed (to short-lived products1)	-146,435		n/a
	Fuel Consumed (harvest & transport)	-3,902	Y	
	Debris burned (debris disposal/operational fires)	-90,743		
	NET Carbon Uptake	385,071		



Year	Description	CO2e (tonnes)	Target Met (Y/N)	Variance Met (Y/N/N/a)
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- Short-lived products include:
 - Bioenergy, pellets, pulp and paper
- CSA indicator conservative as it assumes short-lived products consumed immediately
- Amount of volume moving to short-lived products is estimated using the proportion of wood recovered for lumber at the mill
 - Proportion of volume not recovered from the mill is multiplied with the volume of harvested wood in tCO2e
- Getting an update





Table A-209: Half-life of Solidwood and Paper Products in End-Uses

Parameter	Value	Units
Half-life of wood in single family housing 1920 and	31	
before	78.0	Years
Half-life of wood in single family housing 1920–1939	78.0	Years
Half-life of wood in single family housing 1940–1959	80.0	Years
Half-life of wood in single family housing 1960-1979	81.9	Years
Half-life of wood in single family housing 1980 +	83.9	Years
Ratio of multifamily half-life to single family half life	0.61	
Ratio of repair and alterations half-life to single		
family half-life	0.30	
Half-life for other solidwood product in end uses	38.0	Years
Half-life of paper in end uses	2.54	Years

Source: Skog, K.E. (2008) "Sequestration of C in harvested wood products for the U.S." Forest Products Journal 58:56-72.

A-428 Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2019





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Fuel Consumed (Harvest & Transport)





- Fuel consumption is tracked
 - Fuel from all operations run predominantly by WFP are tracked
 - Includes fuel for field planners, surveyors, heavy duty machinery, trucks
- Fuel factor derived for litres consumed per cubic meter harvested for operations
 - Extrapolated for fuel estimates for operations like Cawak ?qin that are contractor based
- Getting an update



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Debris Burned (Debris Disposal/Operational Fires)



- Foresters collect data on shape, size and number of piles burnt
- Estimate the volume of each pile that fully burns
- Using wood density, estimate associated emissions from the burnt pile
- Also includes emissions from operational fires
 - Runaway burn pile fire



SUMMARY



- CSA carbon indicator's scope reflects what is within the control of the operation
- Potential to include more detail in carbon uptake component
- The short-lived products and fuel consumption components are getting updates
- All components use as much information from the operation as possible



Questions?

mleclerc@westernforest.com



Western Forest Products DEFINING A HIGHER STANDARD