

## Timber in Sustainable Construction

Timber use in construction is on the increase throughout the UK, with Government initiatives encouraging this. Timber's value as a sustainable, renewable, standard building material is increasingly recognised, as awareness grows of the environmental consequences of development and climate change. This has highlighted the potential for timber construction to contribute greatly to a sustainable, low carbon future.

### Embodied Energy

The embodied energy of a construction material is the total primary energy consumed during its lifetime from extraction of raw materials to the end of the product's life. Timber has one of the lowest of all embodied energies and its use can help reduce CO<sup>2</sup> and other Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. As a comparison 640kWh of energy are used to produce 1 tonne of usable construction timber, four times less than the 2560kWh of energy required to produce 1 tonne of bricks.

### Timber Certification

Today, in any project where public money is used, a policy of specification of certified timbers is promoted. This, together with an increase in private developers and individuals seeking evidence of environmentally sound business practice, has encouraged systems of certification to be developed. These systems encourage sustainable forest management worldwide and facilitate the responsible purchase of sustainably grown timber.

A recognised mechanism to provide this information - Chain of Custody - is provided, for example, by both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) labelling schemes.

Oregon holds both FSC and PEFC Chain of Custody certification.

**Delivering safe, sustainable solutions for today's construction industry**

