

Wisconsin Council on Forestry Meeting

May 21, 2026

Eric Schenck
MFRC Executive Director



Sustainable Forest Resources Act (SFRA) Statute 89A

- Passed in 1995
- Establishes the MFRC
 - Subd 2. Purpose: “**The council must develop recommendations** to the governor and to federal, state, county, and local governments with respect to forest resource policies and practices **that result in the sustainable management, use, and protection of the state's forest resources.**”
 - Creates sustainable forest management programs and tools (e.g., forest management guidelines, regional forest resources plans, and forest resources research)
- Reauthorized in 2023

MFRC Mission

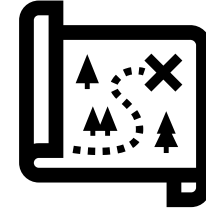


MFRC Mission: Develop recommendations that result in the **sustainable management** of Minnesota's forest resources while protecting the balance of long-term **economic, ecological, and social** values in accordance with the **Sustainable Forest Resources Act**.

MFRC Membership

- 17 members
 - 16 Governor appointees
 - 1 Minnesota Indian Affairs Council appointee
- Represented forest stakeholders
 - Commercial logging contractors
 - Conservation organizations
 - County land commissioners
 - Department of Natural Resources
 - Environmental organizations
 - Forest products industry
 - Game species management
 - Labor organizations
 - Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
 - Nonindustrial forest landowners
 - Research and higher education
 - Resort and tourism industry
 - Secondary manufacturing
 - USDA Forest Services

**Landscape-Level
Forest
Management**



**Site-Level Forest
Management**

**Sustainable
Forest Policy**



**Forest Resources
Research**

**MFRC
Programs**

MFRC Administration



- General fund appropriation:
 - FY26: \$940K
 - FY27: \$947K
 - Administered through DNR Division of Forestry
- Committees
 - Policy
 - Landscape Advisory
 - Site-Level
 - Research Advisory
 - Personnel & Finance
 - Communication
 - Family Forest Landowners

MFRC Administration Continued



- Controls
 - Committee Charters
 - Strategic Plans
 - Resolutions
 - Position Statements



- Meetings
 - 6 public meetings per year (odd months)
 - Committee meetings (even months)

MFRC Staff



**Eric
Schenck**
Executive
Director



**Charlie
Davis**
Forest Policy
Administrator



**Elizabeth
Hutchison**
Program
Administrator
& Comms
Specialist



**Jaimé
Thibodeaux**
Landscape
Program
Coordinator



**David
Wilson**
Applied Forest
Science
Coordinator

Priorities & Initiatives



Developing Sustainable Forest Products Markets

Biofuel: Renewable diesel & sustainable aviation fuel;
Bioenergy: Co-generation of thermal and electric energy



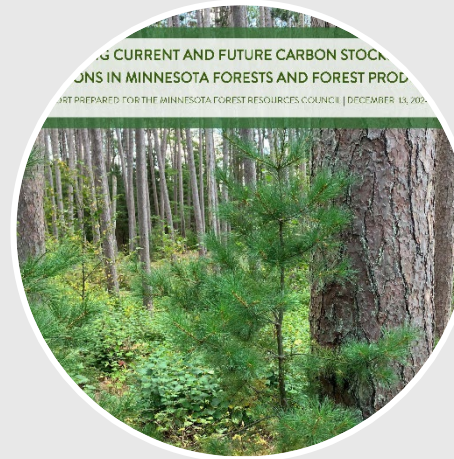
Increasing Forest Nursery Capacity & Tree Planting

MN million tree planting goal;
10 million seedling production & increased tree planting



Keeping Forests Forested

Forest protection & stewardship incentive programs



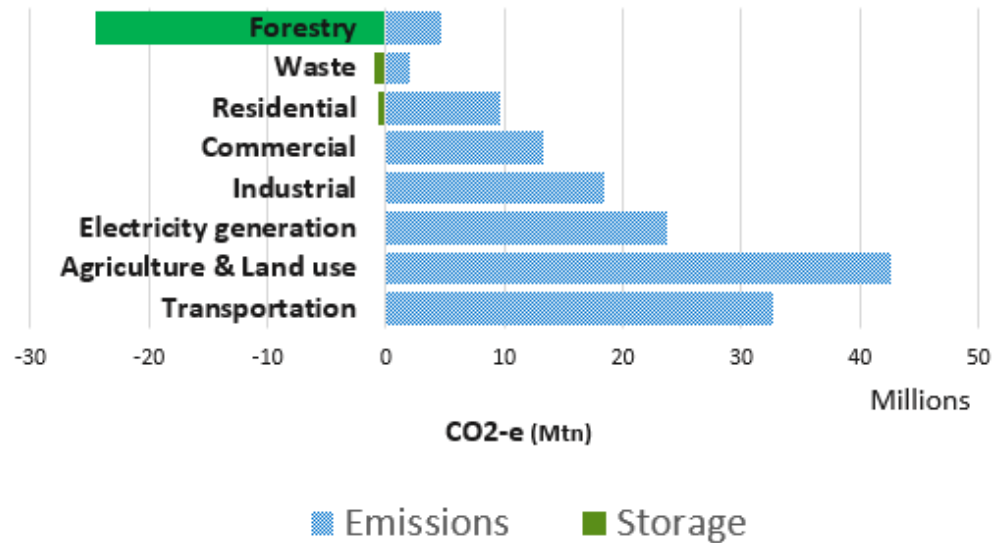
Supporting Info Needs for Sustainable Forest Management

Minnesota forest carbon report

“Big Things Now”
6 immediate actions
Minnesota must take to
address climate change.

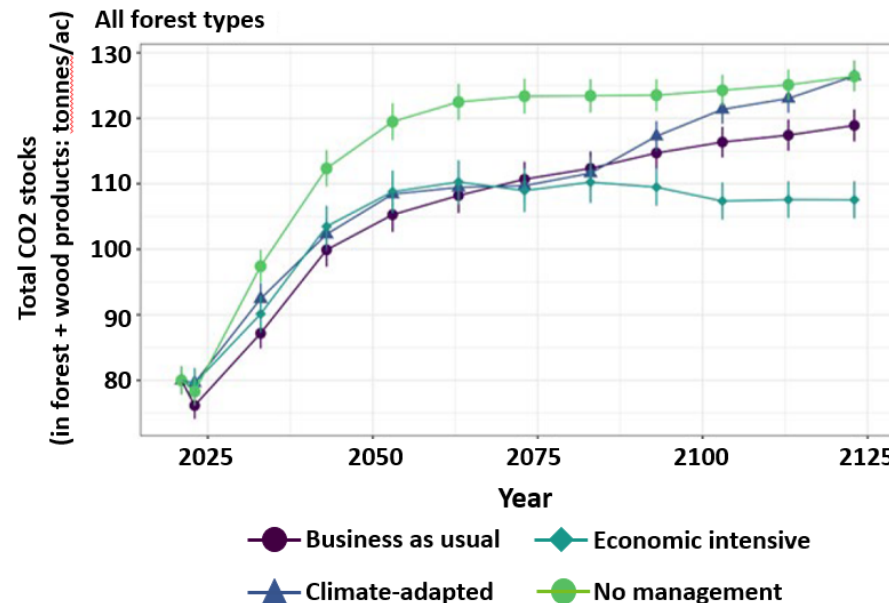
No. 5: “Expand efforts to
reduce and offset
agricultural emissions,
restore peatlands, and
sustainably manage
forests”

2020 Minnesota Greenhouse Gas Flux by Economic
Sector



Forestry is the only
sector offsetting
greenhouse gas
emissions.

Total Forest Carbon Storage 2025-2125



Total carbon stored in
Minnesota forests and
forest products
increases by 75% to
150% in all four
management scenarios
that were modeled.

Minnesota Climate Action Framework Forest Initiatives

SUB-INITIATIVE	MCAF ACTION STEP	Lead	Enact	Encourage
1.2.1 Reduce the lifecycle carbon intensity of transportation fuels.	1.2.1.1 Develop a clean transportation standard aligned with state climate goals to incentivize increased investment in a broad portfolio of cleaner fuels — including advanced biofuels, renewable natural gas, other renewable fuels, sustainable aviation fuel, electricity from renewable sources, and charging infrastructure — ensuring policy avoids environmental harms such as land conversion, water pollution, and loss of biodiversity.	X	X	
2.1.1 Maintain, expand, and actively manage forestlands.	2.1.1.1 Accelerate tree planting to expand forest cover where ecologically appropriate.	X		X
2.1.1 Maintain, expand, and actively manage forestlands.	2.1.1.2 Increase statewide seedling production to support tree planting efforts, including rectifying pinch points in seed supply and enhancing production of climate-adapted species.	X		X
2.1.1 Maintain, expand, and actively manage forestlands.	2.1.1.3 Invest in active forest management on public and private lands to promote carbon uptake, lower the risk of wildfires, and reduce impacts of forest pests and diseases.			X
2.1.1 Maintain, expand, and actively manage forestlands.	2.1.1.4 Avoid conversion of forestland to other uses through private forest landowner assistance; forestland acquisition; working forest conservation easements; other incentives to maintain forestland (and disincentives to conversion); and sustainable forest management, including timber harvest.	X		X

Supporting Minnesota's Climate Change Goals through Development of Sustainable Forest Products Markets

MFRC Resolution 2022-1

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Minnesota Forest Resources Council ...
recommends support for new and expanded Minnesota markets for forest and mill residuals, and other types of sustainably harvested woody biomass and encourages elected and appointed officials to:

Include woody feedstocks in statewide fuel or energy standards and/or
offer broadly available production incentives for low carbon renewable biofuels derived from woody biomass or other bioenergy feedstocks.

New Markets: Policies & Strategies

- **Bioenergy - MN Renewable Energy Standard (Stat. 216B)**
Created a carbon-free standard (CFS) requiring all electric utilities to have 100% of retail sales generated by carbon-free energy by 2040.
- **Public Utility Commission 2025 Decision**
Woody biomass eligible under carbon-free goal. Carbon life cycle assessment (LCA) required to ensure harvest and use of woody biomass demonstrates climate benefit, such as being carbon-neutral or having limited emissions (some exceptions apply).
- **Biochar Incentives**
LCCMR grants for pilot projects, such as Minneapolis's city-owned plant, which turns wood waste into biochar for soil improvement.
- **Biofuel - Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit Production Incentive (MN Stat.41A.)**
 - **Additional funding** of \$5.3 million per year for FY2026 and FY2027 or \$10.6 million total for the biennium.
 - **Extend credit** from 2030 to 2035, with \$2.1 million additional budget each year from FY2028-FY2035.
 - **Encourage ultra-low carbon SAF** with additional tax credit of \$0.02 per gallon for each additional percentage carbon intensity reduction beyond 50%, up to \$0.50 per gallon

Appropriate Sources of Materials

Biomass Sources & Production Equivalents

Woody Biomass  **SAF or Renewable Diesel**

1 Cord = 2 Green Tons/1 Dry Ton = 50-75* Gallons SAF / Renewable Diesel

1 Ac. Logging Slash = 10.5 Green Tons x 55% Utilizable = 5.7 Green Tons/Ac.

1,500 Board Feet Lumber = 125 Cubic Feet Sawdust* = 1 Cord Green Biomass

145,000 Acre/Yr. Timber Harvest = 827,000 Green Tons/Yr. Useable Biomass

** Emerging SAF technologies = 75 – 100 Gallons*

*** Some density inequalities exist*

Thank you!

Questions?

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