

Background and organization: Appointed by the Governor, the Wisconsin Council on Forestry is a diverse group of leaders in the forestry community who direct Wisconsin's efforts to achieve sustainable forestry. Members include the state forester, elected officials with the state senate and assembly and representatives of forest products industries, professional societies, education and non-governmental organizations.

The Council was created by State Statute 26.02 in July 2002 to advise the governor, legislature, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Commerce, and other state agencies on a host of forestry issues in the state, including:

- The practice of sustainable forestry, as defined in s. 28.04 (1) (e)
- Protection of forests from fire, insects, and disease
- Reforestation and forest genetics
- Management and protection of urban forests
- Public knowledge and awareness of forestry issues
- Forestry research
- Economic development and employment in the forestry industry
- Marketing and use of forest products
- Legislation affecting management of Wisconsin's forest lands
- Staffing and funding needs for forestry programs conducted by the state

The Council meets at least four times a year at locations around the state. Public notices with an agenda are posted on Council's webpage and sent out through Wisconsin Gov delivery.

Reports and Issues: The Council prepares a biennial report on the status of the state's forest resources and forest industry. Recent issues addressed by the Council include:

- Michigan-Finland bioeconomy project: The project will create a platform for joint U.S. – Finland research, development and innovation projects and the Council is looking into Wisconsin involvement. https://finlandabroad.fi/web/usa/current-affairs/-/asset_publisher/h5w4iTUJhNne/content/finland-maine-and-michigan-partner-toward-sustainable-growth-in-forest-bioeconomy/384951
- Regional economic diversification: Collaboration with other groups to enhance existing timber industries and establish new market opportunities for Wisconsin forest products. <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Pages/ForestIndustryREDS/Default.aspx>
- Forest regeneration monitoring: Program began in 2018 to better assess the status of regeneration across the state. <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestManagement/regenMonitoring.html>
- Climate change taskforce: Submitted a letter to the governor offering ways to utilize Wisconsin's forests and forest industry to address climate change. <https://councilonforestry.wi.gov/Documents/Gov%20Climate%20Change%20Taskforce%20Letter%207-31-20F.pdf>