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## Wood Products Council Launches Major Program to Support the Use of Wood in Non-residential Structures

*WoodWorks provides technical assistance and education for architects, engineers and builders*

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**(January 14, 2008 – California)** The Wood Products Council announces the launch of WoodWorks, a major new program designed to support the use of wood in non-residential building applications.

“The WoodWorks program was established to provide resources that allow architects, engineers, contractors (AEC) and others to design and build commercial and other non-residential structures out of wood more easily and at less cost,” said Bryan Schuyler, regional director of WoodWorks California.

“The intent is to support AEC professionals considering the use of wood and continue that support from design through construction. We provide free education and training in areas such as wood-related code issues, seismic and fire protection, wind resistance and green building, as well as one-stop access to resources provided by wood associations nationwide.”

Woodworks is being initially launched in three markets—California, Georgia and the Carolinas (southeast) and Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin (north-central). The first major event in California will be a one-day Wood Solutions Fair, which will be held on January 31 at the Long Beach Convention Center. (Program information is available at [www.woodworks.org](http://www.woodworks.org).)

“A lot of people don’t realize how many advantages there are to using wood in non-residential buildings,” said Schuyler. “It gives you more value—in terms of its beauty and design flexibility and also environmentally—for less cost, all while meeting fire, safety and other code requirements.”

Among its benefits:

- Wood is an inherently “green” building material. In addition to being renewable and sustainable over the long term, it outperforms steel and concrete in most life cycle assessment (LCA) categories—including global warming potential, air and water pollution and embodied energy (which includes the energy required to extract, process, manufacture, transport and maintain the material over time).
- Wood has an important role to play in the fight against climate change. While humans contribute carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) to the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels, growing trees absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and release clean oxygen. Some of the CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed into the soil and the rest is stored in trees—and wood products made from trees—until they burn or biodegrade. Wood also contributes to a building’s energy efficiency.
- Wood performs well in earthquakes. The attachment of sheathing and finishes to the numerous wood joists and studs in a typical wood-frame structure provides redundant load paths for an earthquake’s forces. Wood buildings also tend to be lighter and more flexible, and are very effective at resisting lateral forces.

“One of the roles of our field staff is to help design teams understand what’s allowable in the International Building Code and California Building Code,” said Schuyler. “When the IBC was introduced in 2000, it provided a much greater range of options for wood-frame commercial buildings. We want to help people take advantage of that.”

The WoodWorks program encompasses a full range of building types, including: retail, offices, hotels, schools, industrial, religious, recreation, public and health care. Field staff are available to discuss specific issues and have the expertise to provide a wide range of architectural, engineering and code support, either in person or through in-house presentations to an entire firm or design team.

In addition to the Long Beach Wood Solutions Fair, upcoming events include:

**Luncheon Seminars: Green Building**

March 11 – San Diego

March 12 – Costa Mesa

March 13 – Los Angeles

**Full-day Seminars: Wood Works for Building Design**

March 19 – Sacramento

March 20 – San Francisco

**About WoodWorks**

WoodWorks is an initiative of the Wood Products Council, which is a cooperative venture of all the major wood associations in North America, as well as research organizations and government agencies. For more information, visit [www.woodworks.org](http://www.woodworks.org).

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