



Dear Councillor,

Sustainability is a topic in which Local Authorities are increasingly well versed, and we'd like to let you know about help available to your Local Authority to take simple yet effective steps to having a positive impact on the world's forests. The Central Point of Expertise on Timber (CPET), the Timber Trade Federation (TTF) and WWF are working together to provide practical advice to Local Authorities on responsible timber procurement – free of charge.

Over the last 50 years, the world has lost 50% of its forest cover, so we would like to work with Local Authorities who recognise the importance of the choices they make, to safeguard what is left. Properly managed, timber is a genuinely renewable resource and we'd like to show that Local Authorities can help forests through purchasing practices. The good news is – by doing this you can also reduce your carbon footprint. Many Local Authorities already buy Fairtrade products, and have sustainable procurement policies, so we would like to build on these strengths. You will no doubt also be familiar with the available 'Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins' standards¹ that encompass sustainable criteria for wood products. Locally sourced wood is also an increasingly important source of energy for Local Authorities that should be included in a timber procurement policy.

Enclosed you will find a leaflet with further information outlining our work. Free regional seminars are planned for Local Authority staff from September to December this year to provide help in understanding responsible purchasing of timber & paper goods, including practical guidance on implementation and monitoring. We invite you to get in touch, hear more about how we can help, and what difference your steps can make to some of the world's most valuable habitats for both people and biodiversity, and the resources we depend on. Some authorities are already making a start and have worked with us – this is what they have to say. We also have support for our work from the Local Partnerships Sustainable Procurement team.

Bill Kirkup, North-East Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and Peter Fail, Durham County Council who have developed a responsible timber procurement policy with the CPET team say "Sustainable timber procurement is in our view a significant quick win for local authorities and... implementation should lead to tangible environmental and social benefits; there is little or no financial penalty, the industry is supportive and extensive practical support is available from CPET".

Jon Lissimore, London Borough of Lambeth, who have been members of the WWF UK Forest & Trade Network since 2002, says "Local Authorities should be championing the approach of adopting a proper policy for sustainable timber procurement. It doesn't need to be overbearing. If Local Authorities make a policy statement, train staff, talk to the FSC and use CPET, I think we can make a huge difference. "

I will be first contact point for our initiative, but the other organizations welcome your enquiries, and contacts details for each organisation can be found in the accompanying leaflet. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Solène le Doze
Awareness Coordinator at CPET

¹ The 'Buy Sustainable - Quick Wins' which are both a set of mandatory minimum standards at the market average level and best practice specifications