



12 What can individuals do?



Wood products

Where possible buy wood products in place of other materials such as plastics. In order to ensure that these are from sustainably managed forests, make sure that they are certified. FSC is the most common logo to look for on consumables in this country.

The FSC logo now appears on a huge range of products, from garden furniture to decking, sheds,

conservatories, tools, bird boxes and bird tables, kitchen, bathroom and general housewares, brushes, wallpaper, flooring, doors, shelves, furniture, toilet tissue, paper, books and pencils – most things that are made from wood. It can also be found on other forest products such as venison, essential oils, and latex for footballs and balloons.



Timber in building

Consider timber as a building material if undertaking building projects. Individuals could also consider using wooden frames when replacing windows, or wooden flooring in the

home. Ensure that these are certified - either by FSC or other certification schemes. Even asking suppliers if they use certified timber can have an impact on their buying patterns.



Wood as a fuel

Can you think about switching to a wood burner to heat your home?

Could you encourage your business or community buildings to switch to using an efficient woodfuel boiler to provide heat and hot water?

As well as the carbon saving and environmental benefits, this could save you or your business money particularly if you currently use heating oil. Most importantly seek good advice on size, design and fuel.



Charcoal

In Britain we import 95% of our charcoal each year – a large proportion of which comes from unsustainable sources such as tropical forests or cleared mangrove swamps. Look out for FSC or other certified charcoal to

make sure that it is from a sustainable resource. Even better, buy locally produced charcoal to support local woodlands and reduce the distances that the charcoal is transported.



Paper

If possible choose recycled paper as this is the greenest option overall – it prevents waste paper going to landfill, and requires fewer chemicals and about 70% less energy and 40% less water in its production. Where it is not possible to buy recycled paper, use

paper which is certified, e.g. by FSC. There will always be the need for some virgin fibre (from newly cut down trees) as recycled fibres can only be reprocessed 6-8 times – in these cases it is important to use fibres from certified forests.



Christmas trees

Buy real. As long as your real Christmas tree comes from a well managed woodland it can offer a more climate-friendly alternative to a fake tree. Reports show that using a fake tree results in greater carbon dioxide emissions than using a new real tree

each year, if the fake tree is used for less than 20 years. All FC Christmas trees are sustainably grown in the UK in plantations that are replanted after they are felled. Make sure you recycle your real Christmas tree after you have finished with it!



Volunteer

Where opportunities exist, get involved in helping to manage your local woodland!