

PENNSYLVANIA SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

BRINGING THE STANDARD
TO LIFE

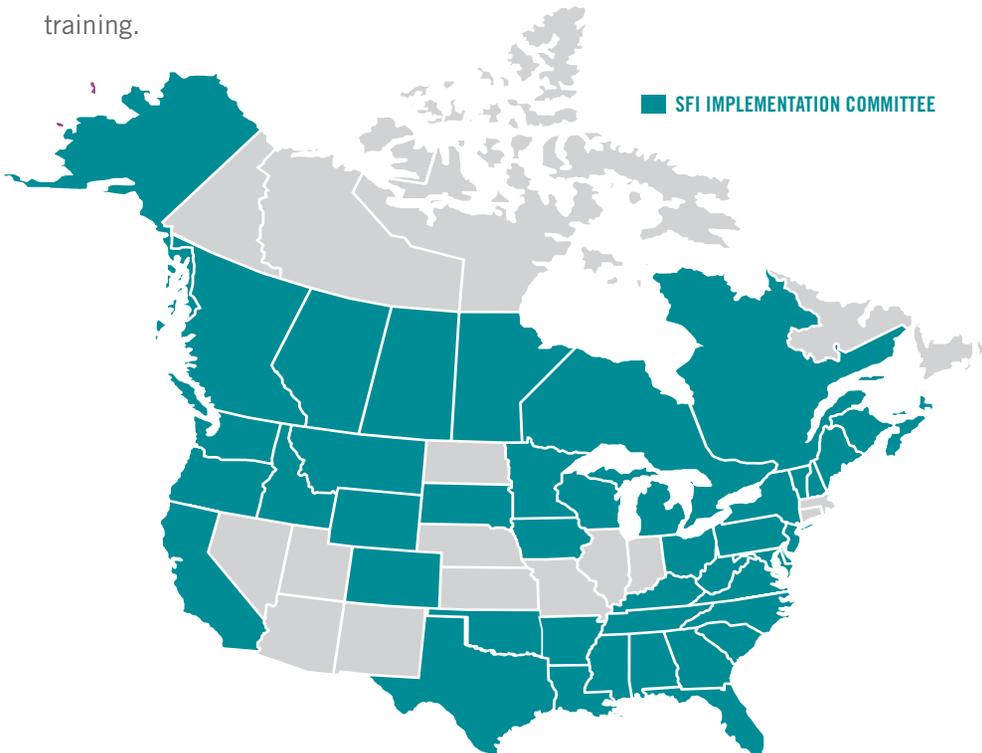


SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Program is a fully-independent forest certification program. The work of the SFI Program starts with a standard but the SFI Program is much more – it is a community that stands for the future of forests. At the heart of the SFI community are SFI Implementation Committees (SICs). There are 34 SICs across the United States and Canada, with close to 1,000 volunteers. Their active presence on the ground is resulting in significant contributions to individual communities through activities such as training loggers and other resource professionals and sponsoring outreach to landowners on responsible forest management.

COMMITMENT

All SFI Program Participants owning or operating primary forest product facilities, owning or managing forestland, or procuring fiber within the state or province are expected to participate in their local SFI Implementation Committee. This approach is unique to the SFI Program — no other forest certification program in the world has this level of grassroots support to promote responsible forestry, best management practices for water quality and training.



CORE PRIORITIES

SFI Implementation Committees are an integral part of the SFI Program and play a vital role in promoting training and landowner outreach, maintaining integrity of the SFI Program and supporting and promoting responsible forestry and the SFI Program at the state, provincial and regional level.

SIC core mission priorities:

- Logger Training and Education
- Responding to Inconsistent Practices Inquiries
- Landowner Outreach
- Increasing SFI Program Recognition
- Annual Reporting
- Protecting SFI Program Integrity

INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY

While SFI Implementation Committees are provided guidance on core mission and required activities, they have a significant amount of autonomy. The Committees have the freedom to develop projects, programs and activities and make decisions about the best way to accomplish these priorities.

The Committees set their own membership dues, establish their own governance and leadership structures, design and implement locally-developed projects, and determine the best way to achieve the results they desire.

SFI Inc. does not provide funding to the SFI Implementation Committees. Many Committees, including the Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee, are primarily funded by local SFI Program Participants and other members of the forest products industry who have a strong desire to help promote the wise use of Pennsylvania's forest resources and protect their economic, social, and ecological values for today and generations to come.

INVESTED BY SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN 2015

**\$3
MILLION**

to support training of resource and trained professionals, outreach to family forest-owners and environmental education. Since 1995, SFI program participants have contributed \$65.64 million to support local programs through SFI Implementation Committees.



PENNSYLVANIA SFI IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

The Pennsylvania SFI Implementation Committee (SIC) was established in 1995. Our mission is to provide oversight and administration of the SFI program within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to effectively facilitate or manage the programs and alliances which support the growth of sustainable forest management through the SFI program.

Committee membership is a blend of SFI Program Participants and other local supporting companies and organizations. This involves a diverse group of local forest stakeholders, including private forest landowners, professional timber harvesters, forestry professionals, local government officials, academics, scientists and conservationists. SFI Program Participants represent approximately half of the committee membership, with the remaining half being SIC Partners & Supporters and other supporting organizations. The diversity of members ensures representation of many different perspectives, fresh ideas, and the capacity to implement the work members deem important to their goals and objectives. The SIC creates a forum in which all segments of Pennsylvania's forest sector can come together and gain a better understanding of each other.

The SIC does not focus on expanding sustainable forestry practices on SFI certified lands alone, but reaches beyond by including efforts to educate timber harvesters and foresters, and provide outreach to private forest landowners. To date, the SIC has distributed tens of thousands of outreach materials to Pennsylvania's private forest landowners, and nearly 7,000 individuals have participated in the PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program. In 2007, the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry adopted a policy requiring that commercial timber harvesting activities on all 2.2 million acres of state forest land be led by a SFI trained logger. Our training participants across Pennsylvania are implementing the new things they learn through our training program on a daily basis.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION



THE PA SFI PROFESSIONAL TIMBER HARVESTER TRAINING PROGRAM is designed to educate Pennsylvania's logging workforce and give them the tools they need to operate safely and efficiently, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, and to sustainably manage our forests for generations to come. The Pennsylvania SIC provides high quality educational opportunities through our training program by partnering with experts in related fields.



GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED

The Pennsylvania General Assembly was the first state legislative body to recognize and endorse the SFI program through a formal resolution in 1996 (SR 160 and HR 480). In 2015, the General Assembly recognized the PA SIC with formal resolutions (SR 144 and HR 375) in celebration of our 20th anniversary (1995-2015) and for our involvement in setting a Guinness World Record for tree planting. The resolutions designated June 5, 2015 as “PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative Day” in Pennsylvania.



EXEMPLIFYING THE “I IN INITIATIVE”

The PA SIC has twice been recognized with the SFI Implementation Committee Achievement Award -- in 2001 and 2015. The award recognizes SICs for outstanding work in implementing the SFI program, making a difference on-the-ground advancing sustainable forestry and promoting the benefits of forests and forest products certified to the SFI standard.



RECORD BREAKING

In order to bring global recognition to the importance of our forests while also helping to ensure their future, the PA SIC engaged in a successful 2015 attempt to set the Guinness World Record for the most trees planted in one hour simultaneously by small groups. Two teams of volunteer planters in Pennsylvania joined 27 other teams across the United States and Canada and planted a combined 202,935 trees during the single hour event (7,248 trees planted in Pennsylvania alone). The effort was nearly 5 times what the attempt needed to exceed in order to obtain the record.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The PA SIC is the primary provider of logger training in Pennsylvania. Nearly 7,000 individuals have participated in our PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program since 1995. Strong partnerships with Penn State and Penn College of Technology professors, extension educators, wildlife specialists, staff from numerous county conservation districts, and other experts from the natural resources, logging, and finance industries help supply high quality training on critical topics such as chainsaw felling safety, best management practices, habitat management, log quality optimization, sustainable forestry, business management, and many more.



BUILDING THE FUTURE

More recently, the PA SIC began supporting the future of Pennsylvania’s forest products industry workforce by partnering with High School vo-tech programs to offer their students the core component of the PA SFI Professional Timber Harvester Training Program. It is our hope that exposure to this excellent training will encourage young adults to consider a career in the forest products industry.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The PA SIC sponsors a number of worthy organizations and events to promote sustainable forestry. These include the Pennsylvania 4-H Forestry Program, the Log A Load for Kids charity that supports Children’s Miracle Network-affiliated hospitals, The Penn State Center for Private Forests’ biennial landowner conferences, the annual Wayne County Woodsmen’s Competition, and the Hardwood Development Council’s WoodMobile.



SPREADING THE WORD

Forest Leaves, a quarterly newsletter providing timely tips and stories about caring for one’s woods, is one of the most widely distributed forestry publications in the state. This resource for landowners is a joint venture among the PA SIC, Penn State Extension, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, the Pennsylvania Tree Farm committee, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, and the Center for Private Forests. All partners contribute funds, content, and distribution support for this publication. The PA SIC also publishes a biannual newsletter and contributes content to a number of other publications such as Pennsylvania Forests magazines.



CULTIVATING CREDIBILITY

The PA SIC responds to allegations of practices that appear inconsistent with the SFI Standard principles and objectives. The Inconsistent Practices Program is a resource open to anyone and provides a venue for reporting and addressing these concerns. The program was established to foster a dialogue with the public on forest management and to facilitate the use of good forestry practices. For more information or to report an issue please visit our website www.sfiopa.org/inconsistent, or contact our office at (814) 355-1010.

CONTACT US

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