

# The Key Benefits of Community Forestry



**Community Forestry** is a collaborative approach to forest management, involving local communities in decision-making processes. This approach acknowledges their knowledge and contributions to safeguarding and sustainably using forests. By granting ownership or access rights to resources, community forestry promotes sustainable practices that align with local needs and aspirations.

## Moving Beyond Industrial Resource Extraction

Community forestry is a forward-thinking approach to forest management. It has gained popularity as a long-term solution that balances the needs of the community, the environment, and the economy.

In Canada, community forestry has developed from industrial resource extraction practices to a holistic approach that takes into account varied stakeholder interests, indigenous knowledge, and ecological well-being.

Historically, Canadian forests were frequently managed with an emphasis on timber extraction and profitability, which resulted in environmental deterioration and strained community relations.

Despite this, a paradigm shift has occurred because of increased environmental awareness and recognition of indigenous rights. Due to this shift in consciousness, community forestry emerged as a contemporary, sustainable approach to forestry.





# Empowering Local Communities

Community forestry [empowers local citizens](#) by including them in the decision-making process, establishing a sense of ownership, and improving the social well-being of communities. It rekindles ties to ancestral areas and fosters a revitalized feeling of cultural identity.

# Improving Environmental Resilience

By connecting forest management with ecological principles, community forestry encourages the conservation of biodiversity, watershed preservation, and carbon sequestration. This builds a resilient ecosystem capable of withstanding the [effects of climate change](#) and natural disasters.



## The Benefit to your Community

- ✓ Access and control of forest resources are provided to local communities
- ✓ Supports local communities in making sustainable resource management decisions based on their needs and objectives
- ✓ Includes local citizens in decision-making processes and fosters a sense of ownership and social cohesion within the community
- ✓ Promotes sustainable forest resource gathering, including timber, and non-timber products
- ✓ Sustainable resource gathering generates cash income and job opportunities in the community

## The Benefits to the Environment

- ✓ Crucial for environmental protection and climate change mitigation
- ✓ Significantly contributes to carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and ecological resilience through sustainable management strategies like selective logging and reforestation
- ✓ Community-based conservation activities safeguard watersheds, soil quality, and wildlife habitats, ensuring ecosystem health and viability



# Sharing the economic benefits

Rather than hindering economic progress, community forestry provides long-term economic potential. Local economies are strengthened and [new revenue streams](#) are developed through responsible timber harvesting, non-timber forest products, and ecotourism.

## The Benefits to our Economy

- ✓ Both local and national economies benefit from community forestry
- ✓ Sustainable forest extraction and sale boost local income, job opportunities, poverty reduction, and well-being
- ✓ Community forestry fosters small and medium-sized firms in forest-based sectors, generating economic opportunities
- ✓ Community forestry promotes sustainable forest management, conservation, economic growth, ethical corporate practices, and environmentally conscious consumers, fostering green economies

The combination of community forestry with industrial practices emerges as a solution that crosses traditional barriers in the goal of [sustainable forest management](#).

This synthesis not only preserves potential forestry revenues but also benefits both communities and the environment. By leveraging the strengths of local knowledge, cultural values, and collaborative decision-making, while simultaneously employing industrial experience and technology, a harmonious blend of strengths is achieved.

As Canada moves towards a more sustainable and inclusive governance model, community forestry emerges as a powerful force that goes beyond traditional forestry management practices. It bridges the gap between today's demands and tomorrow's aspirations, crafting a future in which communities thrive, ecosystems flourish, and economies grow in [harmony with nature](#).

Established in 1969, the Conservation Council of New Brunswick is the province’s leading public advocate for environmental protection. A member of the United Nations’ Global 500 Roll of Honour, we work to find practical solutions to help families and citizens, educators, governments and businesses protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the precious marine ecosystem and the land, including the forests, that support us.



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