



Department of
Agriculture and Markets

Wood Products Development Council

Woodsman's Field Days

AUGUST 15, 2025

Enabling Statute: AML Article 18 Section 225

The council shall work with wood-using manufacturers to increase the economic contributions and employment opportunities related to the practice of forestry and manufacture of wood products in New York State.

The council shall give priority to:

- 1) **increasing private investment in working forests;**
- 2) **maintaining access to working and family forests;**
- 3) **coordinating policy and permitting issues** with state agencies, academia and the private sector;
- 4) working to **improve public understanding** of and appreciation for forestry and forest products;
- 5) and **increasing export and market opportunities** for New York forest products.

New York State Wood Products Development Council

Promoting New York's Diverse Forest Products Industry

New York State Announces New Actions from First-Ever Forestry and Wood Products Summit to Advance Industry's Growth

[LEARN MORE →](#)

SUPPORTING NEW YORK STATE'S FORESTS AND FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

WPDC Appointees as of August 2025

Agriculture and Markets Designee (Commissioner Richard Ball)	Brian Steinmuller/Jeff Kehoe (D)
Environmental Conservation Designee (Com. Amanda Lefton)	Fiona Watt (D)
Economic Development Designee (Hope Knight, CEO)	Allison Stark (D)
Logger	Jennifer DeFrancesco
Nonindustrial Forest Owner	Kristopher Covey
Forest Industry Organization Representative	Ed Wright
Sawmill Owner	Tom Gerow
Secondary Wood Products Manufacturer	Kelly Blazosky
Maple Syrup Producer	Kathy Conway
Commercial Forest Owner	Mike Hanlon
Statewide Forest Landowners Association	?? NYFOA??
Non-designated	Enthusiasts needed!
Non-designated	Enthusiasts needed!

NYS Wood Products Development Council



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Past Projects/ Achievements

Completed Projects

Arnot Forest- Commercial Kitchen for Maple Sap Processing
Wood Heat Community & Regional Marketing: Northern Forest Center
Forestry Camp: NY FFA Foundation/ Oswegatchie Education Center
Economic Analysis of NYS Forest Economy: SUNY ESF
Norway Spruce Approved as Softwood Species
Supply Chain Analysis: Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA)

Major Achievements

2018 Summit ➡ CAFRI: Climate and Applied Forest Research Institute (Cornell CALS & SUNY ESF)

CLCPA – Scoping Plan and WPDC recognition

Division Shift in 2023

New Appointments: August 2024

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SUNY ESF & Cornell College of Ag. Life Sciences (CALS)

WPDC endorsed projects for CAFRI:

- Suitability analysis for native hardwoods for wine barrels
- Slash Wall Research
- Assessing Benefits and Barriers
- Carbon Benefits of Harvested Wood
- NYS Wood Based Bio Economy

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Strategic Direction/ Goals

- Goal 1) Make recommendations and **advise on public policy**
- Goal 2) **Support existing markets and** encourage development of **new markets.**
- Goal 3) **Develop focused information** for a target audience
- Goal 4) Conduct **public outreach and education**
- Goal 5) Produce and **distribute an annual report**

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Strategic Direction?

Where can we go from here?

CLCPA

NYS Reforestation Plan – WPDC Role?

BMPs for Management and Carbon

Forest Regeneration Threats

Work Force Development

Landowner Outreach

Update Public Resources for Wood Products/ Value –added producers

Not Compete/ Overlap w/ ESFPA

Resources

WPDC Website: <https://woodproducts.ny.gov/>

WPDC Law: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/AGM/A18>

CLCPA: <https://climate.ny.gov/>

CAFRI: <https://www.esf.edu/cafri-ny/index.php>

JEFF KEHOE

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Wood Products Development Council

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets

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