

# FOREST CARBON INFORMATION NOTES

## MODULE 0: INTRODUCTION

### KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- Forests have a significant role to play in managing climate change
- Forest carbon management builds on established forest management practices, with specific considerations for forest carbon
- The Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI) is a provincial program that invests in projects to increase carbon sequestration and avoid emissions in British Columbia's (B.C.) forests
- Canada is supporting the FCI for 5 years through the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund (LCELFF)

Forests come in second place only after the world's oceans as the largest natural storehouses of carbon. Even the atmosphere does not store as much carbon as forests – trees, other plants, dead wood, litter and soils. Worldwide, forests soak up the equivalent of just over a third of the greenhouse gas emissions released through the combustion of fossil fuels.

Established forest management practices can be strategically applied to increase carbon sequestration and avoid emissions to create a carbon benefit. Activities such as fertilization, rehabilitation and tree improvement can significantly increase carbon sequestration in forests, while reducing slash pile burning decreases emissions and improves air quality. These are all forest management activities that have been practiced in B.C. for decades, and when increased or applied with forest carbon in mind, they can be used to help in the fight against climate change.

Recognizing this potential, B.C. and the federal government are partnering to invest in forestry activities that reduce emissions and sequester carbon through the Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI).

These Forest Carbon Information Notes have been developed to inform forest professionals and natural resource managers of opportunities to apply forest management practices to reduce emissions and sequester carbon.

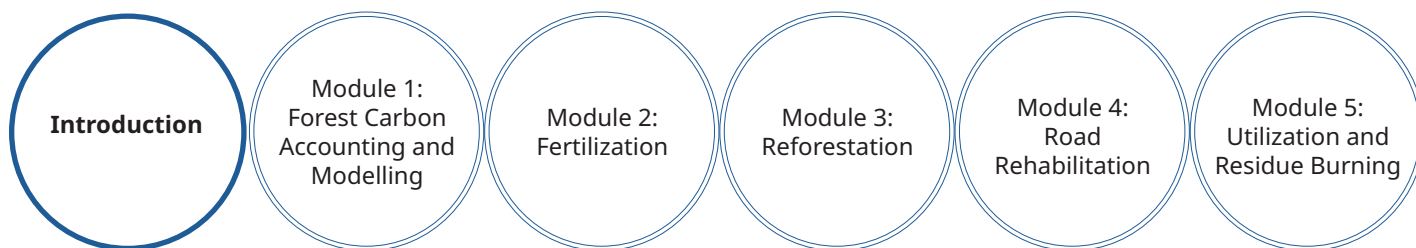
### CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN B.C.'S FOREST SECTOR

B.C.'s forests contain over 6-7 billion tonnes of carbon stored as forest biomass, comprising the province's single biggest carbon resource. Due to trees' ability to absorb and store carbon as they grow, their use in long-lived forest products and their ability to create energy instead of fossil fuels, forests can help reduce the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs).

In its simplest form, forest carbon management contributes to climate change mitigation by:

1. Increasing the sequestration of carbon by plants, and
2. Avoiding emissions.

By considering climate change, forest carbon management can help improve the resilience and health of B.C.'s forests. Forest carbon projects also help FLNRORD to meet a variety of management objectives on provincial public land including timber supply, habitat rehabilitation, rural and Indigenous Nations employment opportunities, and wildfire recovery.

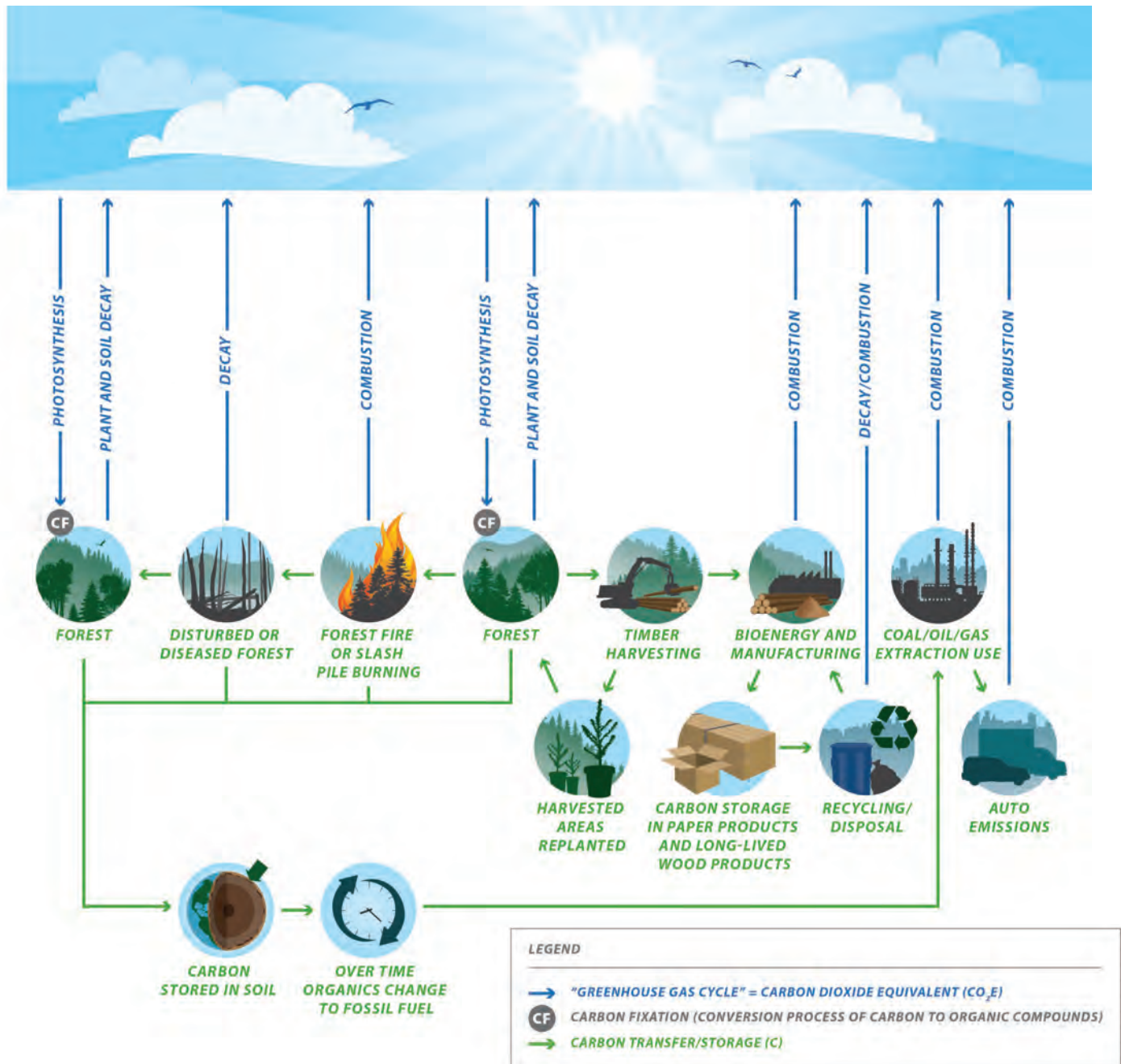


## WHAT IS THE FOREST CARBON INITIATIVE?

In 2017, the provincial government launched the Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI), a long-term program to increase carbon sequestration and avoid emissions in B.C.'s forests. FCI takes a portfolio approach to invest in a range of forest carbon projects across the province, including reforestation, fertilization, increased fibre utilization, and road rehabilitation. These investments will deliver GHG benefits in the short term (2030), medium term (2050), and beyond.

FCI prioritizes investments based on cost, area of land available, geographic distribution, Indigenous Nation involvement, and the ability to achieve co-benefits such as job creation, improved biodiversity and improved habitat. FCI integrates climate adaptation objectives into the program to ensure investments in the land-base are buffered against climate risks. FCI also provides carbon modelling support to help land managers, and programs and policy makers consider forest carbon in decision making.

Figure 1: The Forest Carbon Cycle





## WHAT IS THE LOW CARBON ECONOMY LEADERSHIP FUND?

In March 2018, the Province and the Government of Canada signed the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund Funding (LCELF) agreement. Canada is contributing \$140M in federal funding to FCI. The federal contribution is being matched with incremental

provincial spending of \$150M, amounting to a \$290M investment in forest carbon between 2017 and 2022.

The Province is partnering with FESBC, B.C. Timber Sales, Forests for Tomorrow, Indigenous businesses, forestry companies and others to deliver FCI projects.

## HOW DO I ACCESS FUNDING FOR FOREST CARBON PROJECTS?

If you are interested in developing and managing a forest carbon project, please review the appropriate module for your project type. Once you are familiar with the forest carbon considerations for your project,

please contact [Forest.Carbon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Forest.Carbon@gov.bc.ca) and the appropriate Forest Carbon Advisor will respond to your e-mail. To learn more about FESBC funding opportunities and how to apply, visit [www.fesbc.ca](http://www.fesbc.ca).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, please see the [FCI website](#).

Inquiries about the Forest Carbon Initiative may be directed to: [forest.carbon@gov.bc.ca](mailto:forest.carbon@gov.bc.ca)

This information note was prepared for Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) staff, the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia, contractors, Indigenous Nations and stakeholders to communicate the potential benefits and opportunities in mitigating climate change through such activities, and to offer robust, evidence-based advice on best practices.



Ministry of  
Forests, Lands, Natural  
Resource Operations  
and Rural Development