

A Guide to Membership

Member Benefits

Our Improved Forest Management (IFM) Program rewards landowners for managing their forests in ways that increase long-term carbon storage and conserve high-value forest stands. By following forest management practices that support forest health, resilience, and sustainable harvesting, our members generate measurable climate benefits and meaningful financial returns.

- Payments Over 40 Years
- Access to Forestry and Carbon Market Expertise
- Revenue-Share Capitalizing on Market Growth
- Harvest Flexibility and Customization for Large Landholdings

Land Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. Based Forestland
- Non-Federal Lands
- Minimum of 500+ Acres of Forested Land
- Title to Land and Ownership of Timber Rights
- No Existing Commitment Preventing Commercial Harvesting

Eligible Land: All Merchantable Forests



Hardwoods
(oaks, maples)



Conifers
(pines, firs)



Varying age types
(old & young)

A Partner You Can Trust



Crediting Period (40 years)



Initial payment after enrollment, annual payments with credit sales



Harvest flexibility with forest certification support



Forest management support from licensed regional foresters



Annual member surveys completed online

Premium Carbon Credits, Verified Value

Our projects operate with registries on the voluntary market known for high-quality, rigorous project verification for quality, permanence, and additionality in the carbon market. Through our program, we deliver high-quality credits that attract premium buyers and command market-leading prices, resulting in higher payments for landowners. Backed by top institutions and funds, our investor network reflects strong confidence in the long-term value of carbon credits.

Climate-Smart Forestry Practices

Forest Carbon Works (FCW)'s IFM Program supports climate-smart forestry by encouraging multi-aged, structurally diverse forests that remain resilient under changing environmental conditions. These guidelines emphasize silvicultural practices that increase long-term carbon storage and sequestration while also delivering co-benefits for wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and biodiversity.

As a nature-based carbon removal program, our IFM approach generates additional climate benefits by storing carbon above and beyond what would occur under standard management. This ensures that enrollment in our program reflects real, measurable improvements in forest condition and carbon outcomes.

Recommended forestry practices include extended rotation lengths, single tree and group selection harvesting, variable density thinning, and treatments focused on improving overall forest health.

IFM improves the long-term health and productivity of the forest. For landowners, this typically means:

- **Longer rotations** or delaying harvest to let trees grow larger and store more carbon
- **Selective harvesting** instead of clearcutting
- **Thinning that improves stand health** and reduces overcrowding
- **Maintaining mixed age, diverse stands** that are more resilient to pests, drought, and wildfire
- **Protecting soil and water resources**
- **Reforestation or enrichment planting** where needed

Harvest Guidelines

Commercial Harvests

Commercial harvests are defined as any type of harvest producing merchantable material at least equal to the value of the direct costs of harvesting.

Notice in writing to FCW requires a minimum of 6 months in advance of any commercial harvest. Written approval is required prior to commencing a commercial harvest. Forest certification is required for commercial harvests. FCW supports Forest Stewardship Council® Certification for most landowners, including Forest Management Plan (FMP) assistance and audit services.

Non-Commercial Harvests

Non-commercial harvests are defined as a harvest which does not produce merchantable material to cover the cost of harvest operations. Examples frequently include pre-commercial thinning, sanitation and salvage, and timber stand improvement treatments.

It is required to provide 3 months' advance notice to FCW prior to any non-commercial harvest. Post-harvest inventories are completed by FCW for any area harvested that is larger than 5 acres.

Firewood Removals

Landowners are permitted an annual firewood harvest allotment based on forested acreage. This ensures that firewood removals will not impact credit issuances and landowner payments.

Live trees with a diameter greater than or equal to 5 inches count toward annual firewood allotments.

Care should be taken when removing dead trees for firewood as these serve important ecological functions.

Firewood removals must be reported on annual member surveys. Advance notice for firewood removals is not required within annual allotted amounts. Firewood harvested beyond the annual allotment will count toward the harvest cap.





Become A Member

1. Submit Your Complete Application Online
2. Familiarize Yourself with the Program Details
3. Confirm Your Interest and Request a Membership Proposal
4. Receive and Review Your Estimate with Our Team

That's it! Members receive their first payment within 30 days of signature.

Key Document Checklist to Ensure Easy Enrollment

- ✓ Forest Management and Harvest Plans
- ✓ Easement Agreements
- ✓ Deeds of Ownership



To contact us, please visit forestcarbonworks.org, call 1 (800) 399-5246 or email inquire@forestcarbonworks.org

