

NEWS RELEASE

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New Forest Guild Report: How Northeast Forests Can Capture Carbon, Fight Climate Change

Holden, MA –The release today of the Forest Guild’s new report, *Climate Change, Carbon, and the Forests of the Northeast*, marks the first time that climate change impacts, carbon policy recommendations, and forest management challenges in the Northeast have been interconnected and distilled into practical, attainable strategies for use by forest managers. Commenting on the need for and the focus of this report, Forest Guild Research Director and co-author Dr. Zander Evans explained, “We need to recognize how climate change may affect the resistance, resilience, and adaptation of the Northeast’s forests. We also must decide how to manage working forests in response, and how they can store more carbon and play an important role in mitigating climate change.”

For that potential to be realized, however, he and co-author Bob Perschel, the Forest Guild’s Northeast Region Director, also concluded that the Northeast’s forestlands must be retained as forests. Fragmentation or conversion of forestland to other uses not only releases carbon that forests are currently storing, but also damages the region’s long-term ability to sequester more carbon in forests and wood products. Perschel described the overriding need for forest preservation in this way, “Imagine literally billions of ‘green machines’—trees!— scrubbing billions of tons of carbon from the air and you’ll grasp the potential of the Northeast’s forests—if we protect them—to fight the effects of climate change.”

The policy recommendations also serve as a science-based and practical guide for policymakers and elected officials who are charged with developing policies for overall CO₂ reductions and establishing specific standards for carbon sequestration activities. The report stresses the need to include standards for excellent forestry in the criteria for earning and trading carbon credits from forestlands. Forestry projects that meet those standards along with criteria for demonstrating additional carbon sequestration should be eligible for carbon credits within the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and other regional and national initiatives and forestry protocols.

The Forest Guild’s report, *Climate Change, Carbon, and the Forests of the Northeast*, can be found at: <http://www.forestguild.org/news/climatechange/>

The Forest Guild is a national association of foresters and other natural resource professionals whose mission is to promote ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry – excellent forestry – as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities which depend upon them. The Guild is headquartered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with regional offices in Massachusetts and California.

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