

# Center for Timber Innovation

## Building Solutions for a Changing World

### Our Vision

The UW Center for Timber Innovation in the Built Environment (CTIBE) envisions a future where locally sourced, carbon-smart timber helps build more sustainable, resilient communities. Through interdisciplinary research, hands-on learning, and community partnerships, we advance mass timber as a powerful solution to housing, climate, and economic challenges—driving innovation that strengthens both the built environment and the natural systems that support it.

### Motivation

The UW Center for Timber Innovation in the Built Environment tackles the urgent challenge of scaling mass timber as an affordable, climate-smart building solution for Washington. With our second- and third-growth softwood forests at a crossroads, thoughtful management is essential to sustain biodiversity, reduce wildfire risk, and protect their role as carbon sinks. Responsibly harvested timber fuels the next generation of engineered wood products — from CLT panels to mass plywood — enabling taller, denser, lower-carbon buildings. Growing production capacity across the Pacific Northwest makes this a critical moment to act, advancing resilient communities and a sustainable built environment.

### Our Approach

The Center brings together and expands mass timber activities at the University of Washington, and enables expanded work in Research, Education and Community-Engaged Action.

### Research

CTIBE brings together diverse expertise to advance mass timber solutions for Washington's housing and climate needs. Our research spans carbon, efficiency, seismic performance, and material innovation—laying the foundation for impact through:

- ▶ Partnering with industry and agencies to expand timber innovation across the Pacific Northwest
- ▶ Designing and testing the next generation of timber assemblies and structural systems
- ▶ Producing applied research that supports broader use of mass timber in housing and infrastructure

### Education

CTIBE offers interdisciplinary learning experiences that prepare students to lead in sustainable building. Through coursework and hands-on practice, students engage with mass timber systems in design, fabrication, and performance—building skills through:

- ▶ Elevating UW as a hub for mass timber education and innovation
- ▶ Integrating design, construction, forestry, and policy into a comprehensive learning experience
- ▶ Connecting students with real-world projects and career pathways in the mass timber sector

### Community-Engaged Action

CTIBE partners with communities across Washington to explore how timber can support more resilient and inclusive development. From forest to fabrication, students and collaborators engage the full lifecycle of timber—building connections through:

- ▶ Hosting site visits, tours, and events that link education with place
- ▶ Strengthening collaborations with Tribal Nations, municipalities, nonprofits, and timber producers
- ▶ Grounding learning in the landscapes, ecologies, and people shaping the future of sustainable forestry and construction





## Shared Values

At the heart of CTIBE's work is a shared commitment to shaping a more resilient, inclusive, and climate-conscious future. These values drive our collaborations, inform our research, and ground our community partnerships:

- ▶ Working toward a climate-sensitive future through collaboration and knowledge sharing
- ▶ Engaging in interdisciplinary research with openness to diverse and connected topics
- ▶ Fostering partnerships between Professional, Agency, Municipal, Tribal, and Academic entities
- ▶ Committing to community engagement with a focus on equity and justice

## The University of Washington as a Partner

Rooted in the University of Washington's legacy of research excellence and innovation, the Center unites the College of Built Environments, the College of the Environment, and the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences to amplify impact in mass timber and sustainable building.

## How to Engage

Partnership fuels progress. We invite collaborators, donors, and community members to join us in advancing mass timber innovation:

- ▶ **Invest in the future** — Make a philanthropic gift to CTIBE to advance cutting-edge research, student learning, and sustainable building practices that shape the future of timber construction.
- ▶ **Contribute materials and tools** — Provide in-kind donations of timber products or specialized equipment. These resources empower students to bring their ideas to life, from early prototypes to full-scale structures.
- ▶ **Share access and expertise** — Open your forests, production facilities, or timber projects to students, transforming classroom concepts into hands-on experience.
- ▶ **Champion the story** — Partner with us to amplify the impact of mass timber through events, exhibitions, and public storytelling that inspire broader awareness and engagement.



## Contact

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