



Forest Products Solutions

News Release

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The *FSC School* displayed at Greenbuild in Phoenix

Portland, OR - McGraw Hill Construction's recent 'Green Outlook 2009 – Trends Driving Change' report found that from 2006 to 2007 specifications for products from the US government's Energy Star program and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) were rapidly increasing. Two of the top four building structure groups, Dorms and Education buildings, have seen the highest percentage of specifications for FSC-certified wood products, 22.4% and 17.4% respectively. It is this strong desire for FSC-certified wood products that drove Forest Products Solutions to develop the *FSC School* in booth #3157 of the Greenbuild Expo in Phoenix, AZ, November 10-12, 2009.

The *FSC School* (www.fscus.org/school) is going to be built with: architectural ceiling and wall grills from 9Wood; kindergarten furniture and fixtures from Community Playthings; walnut PureBond plywood from Columbia Forest Products; training center furniture from National Office Furniture; countertops from Richlite; non-added urea formaldehyde particleboard from The Collins Companies; millwork and casework from Western Millwork; laminates and laminate flooring from Wilsonart; *SCOTT* towel and *KLEENEX* tissue brand products from Kimberly-Clarke Professional; distribution expertise from McKillican International; and FSC presentation and school supplies from the ReBinder.com.

Phil Gattis Chain-of-Custody Administrator for Community Playthings provides some insight into his company's role as an FSC COC manufacturer, "Since FSC is possibly the single most effective global initiative to protect the world's forests, participation in FSC is the only right thing to do for a wood manufacturer like Community Playthings. Even as we go about our work building furniture and toys that enrich children's indoor learning environments, we are mindful of our role in protecting the outdoor environment that we will leave behind for them."

The focus of the *FSC School* is to inspire architects, interior designers, developers, and other design/construction professionals about the importance of wood products that originate in forests which are truly: environmentally sound, socially respectful and economically viable.

Paul Davis, Environmental Programs Manager at Columbia Forest Products and FSC-US board member sums up this view perfectly, "Trees cycle carbon, provide raw material for

sustainable industries and as a material ultimately embodies a tradition of ages with its strength, durability and warmth to both touch and eye. More than ever before those who design learning spaces are considering the life cycle environmental and social impacts of materials they select. Design and building professionals who demand FSC-certified wood for cabinets, furniture and millwork ensure the remarkable story of wood in the classroom is underpinned with credible, verifiable claims of stewardship on the forest floor.”

However, wood products and building materials are only part of the story at this year’s *FSC School*. Just as FSC-certified building material specifications are on the rise, so is the drastic increase in paper products that are available from FSC-certified companies. “FSC certification is one of the most respected assurances that the forest products you buy come from sources that are managed with consideration for people, wildlife and the environment,” said Richard Thorne, vice president of Kimberly-Clark Professional North America. “FSC is increasingly recognized by governments and independent environmental groups throughout the world, so much so, in fact, that its name has become synonymous with responsible forestry.”

Following Greenbuild the *FSC School* will be donated to the Phoenix Day Child and Family Learning Center. Phoenix Day is the oldest continually operating non-profit early childhood care and education program in Arizona and they are currently in their 95th year of servicing the region. Katherine Anthony is their Community Administrative Coordinator, “Through the generous efforts of the *FSC School* project sponsors the children, families, and faculty of Phoenix Day Child and Family Learning Center are excited to benefit from the new furniture. Since many of our larger pieces of furniture are in need of replacement from years of wear and tear; all of the donations from the Greenbuild Expo will support our mission and efforts in providing high quality early care and education for the children of the Phoenix metropolitan area... and for that we are most grateful.”

Corey Brinkema, President, of FSC-US sums up the important message for why green building professionals should strive to include FSC-certified materials in their projects, “The *FSC School* demonstrates what is possible when using FSC-certified products. Just as we teach our children to imagine and reach for new solutions to today’s environmental and social challenges, the *FSC School* offers tangible evidence to them that such challenges can be met - responsibly, innovatively and beautifully.”

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Forest Products Solutions is a Portland, OR based consulting company that specializes in FSC COC auditing services, training and marketing www.forestproductsolutions.com; and has partnered with FSC-US to bring attractive, unique and thoughtful displays to the Greenbuild Expo floor.

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