Sustainable Wood
MEYER MEMORIAL TRUST HEADQUARTERS

Meyer’s overarching commitment to environmental protection and equity are core pillars of its mission to work with and invest in organizations, communities, ideas, and efforts that contribute to a flourishing and equitable Oregon. The project considered wood as a building material with the distinct potential to achieve sustainability and equity impacts. Moreover, both of these key goals were viewed as interconnected with the unique potential to amplify each other and connect rural and urban Oregon.

In line with this mission, Meyer partnered with nonprofit Sustainable Northwest to establish specific sourcing criteria for the wood used in the construction of its new headquarters. The project included a case study detailing the process, accomplishments, and lessons learned. The innovation of this partnership was the dialogue it forged between the project team, the client, and supply chain to find hidden barriers and remove obstacles for sourcing sustainable wood.

The criteria support forests that are managed intentionally for carbon sequestration, worker rights, human health, water, and wildlife habitat. Additionally, Meyer has committed to supporting rural forestry-based jobs, rural communities, and innovation in Oregon by constructing certain parts of the new building with wood. The result is that 85 percent of the wood in the building met the definition of “Sustainable Wood” with 49 percent being FSC-certified.

For material sourcing, wood was sourced locally and met the equity goals of supporting minority-owned businesses, safeguarding rural jobs, engaging local Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified businesses, and encouraging climate-smart forestry.

In support of its equity goals, the project team formed unique partnerships with a hyper-local supply chain which involved contracting with six minority and women-owned businesses and seven small family-owned wood products companies. Economic impact of the project’s wood procurement went to three Washington counties (Thurston, Clark, and Whatcom) and eight Oregon counties (Clackamas, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, and Yamhill).