

What is Green Certification?

Green Certification, also referred to as Forest Certification, is a process where third-party, independent forest experts conduct audits of forestry sites and review management plans and procedures to assess if the forestry is of a high quality that meets certification standards. These standards are drafted and reviewed with input from experts around the country. Green Certification does not require any tree cutting to occur but reviews any cutting that does occur to make sure it meets these high standards. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Private Lands group is certified under the most rigorous of the standards, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. The principles and criteria established by FSC promote ecologically beneficial, socially responsible, economically viable forest management practices.

What are the benefits of Green Certification to landowners in MA?

- Recognition for implementing high standards of sustainable forestry locally
- Recognition for participation in a successful and expanding movement to improve forestry globally
- Cost sharing for management planning expenses
- Significantly reduced cost of participating in group certification in comparison to the expense of individual certification enrollment

How can I get more information about this program?

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/conservation/forestry-and-fire-control/forest-stewardship-program.html>

Or

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