SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- **The only major building material that's renewable**

Wood is the only major building material that is renewable—a reason why the forest base is still abundant after 150 + years of harvesting. For every Cedar tree that's harvested, at least 3 are planted. Lumber producers have been replacing harvested trees so diligently over the last few decades that North American forests have actually grown by 20% since 1970.

- **Reduced energy and material consumption**

In North America, there are many examples of historic wood buildings from the 16th century that are still standing. Even the foundation of the Empire State Building rests on wood piles. In fact, wood not only lasts, but there are many examples of new buildings that have used wood reclaimed from decommissioned buildings. This is the ultimate in reducing the consumption of materials, as there are very few building materials that are reused in this way when a building decommissioned. Wood products require much less energy to produce than concrete or steel – that's according to an independent study that compared how much energy is needed to obtain, manufacture, transport and install building materials for identical wood frame, steel frame and concrete houses. These findings prove, once and for all, that wood is environmentally superior to alternative materials.

- **Cedar is recyclable and biodegradable and comes from the most sustainably managed forests in the world**

Man-made materials—including brick, cement and composite products—don't break down like wood does once it's discarded. Cedar is green by nature, but certification is a bonus for consumers looking for an added assurance. More than 85 percent of Cedar that is cut, is certified by internationally recognized, independent forest certification agencies.

- **Building with Real Cedar actually helps reduce greenhouse gasses**

Cedar, along with other wood products, has the lowest impact of all building materials on air and water quality. For starters, the manufacturing of wood products produces far fewer toxins and greenhouse gases than the leading man-made materials. But it gets better than that; the regeneration of forests after harvest creates new trees, which take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen as they grow. That's great news for the environment.