Cities4Forests

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Sustainable Wood for Cities

Verification Matrix

Verification Types, Methods and Examples (applied to Pathways and Strategies)			
Type > ***Method***	**1st Party (Seller Verification)** producer/supplier performs an internal evaluation based upon city specifications and provides reports on progress/adherence.	**2nd Party (Buyer Verification)** the buyer (i.e. city) verifies that a supplier and/or the products of that supplier conform to a certain standard	**3rd Party (Auxiliary Verification)** an independent party verifies that a supplier and/or its products conform to a certain standard
Personal contact or relationship Based on mutual goals and trust, long standing relationships, and experience. Credibility, transparency, accessibility, and organizational permanence are key factors.	● E.g., an urban wood salvaging company with longstanding community ties has developed a personal relationship with city departments and is tapped to lead a city wood salvaging project in a local park.	● E.g., regional wood salvage company offers reclaimed wood to the city; invites officials to visit the mill where flooring is made from barn timbers it claims (Whitney Museum/ Hudson Co.)	This strategy may have limitations without written documentation. ● E.g., an NGO oversees the import of tropical timber from a social forestry conservation enterprise that they have a longstanding association with.
Documents and paperwork Request applicable documentation from suppliers, including certification docs, licensing permits, receipts of sale, forest management plans, etc.	● E.g., a social forestry enterprise completes a self-evaluation of their forest management practices and associated conservation impacts using a checklist/questionnaire created by the buyer	Buyer works with the seller to ensure that the wood meets sustainable procurement criteria. ● E.g., while a certain forest may not be certified by a third party the city be able to prove to qualify as an equivalent to any standards (i.e. FSC or PEFC) required in procurement.	This strategy is most common with 3rd party verification schemes. ● E.g., complete paperwork for FSC certification is required by city from importer of tropical timber from Social Forestry enterprise
Technological tracing An emerging practice, new technologies such as blockchain, DNA fingerprinting, isotope analysis, can increase transparency and help validate origin, species and other supply chain processes.	Depending on the technology the information can be recorded, uploaded and shared by various members of the supply chain, including the “seller” and “buyer”. ● E.g., suppliers use DoubleHelix’s product verification technology to guarantee supply chain transparency.	● Buyer uses digital verification technology (such as Tracy of Sweden and FSC Certificate Public Dashboard) to guarantee sustainability criteria of purchased wood, for example, origin of wood from social forestry enterprise, jurisdictional legality, or species selection.	● E.g., reclaimed timber contract requires DNA verification performed by 3rd party service for species and isotope testing to ensure lesser-known species or exclude counterfeit timber.