

# Woodworking in the UK – a key part of our heritage, a vital part of our future

The British Woodworking Federation (BWF) is the trade association for the woodworking and joinery manufacturing industry in the UK.

## About the British Woodworking Federation

There are  
**700** member companies  
mostly UK manufacturers




making products such as staircases, windows, doors, furniture and architectural joinery

**"Wood is the most technologically advanced material that we can build with. The Earth grows our food. The Earth can grow our homes. It's an ethical change that we have to go through."**

Michael Green, Architect

## 1. Construction, the catalyst for growth



Every £1 invested in construction generates £2.84 for the economy

**£ = £2.84**

Joinery focuses on continuous innovation & product development



Increasing environmental sustainability, durability and fire safety standards

Supporting offsite construction technologies by focusing on factory-finished solutions

### What we're doing:

- Strong support for Construction 2025, the industrial strategy for construction
- BIM Taskgroup to ensure industry is BIM-ready for 2016



Accreditation and certification services to improve product performance and drive up standards



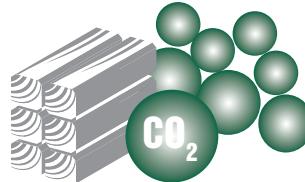
Active on more than 40 standards committees

- Fire Door Safety Week** to educate and promote improved fire safety in new and existing buildings

### What we need from Government:

- More housebuilding across the country
- Ensure quality of design and build is key to future development
- Ensure uniform enforcement of EUTR across Europe
- Insist on safe specification of fire doors to protect life and property
- Cut VAT to 5% on home RMI work

## 2. Wood, the sustainable choice



**Carbon Storage**  
Wood is a renewable material which absorbs and locks up carbon

- Helps the UK meet its climate change commitments more easily and cheaply
- The natural choice for health and well-being
- Timber products have the lowest embodied carbon of any mainstream production material



**One tonne of carbon is stored for every 1m<sup>3</sup> of timber used**

Wood products are made at incredibly low energy levels



**5**

trees planted for every one harvested in managed European forests

### What we're doing:

- Funded independent Whole Life cost and cradle-to-grave lifecycle research for timber windows



Achieved Green Guide A+ rating for Wood Window Alliance products

### What we need from Government:

- Housing Standards and Allowable Solutions which support the use of genuinely sustainable products
- Recognition and reward for low-energy manufacturing
- Ensure all building projects consider and publish full carbon impact
- Support for growth in sustainably managed forests

### 3. Skills, talent and training

Of the 2.9 million people working in construction

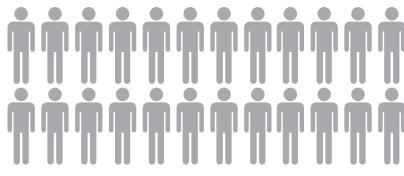


**7%**  
are carpenters and joiners

- Third largest sector of employment in construction
- Joinery has the highest ratio of apprentices in the construction sector
- Strong sector for entrepreneurial new businesses built on practical skills

Wood trades need a net increase in labour of

**4,260**



every year for the next 4 years

#### What we're doing:

- Award-winning 'Wow I Made That!' campaign to help young people understand careers in joinery



Developing qualifications that suit the modern workforce



First web-based CPD system for construction workers

#### What we need from Government:

- Support for FE sector to run courses that lead to jobs
- Improved careers advice in schools
- Effective funding mechanisms that deliver more fully funded apprenticeships for SMEs
- Parity of esteem for the status of vocational training
- A lean, efficient CITB supporting our training aspirations

### 4. Manufacturing, the heart of a strong economy

The UK wood products manufacturing sector is worth



**£3.8 BILLION**  
A year

Turnover up 10% since 2012



real value added to the economy



BWF members bring skilled jobs to rural areas. But now under increasing pressure from imports

#### What we're doing:

**Comprehensive range of business support**



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Access to mentoring programs



Supporting the NSCC's Fair Payment campaign

#### What we need from Government:

- No more public sector contracts to contractors who endemically pay late and starve the supply chain of vital cash
- In the Business Rate review consider UK manufacturing competitiveness and ensure investment is never penalised
- Greater access to flexible, business-friendly finance
- Taxation breaks to support investment in skilled people and plant to help drive competitiveness and stem growing imports

Read the full BWF Policy Manifesto: [www.bwf.org.uk/assets/bwf-manifesto-2014.pdf](http://www.bwf.org.uk/assets/bwf-manifesto-2014.pdf)



member of  
construction  
products association



Wood for Good  
Challenge your perceptions.



Fire Sector Federation



**2014**  
BEST PRACTICE  
**AWARDS**  
**WINNER**  
Membership Success of the Year