



Logging is the Key Factor Leading to Deforestation and CO₂ Emissions...

So you want to save rainforests?

Maybe even the planet? The good news is you don't have to go to the Amazon and lay down in front of a bulldozer. You can fight for some long overdue changes right here in our own backyard — New York City.

You might know that...

tropical rainforests are the *lungs of Earth*. They inhale carbon dioxide — the major pollutant causing global warming — and exhale life-replenishing oxygen. Under their lush, green canopies, rainforests house so many amazing life forms, that we've only identified an estimated 10% of them. And rainforests are nature's

ultimate pharmacy — approximately a quarter of our medicines are derived from tropical plants.

You probably don't know that... the New York City government is the single largest consumer of tropical hardwoods in North America. The city uses the wood for tens of thousands of park benches, subway track ties, pilings, 12.5 miles of boardwalks, the decking of South Street Seaport, the pilings and fender racks of the Staten Island Ferry Terminals and the Brooklyn Bridge Promenade. The use of these woods doesn't just destroy the environment and wildlife — it funds murderous cartels, military juntas, forced labor camps and land theft. In February 2008, Mayor Bloomberg vowed to immediately reduce the City's use of rainforest wood by 20%. But his plan ignores the Department of Sanitation's three new marine transfer stations and Hudson River Park's miles-long renovations, as well as dozens of other projects. With these and other large-scale projects, the City will more than double its use of rainforest wood.

Scientists report... that tropical deforestation typically begins when a logging road cracks the forest open for the first time. But we know that logging roads aren't the first step. The process begins here, in places like NYC's Department of Sanitation and Hudson River Park Trust, when officials demand tropical woods instead of alternatives.

There are alternatives... that NYC can use instead of rainforest wood. For the tracks of the Elevated train, Chicago Transit Authority switched to **recycled plastic lumber** and reported that it will last at least *twice* as long as tropical timber — thus reducing future maintenance costs substantially. After years of work by Rainforest Relief, NYC Parks Department has finally accepted that certain domestic hardwoods last as long as tropical hardwoods: Parks recently ordered \$50,000 of sustainable domestic lumber for new benches. A good start, but NYC agencies must do more.

Action... Contact the NYC officials below and tell them the so-called Tropical Hardwood Reduction Plan won't protect rainforests or reduce climate change. In addition, the State Legislature must close the loophole in the existing law to ban the use of ALL tropical hardwoods.

Mayor Bloomberg's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability: (212) 788-3069

Email the mayor at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor.html>

Send a message to your state senator: senate.state.ny.us/senatehomepage.nsf/senators

Send a message to your state assembly member: assembly.state.ny.us/mem/

Two acres of rainforest are destroyed every second — that's an area the size of Manhattan every two hours. According to UNFAO, deforestation is responsible for 25-30% of human-caused global warming gases.



RAINFOREST RELIEF
Exposing and Challenging Rainforest Consumption

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