Mass Timber at Terminal 2

Using mass timber technology to scale up housing production, create new sustainable manufacturing jobs, and benefit forest health

The Port of Portland’s mission is to build shared prosperity for our region—and we’re looking to partner with our community to make even bigger impact.

The Port marine Terminal 2, located North of the Pearl District, is no longer well positioned to compete in the region for what it was traditionally used for – moving oversized international cargo. That’s why we’re exploring new ways to activate Terminal 2 to advance shared prosperity goals.

The Port of Portland and the Mass Timber Coalition have partnered to create a strategy for a Mass Timber Modular Manufacturing Facility and workforce training center at Terminal 2.

The vision: support our region’s emerging mass timber industry, grow regional economic development opportunities, create career pathways and business opportunities for struggling urban and rural communities, and accelerate housing production.

In December 2021, the Mass Timber Coalition received an EDA Build Back Better grant of $500,000 to create an equitable and sustainable strategy for a mass timber modular manufacturing facility at Terminal 2.

To further strengthen this vision, the Port and Hacienda CDC have received $5 million in State funding to develop a prototype of modular housing units made from mass timber at Terminal 2.

- The prototypes will allow us to assess the economic and environmental feasibility of creating these units at scale.
- Prototype housing units will be trucked from Terminal 2 to communities throughout our region to provide housing opportunities for community members in need.
At scale, we believe mass timber manufacturing will expedite the creation of high-quality, energy-efficient homes.

- We have a serious statewide housing shortage.
  
  A 2020 EcoNW Housing Needs Analysis says Oregon needs 140,000 more homes today and an immediate 50% increase in residential permits for each of the next 20 years to meet future demand and restore balance to our housing markets.

- Modular construction is faster and creates less waste than traditional site-built housing.

- Modular housing is also flexible in nature. We’re starting with single-family homes and ADUs, but the same units can be stacked and configured for multi-family development. This can provide even more housing at lower cost to address our current crisis.

The Project will create equitable economic development and jobs in both urban and rural communities with a special focus on engaging BIPOC workers and entrepreneurs including:

- Jobs in manufacturing, construction, and forestry.

- Job training in construction and related trades, linked to community colleges and other Career and Technical Education institutions.

- Business opportunities including factory production and installation of residential fixtures & cabinetry, transport & trucking, site preparation, and on-site finish construction.

Mass Timber supports healthy forests

- Mass timber differs from traditional lumber in ways that can support improved forestry practices and help manage wildfires in our changing climate.

  Mass timber products can be created from smaller, lower value timber, such as the ponderosa pines that are prevalent in overstocked fire-prone forests.

- We will work to source products from lands that are being managed for conservation goals, using thinning and controlled burns.

- Market demand for mass timber can help fund forest management efforts including restoration and wildfire management.