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Importance of Sustainable Biomaterials

Presenter : Roger M. Rowell,
Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Related Mission: Mission 4

We have used biomaterials since the first humans walked the face of the earth. We made tools, weapons, shelters, and used them for transportation and fuel. Can we continue to use biomaterials at the present rate forever? What does sustainability mean? Where did the concept come from? To achieve sustainability we must maintain a level of raw materials, manage clean water, energy, waste, human resources and be able to develop new technologies is any element becomes unsustainable. But, the real question is, is sustainability even possible? The factors to consider will be presented and discussed.

Roger M. Rowell, Roger became a Research Chemist for the USDA, Forest Service, Forest Products Lab in Madison Wisconsin in 1966 and worked there for 41 years retiring as a Senior Technical Pioneering Scientist in 2007. He joined the University of Wisconsin as a professor in Biological Systems Engineering in 1980 teaching several courses in carbohydrate and wood chemistry until he retired in 2007. He is now a Professor Emeritus at the University and still advising graduate students in the US, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Mexico and Japan. He has been a visiting scholar in Japan and a guest professor in China, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Poland, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Egypt, Taiwan, Korea, Viet Nam, Romania, Portugal, Turkey, Estonia and Latvia. He is also worked for companies in US, South Africa, The Netherlands, The UK and was a Mission Leader for the United Nations Development Project in India for six years. He is now a Guest Professor at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm Sweden where he teaches 4 to 5 months a year.