

Kyla Rishel

Seventh grade

Teacher: Jessica Istre

Vineyard Christian Academy

Garden City

King Lumber

Is steel the new king of building, or does something else have power over steel? Wood is mightier than steel because timber is the best economically and environmentally.

To begin with, building with wood helps the economy. Lumber buildings are quieter than steel structures providing a calm place to destress. Loffer says, “Wood absorbs sound, rather than reflecting or amplifying it, and can help significantly reduce noise levels for additional comfort”(Loffer). In addition, because wood is easier to build with, it costs less than steel. According to Smith, “A steel frame house has an average cost between \$9.50 and \$11 per square foot, while a wood frame house has an average cost between \$1 and \$5 per square foot”(Smith). Building a house with wood helps people make wise decisions away from stress and can save a considerable amount of money. Not only does wood aid the economy, but it also helps the environment.

Lumber is strong, biodegradable, and has a lighter footprint when made. It may seem surprising, but wood houses can stand through fires and large hurricanes. Think Wood declares, “When wood is exposed to fire, the outer layer burns and creates a protective charring layer that acts as insulation and delays the onset of heating for the unheated, or cold layer below”(Wood

and Fire Safety). Not only is wood strong, it helps the air. Trees take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Wood is a renewable source because lumber comes from replanted trees. Additionally, to make lumber, it takes less non-renewable energy like coal or gas. Make it Wood states, “(Wood) has a much lower embodied energy than other major building materials, which are non-renewable and require large amounts of fossil fuels to produce”(Make it Wood). Lastly, when thrown away, wood decomposes in the ground and helps many organisms. Clearly, building with wood is better for the environment than constructing with steel.

Without a doubt, wood is best for the economy and environment. Lumber is still the king over steel.

Works Cited

“Best Building Materials | Long-Lasting Properties of Wood.” *Think Wood*, 2017,
www.thinkwood.com/performance.

Loffer, Larry. “The Advantages of Wood as a Building Material.” *Wagner Meters*, Wagner
Meters, 14 Aug. 2018, www.wagnermeters.com/moisture-meters/wood-info/advantages-wood-building/.

Make it Wood. “The Benefits of Wood.” *Make It Wood*, Make It Wood, 2018, makeitwood.org/benefits/.

Smith, Ashley. “Compare 2019 Average Steel vs Wood House Framing Costs - Pros versus Cons
of Steel and Wood House Framing - Price Comparison.” *Kompareit.Com*, 2 Apr. 2019,
www.kompareit.com/homeandgarden/construction-compare-steel-vs-wood-house-framing.html.