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There is a lot of talk about reducing greenhouse gases but often depressingly little action.

Which is why it is heartening to see institutions eagerly tipping \$210 million into a large scale timber engineering project at Albany in Western Australia.

The Lignor plant will be a world first in converting plantation hardwood blue gum into very strong engineered strand timber beams and boards.

Because the process uses timber strands rather than chips, a variety of timber thinnings can be included to produce high quality building timber.

Using a non-toxic resin, the timber can be used outdoors and in termite areas with no further treatment.

Lignor's green credentials come because its timber products have the potential to efficiently lock up carbon for an extensive period.

With the feedstock predominantly plantation blue gums and forest thinnings, renewable carbon fixing can be maximised.

Both the WA and Federal Governments have strongly supported the project, which will transport the finished product by rail to Perth.

Managing director Glyn Denison said there had been strong institutional demand for convertible notes.

A float on the ASX is being planned, with construction of the \$175 million plant to start this year.

When the plant starts to operate in 2008, it will gradually ramp up production until 145 people are directly employed, working three shifts over a seven-day period.

End.