

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

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Understanding Paper & Recycling

International Paper offers a range of recycled content products to meet our customer needs.

Whether it's providing recycled content or virgin content from sustainably managed sources, our company always keeps sustainability in mind. Most of our grades can be made with 10 percent post consumer waste (PCW) fiber with many grades available with up to 30 percent PCW fiber. Contact your customer service representative for details.

Recycled fiber has some limitations – contamination, supply and proper use.

Even though U.S. paper recovery rates are at an all time high, overseas export of recovered paper is also high, resulting in higher costs to U.S. consumers. In addition, contamination of recovered fiber limits the recycled content possible in some paper grades. While we encourage recovery, we understand that sustainable virgin fiber supply is essential and makes economic sense for landowners, paper manufacturers and customers.

Virgin fiber paper is made from trees, a renewable resource.

The true environmental cost of paper depends on the grade, distribution, manufacturing process and many other factors. Each product is different and so is its environmental footprint, with different energy and water requirements, solid waste outputs and shipping distances. Paper is made from one of the world's most renewable resources – trees. International Paper is committed to provide a range of diverse products as we work to continue to reduce the environmental footprint of these products.

Our products are recyclable.

Fiber in most of the products we manufacture can be recovered and used to make new paper, coated paperboard or corrugated boxes. Promoting the recovery of paper products reduces paper disposal in landfills, helps keep prices for recovered fiber affordable and - perhaps most important - promotes the wise use of paper and packaging products. International Paper promotes recycling. We introduced the first corrugated and paperboard curbside recycling program to serve our global headquarters city of Memphis, Tenn. In addition, office paper generated by our headquarters is used in the production of recycled grades of paper at our Riverdale Mill in Selma, Ala.

A sustainable paper cycle includes virgin and recycled fiber.

It is clear that both virgin and recycled fiber are essential to a sustainable fiber supply. Paper production cannot be sustained by recovered paper alone. Manufacturers would run out of fiber for papermaking in a matter of months if they relied only on recovered fiber. Therefore, it is vitally important to ensure the virgin fiber we do use comes from sustainably managed forests. The virgin fiber we use is certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) procurement and to the SFI and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) chain-of-custody Standards.

For more information or materials about recycled products and recycling:

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