



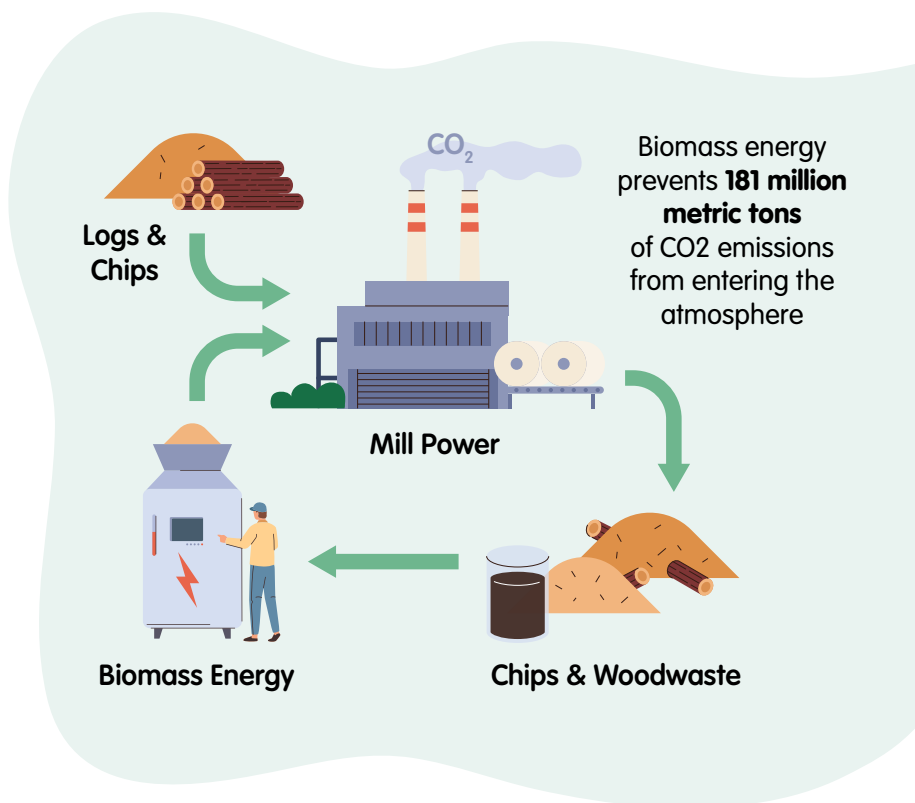
Do You Know the Facts About Paper Manufacturing?

There are many assumptions about how paper is made—but not all of them are true. Let's take a closer look at the myths and facts behind paper manufacturing, from emissions and water use to its role in everyday life.

- ❌ **The Myth:** Paper manufacturing is a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.
- ✅ **The Fact:** In 2023, the pulp and paper industry contributed 1.2% of industrial sector greenhouse gas emissions and about 0.6% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.¹

How Biomass Energy Reduces Paper's Carbon Footprint

Biomass refers to organic materials—primarily wood residues and other plant-based byproducts—that can be burned to produce heat, steam, or electricity.



The paper and wood products industry produces more carbon-beneficial biomass energy than any other industrial sector. The paper industry uses biomass energy by efficiently using leftover materials in the manufacturing process, such as bark, chips and liquid biomass.

The sustainable use of biomass energy to power paper mills reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The paper industry's use of biomass energy **prevents about 181 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions from entering the atmosphere** each year. That's roughly equal to removing 35 million cars from the road.²

The U.S. paper industry was among the first to take voluntary action to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In 2020, U.S. paper companies had reduced Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions (CO₂ eq) per ton of product by 36% from a 2005 baseline. This reduction is attributed to the predominant use of carbon-neutral biomass fuel, the switch from coal and oil to less carbon-intensive fossil fuels such as natural gas, and equipment and process enhancements that improved energy efficiency.²

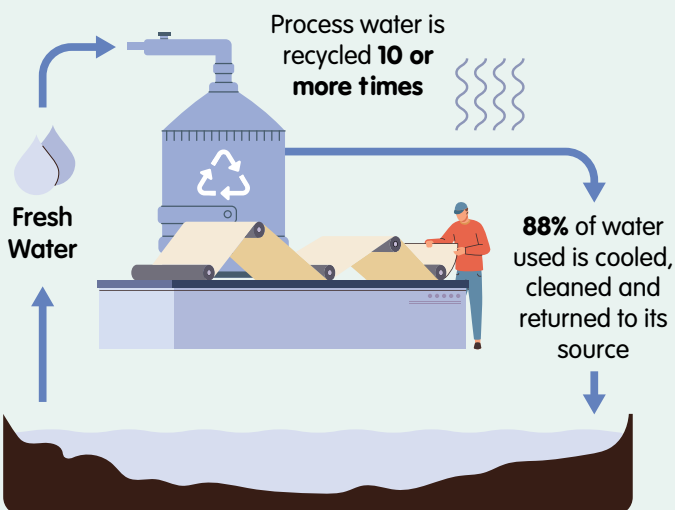


❌ **The Myth:** Paper manufacturing uses excessive amounts of water.

✅ **The Fact:** While papermaking requires large amounts of water, very little water is actually consumed in the production process.

Responsible Water Use in Paper Mills

In a typical U.S. paper mill, process water is recycled 10 or more times, then cooled and cleaned to meet strict U.S. water quality standards, and approximately **88% is returned to its source**. About **1% remains in the manufactured products**, and the rest evaporates back into the environment.³



❌ **The Myth:** The paper industry is dying.

✅ **The Fact:** The U.S. paper industry makes products essential for everyday life.

Paper's Role in the U.S. Economy

The U.S. forest products industry is a major national employer, and is among the **top 10 manufacturing employers in 44 states**.

The industry directly employs around **925,000 people** and supports more than **2 million additional jobs** throughout the supply chain.

The forest products industry is a major contributor to the U.S. economy, representing nearly **5% of manufacturing GDP**.⁴

Sources

1. [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\), 2023 | GHGRP Reported Data](#)
2. [American Forestry & Paper Association \(AF&PA\), 2025 | Energy & the Environment](#)
3. [AF&PA, 2025 | How the Paper Industry Achieves Sustainability](#)
4. [AF&PA, 2025 | Economic Impact](#)

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Print, Paper and
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