



**American
Forest & Paper
Association**

www.afandpa.org

PAPER RECYCLING

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) is the national trade association of the forest products industry and advances public policies that promote a strong and sustainable U.S. forest products industry in the global marketplace. The industry is an integral part of our nation's green job base and generates approximately 5 percent of the total annual U.S. manufacturing GDP.

AF&PA's member companies make pulp, paper, packaging and wood products, and own forest land. Our companies make essential products from renewable and recyclable resources that sustain the environment. Nationwide, the U.S. forest products industry:

- *Employs approximately 900,000 workers — exceeding employment levels in the automotive, chemicals, and plastics industries.*
- *Provides green jobs that reduce greenhouse gases by sustaining the forests that absorb carbon dioxide; making the paper and wood products that store it indefinitely; generating and using more renewable energy than anyone else—28.5 million megawatt hours annually, enough to power 2.7 million homes; and recycling paper to avoid methane emissions and reduce waste.*
- *Is among the top ten manufacturing sector employers in 48 states.*



Continued efforts by members of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) and the millions of individuals who recycle at home, work, and school every day have contributed to record high recovery rates. In 2009, a record 63.4 percent of the paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling. In fact, paper recovery has increased 78 percent since 1990, making it a true environmental success story.

The paper industry has successfully achieved its 60 percent recovery goal three years early, which required maintaining the current recycling infrastructure and the commitment of Americans, despite given global economic realities.

To increase visibility for paper recycling, AF&PA partners with organizations including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Keep America Beautiful, and Scholastic®. Further, the annual AF&PA Recycling Awards recognize outstanding business, community, school, and college/university paper recycling efforts. For materials and resources to help improve your paper recycling efforts at home, school, and work, visit paperrecycles.org.

RECYCLING FACTS

- In 2009, total paper recovery averaged 325 pounds for each man, woman, and child in America.
- Every ton of paper recovered for recycling saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- More paper is recycled than sent to landfills.
- AF&PA member companies' use of recovered fiber results in avoided emissions of more than 20 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents each year.
- By weight, more paper is recovered for recycling from municipal solid waste streams than glass, plastic, and aluminum combined.
- More than 36 percent of the raw material used to make new paper products comes from recycled paper.
- Approximately 75 percent of all U.S. papermakers use some recovered paper to make everything from newspaper to paperboard packaging to office paper.

For more information on AF&PA's recycling program, please contact:
recycling@afandpa.org.