



**American
Forest & Paper
Association**

www.afandpa.org

Paper Recycling A True Environmental Success Story

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) is the national trade association that advances a sustainable U.S. pulp, paper, packaging, and wood products manufacturing industry through fact-based policy and marketplace advocacy. The industry is an integral part of our nation's green job base and generates approximately 4.5 percent of the total annual U.S. manufacturing GDP and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employees in 47 states.

AF&PA's member companies manufacture products from renewable and recyclable resources, which are relied upon in the daily lives of people across the country and around the world. Nationwide, our industry value chain employs nearly 900,000 workers — exceeding employment levels in the automotive, chemicals, and plastics industries -- in green jobs that promote recycling to reduce waste and reduce greenhouse gases by sustaining the forests that absorb carbon dioxide; making the paper and wood products that store it; and generating about two thirds of our energy needs through carbon neutral biomass renewable energy.

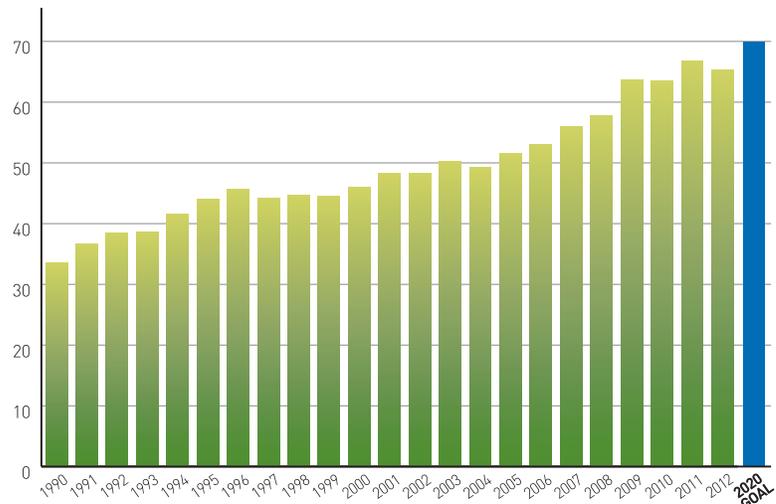


More than 65 percent of paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling in 2012. That's great news for the environment and for the paper industry.

In fact, annual paper recovery increased by 75 percent since 1990, making it a true environmental success story.

AF&PA's sustainability initiative, *Better Practices, Better Planet 2020*, includes an industry goal to further increase paper recovery for recycling to exceed 70 percent by 2020.

%Paper Recycling



Paper Recycling...

Extends the useful life of fiber: Approximately 76 percent of all U.S. paper mills use some recovered fiber to make everything from paper-based packaging to tissue to office paper and newspaper.

Keeps paper out of landfills

- Nearly three times more paper is recycled than is sent to landfills.
- Every ton of paper recovered for recycling saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- By weight, more paper is recovered for recycling from municipal solid waste streams than glass, plastic, steel and aluminum combined, according to U.S. EPA.

Is widely accessible: In 2010, 87 percent of Americans had access to curbside and/or drop-off paper recycling.

Reduces GHG emissions: AF&PA member companies' use of recovered fiber results in avoided greenhouse gas emissions of more than 18.5 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents each year.

For interactive features, statistics, free classroom materials, and resources to help start or improve paper recycling efforts at home, in the community, and at work, visit paperrecycles.org.