



**American  
Forest & Paper  
Association**

[www.afandpa.org](http://www.afandpa.org)

# Paper Recycling Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions

*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 6 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 one million workers — on par with the nation's automotive 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.*
- *Is a significant taxpayer, paying approximately \$7 billion annually in federal, state, and local taxes.*



Paper recycling is one of America's great environmental success stories. As a result of industry leadership and the efforts of the millions of Americans who recover paper for recycling on a daily basis, more than half of the paper consumed in the U.S. today is recovered for recycling. Recycling reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

## Paper Recycling Reduces Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Paper recycling reuses a renewable resource that sequesters carbon and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Greenhouse gas reductions result from avoided methane emissions and reduced energy required for a number of paper products. In addition, recovering paper extends the fiber supply. In 2008 alone, a total of 57.8 million tons of paper were recovered for recycling.
- In 2006, American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) member companies' use of recycled paper fiber to make new paper products resulted in avoided emissions of 21.1 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents.
- According to the EPA, every ton of recycled paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- The industry has set a new goal of 60 percent recovery of all paper consumed in the United States by 2012. Achieving this goal will lead to corresponding reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Climate change legislation should encourage increased recycling and recognize recycling projects as eligible carbon offset project types.

## Americans Set a New Record for Paper Recovery in 2008

- Due to the efforts of the forest products industry and millions of committed Americans, 57.4 percent of the paper consumed in the U.S. was recovered for recycling in 2008. More than half of the paper consumed in the U.S. today is recovered for recycling instead of being disposed in landfills.
- In total, 51.8 million tons of paper and paper board products were recovered last year in the United States—approximately 340 pounds for every man, woman and child in the country—up from 233 pounds per person in 1990.
- As our mills develop new technologies to recycle used paper into products, AF&PA continues to lead the way by encouraging Americans to recycle more paper in their homes, schools and offices.