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Minimizing Paper Impacts

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RPN Webinar: Copy Paper
July 22, 2008



www.ResponsiblePurchasing.org



PAPER INDUSTRY IMPACTS



- ▶ 40%+ of global wood harvest
- ▶ Largest user per product ton of industrial process water in U.S.
- ▶ 12%+ of total manufacturing energy use in U.S.
- ▶ State of the Industry report:
www.environmentalpaper.org
(also available in RPN Guide)

GREENHOUSE GAS IMPACTS

- ▶ 42% of industrial wood harvest is used for paper
- ▶ Forests store 50% of terrestrial carbon
- ▶ Reducing U.S. paper use by 10% would cut GHG emissions by 1.6 million tons
- ▶ Equivalent to taking 280,000 cars off the road for a year





FIBER USE EFFICIENCY TO MAKE ONE TON OF PULP

- ▶ Virgin kraft (chemical) = 4.4. tons fresh trees = 23% fiber efficiency
- ▶ Virgin groundwood (mechanical) = 2.2 tons fresh trees = 45% fiber efficiency
- ▶ Recycled kraft = 1.4 tons recovered fiber = 71% fiber efficiency



100% RECYCLED vs 100% VIRGIN COPY PAPER

Recycled reduces...

- ▶ Total energy consumption by 44%
- ▶ Net GHG emissions by 38%
- ▶ Particulate emissions by 41%
- ▶ Wastewater by 50%
- ▶ Solid waste by 49%
- ▶ Wood use by 100%
- ▶ Access to processed chlorine free bleaching



AVERAGE RECYCLED CONTENT IN PAPER PRODUCTION

- ▶ All grades: U.S. 34%, Canada 25% but not distributed equally
- ▶ Tissue (U.S.) - 45% recycled (primarily commercial, not consumer)
- ▶ Newsprint (NA) - 32.5%
- ▶ Corrugated boxes - 24%
- ▶ **Printing & Writing paper - 6%**





MINIMIZING PAPER'S IMPACTS

- ▶ Reduce paper use
- ▶ Always specify recycled (see RPN and Conservatree paper listings)
- ▶ Use groundwood paper when feasible
- ▶ Reduce basis weight
- ▶ Reuse paper when feasible



COUNTERING ARGUMENTS

- ▶ "Recycled paper doesn't help the environment."
- ▶ "All paper has recycled content."
- ▶ "Just use sustainable forest fiber."
- ▶ "Put all the recycled content into packaging."
- ▶ "All our recovered fiber is going to China, we'll get recycled paper back from them."



WHAT YOU CAN DO



- ▶ Help develop leverage for more deinking capacity.
- ▶ Hold the line on recycled content.
- ▶ Develop and maximize office paper collection, keep it separated, direct it to deinking mills.



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