



**American
Forest & Paper
Association**

www.afandpa.org

Forest Products Industry Climate Change Fact Sheet

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.



The forest products industry fights climate change everyday. It's our business. From carefully managing private forests that absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), to manufacturing products that store carbon and are made from renewable and recyclable raw materials, to using and producing renewable energy, the forest products industry demonstrates its commitment to a more sustainable world for future generations.

The Forest Products Industry Has Significantly Reduced its CO₂ Emissions

- Combined direct and indirect absolute emissions decreased 24.6 percent. Approximately half of this reduction can be attributed to improvements in greenhouse gas emissions, such as efficiency improvements or reduced fossil fuel use, and half can be attributed to decreases in production and changes in baseline from the year 2000.
- AF&PA members decreased fossil fuel use by 19 percent and increased renewable energy use by 10 percent.

Efficient Production Process Allows Industry to Operate More Cleanly, Effectively and Efficiently

- The technology we use helps us reduce energy and water use and significantly cuts greenhouse gas and other emissions. The industry has reduced overall energy use by 27 percent and fossil fuel and purchased energy by 56 percent.
- The forest products industry is the leading producer and user of renewable biomass energy. In fact, the energy we produce from biomass exceeds the total energy produced from solar, wind, and geothermal sources combined. Sixty-five percent of the energy used at AF&PA member paper and wood products facilities is generated from carbon-neutral renewable biomass.

Paper Recycling Reduces Landfill 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 2006, AF&PA member companies' use of recycled paper fiber to make new paper products kept 21.1 million metric tons of CO₂ from being emitted by landfills.
- According to the EPA, every ton of recycled paper saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.

Managed Forests and Forest Products Remove CO₂ from the Air

- Managed forests naturally absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere and store it as carbon. Forests and forest products store enough carbon each year to offset approximately 10 percent of U.S. CO₂ emissions.
- EPA estimates that the amount of carbon stored annually in U.S. forest products is equivalent to removing more than 100 million tons of CO₂ from the air every year.