

American Forest & Paper Association A Climate Fact Sheet

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) supports the President's initiative to address climate change through enhanced research in technology and science, incentives, and voluntary efforts from all sectors of the American economy. Members of AF&PA have underway a number of programs through which they are committed collectively to meeting the President's greenhouse gas reduction goals. These programs include inventorying and reporting on greenhouse gases, actions to enhance sequestration in managed forests and products, development and implementation of improved technologies, efforts to improve energy efficiency, use of co-generation and increased use of renewable energy, and recycling. AF&PA members expect these programs will reduce their greenhouse gas intensity by 12 percent by 2012 relative to 2000. Over the next year, the industry will work to refine its estimates and will report results to the Administration in January 2004.

The forest products industry is committed to innovative energy solutions that will increase efficiency, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, expand the use of renewable energy resources, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The industry has taken significant steps in this direction, and since 1972, on a per ton basis, the industry has:

- Reduced average energy use by 17 percent,
- Reduced fossil fuel and purchased energy consumption by 38 percent, and
- Increased the use of renewable biofuels as a portion of total energy usage by 46 percent.

In the United States, the forest products industry far outpaces all other manufacturing industries by producing nearly 85 percent of the on-site electricity that is generated from renewable energy.

- Currently, the *wood products* industry derives approximately 63 percent of its energy requirements from wood waste.
- The *pulp and paper* industry meets over half of its energy needs from renewable energy in the form of wood wastes and byproducts – the equivalent to about 211 million barrels of oil per year.

Additionally, each year managed forests sequester – or store – quantities of CO₂ that are equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions produced by approximately 173 million automobiles.

Industry actions that will result in further reductions are outlined below.

Sequestration in Forests and Products With more than 115 million acres enrolled, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative[®] (SFI) program is the largest sustainable forestry program in the world. The program provides a comprehensive system of principles, objectives, indicators, and performance measures that integrate the perpetual growing and harvesting of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil, water, and air quality. Participation in the program is mandatory for membership in AF&PA based on our belief that responsible environmental behavior and sound business decisions coexist to the benefit of landowners, shareholders, employees, customers, the environment, and future generations. A key part of the SFI

Standard requires that participants reach out to non-industrial landowners to encourage widespread support for sustainable forestry principles. We believe that one result of this commitment is the significant sequestration of carbon on the nation's forestlands. The industry also manufactures products that store carbon for decades or longer, further offsetting a portion of the industry's greenhouse gas emissions.

Recycling The industry also has a strong commitment to recycling, which avoids greenhouse gas emissions from products disposed of in landfills. Since the early 1990s, U.S. companies have invested billions of dollars in new recycling capacity to meet the demand for increased use of recycled paper. The industry has reached 48 percent recovery rates with the demand for recovered fiber continuing to rise. A recovery rate objective of at least 50 percent will soon be met and lead to corresponding reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by facilitating sequestration and avoiding methane emissions from landfills. Recovered paper now accounts for approximately 37 percent of the domestic paper industry fiber supply, and AF&PA members continue to support aggressive recycling goals.

Energy Efficiency The forest products industry is committed to innovations to increase efficiency, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, expand the use of renewable energy, and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The industry recovers energy from its waste stream and converts wood wastes to a primary energy source for manufacturing processes. Moreover, the forest products industry leads all other manufacturing sectors in onsite electricity generation, meeting more than half of its energy needs through highly efficient co-generation processes. At many mills, self-generated electricity goes beyond serving onsite production needs by providing supplemental electricity to the surrounding electric power grid.

Technology Development A joint research project between the forest products industry, the U.S. Department of Energy, a consortium of research institutions, and national laboratories will address key technology gaps. The program – known as Agenda 2020 – is working to develop new technologies and processes to make manufacturing products more energy efficient and cost effective. For example, one technology now undergoing full-scale testing uses a methane de-NO_x process that allows for increased use of renewable biofuels with lower emissions and greater efficiency. Another promising technology with great potential for reducing CO₂ emissions is biomass gasification. It is estimated that biomass gasification, if fully developed and adopted, could make the U.S. forest products industry energy self-sufficient and a generator of surplus power.

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