

Paper Recycling

from curb to consumer

RECYCLING NEWSLETTER VOL 1



RECYCLING is a word that we hear every day – in discussions, on television, on billboards, and in magazines. Chances are, you pass dozens of recycling bins as you go about your daily routine.

So, what's the big deal?

Why is recycling so important?

How does it happen?

Can tossing your old paper in a recycling bin instead of the garbage really make a difference?

The answer is yes

Paper recovered for recycling accounted for 37 percent of all fiber used by the U.S. paper industry in 2003. More than 80 percent of all paper mills in the U.S. use recovered paper to make their new products. Recycling paper also helps our communities by keeping it out of landfills and incinerators. The paper that we recover for recycling helps us improve the environment and produce new paper products that we use in our every day life.

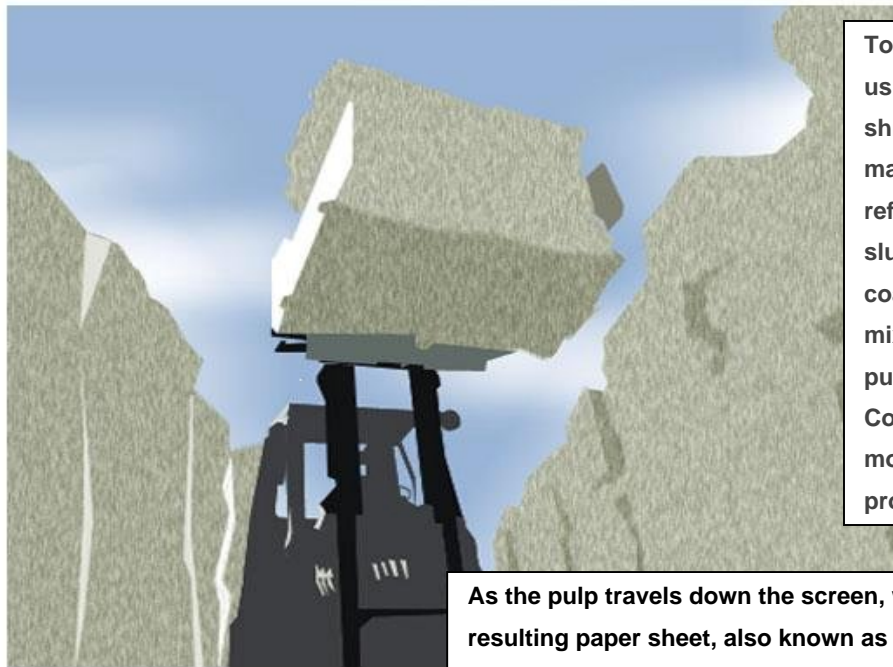
The RECYCLING PROCESS

Today, many different grades of paper can be recycled into different products. Used newspapers are usually made into new newsprint, egg cartons, or paperboard. Used corrugated boxes are recycled into new boxes or paperboard. High-grade white office paper can be recycled into almost any new paper product, including tissue.

So, what happens to paper after we place it in the recycling bin, or drop it off at a community collection center?

After it is collected, recovered paper is transferred to a recycling center or Material Recovery Facility (MRF), where contaminants such as glass, plastics, paperclips and staples are removed. Once the recovered paper is free of contaminants, it is baled and transported to a paper mill where the recycling process begins.





To begin the papermaking process using recovered fiber, the fiber is shredded and mixed with water to make a pulp. The pulp is washed, refined, and cleaned, then turned to slush in a beater. Color dyes, coatings, and other additives are mixed in, and the pulp slush is pumped onto a large moving screen. Computers and special sensors monitor each step of the papermaking process.

As the pulp travels down the screen, water is drained away and recycled. The resulting paper sheet, also known as web, is pressed between massive rollers to extract most of the remaining water and to ensure smoothness and uniform thickness. The semidry web is then run through heated dryer rollers to remove any remaining water.

The finished paper is then wound into large rolls, which can be 30 feet wide and weigh close to 25 tons. A slitter cuts the paper into smaller, more manageable rolls, and the paper is ready for use in your school, workplace, and community.

Paper that is recycled begins life again as part of the products that we use in our every day life.

Recycling is good for the environment, good for business, and good for the community.

Recycling – it starts with you.

