

# Print and Paper The Facts

## The paper industry uses a lot of renewable energy

Like all major manufacturing, paper-making is an energy-intensive endeavour. However, it is also Europe's biggest industrial user and producer of renewable energy and sustained efforts have reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% in a decade.

- "Energy consumption of our mills has decreased by 5.2% in the last two years (2013 over 2011)."<sup>1</sup>
- "The forest products industry is a leader in the production of renewable energy, with more than 56% of the on-site energy needed to produce paper products derived from carbon-neutral biomass."<sup>2</sup>
- The print and paper industry accounts for only 1% of global carbon dioxide emissions.<sup>3</sup>
- We have used biomass energy – the energy from plants and plant-derived materials – since people began burning wood to cook food and keep warm, and wood is still the largest biomass energy resource today. Biomass can be used for power production that would otherwise require fossil fuels. In such scenarios, biomass can provide an array of benefits, including the potential to greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change.<sup>4</sup>
- Our sector is the largest industrial producer of bioenergy, generating 20% of the biomass based energy in Europe.<sup>5</sup>
- "Today 96.4% of electricity is produced on-site of paper mills in Europe using the energy efficient combined heat and power method."<sup>6</sup>
- "It is the new carbon from fossil fuels that is primarily responsible for the increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide that have occurred in the last 100 years."<sup>7</sup>
- "Biomass fuels contain carbon that was recently removed from the atmosphere, and this inherent property exists whether or not trees are regrown. Therefore, all biomass is carbon neutral. The overall benefits of biomass fuels depend on how efficiently we use it to displace fossil fuels. The benefits are reduced if biomass is used faster than it is regrown since this shrinks future supplies of carbon-neutral fuel and can reduce the amounts of carbon sequestered in the forest. Fortunately, it is widely understood that using biomass faster than it's replaced is neither responsible nor sustainable. Sustainable forest management practices, which are strongly supported by the paper industry, not only ensure growth of fibre to meet future needs, they also ensure attention to environmental and biodiversity objectives for the ecosystems in which we operate."<sup>8</sup>
- "The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that forest biomass-derived energy could reduce

global emissions by between 400 million and 4.4 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year, a goal that the forest products industry can help society to reach through its forest biotechnology research and forest biomass infrastructure... IPCC has stated that "In the long term, a sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit." The analysis contained in the present report gives strong support to IPCC's assertion that sustainable management of production forests represents an important mitigation option over the long term."<sup>9</sup>



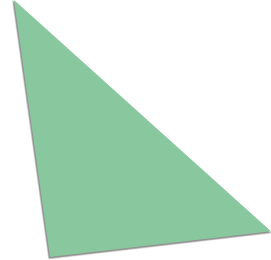
- "The biomass emissions from paper-making are part of the natural carbon balance and do not add to atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, unlike emissions from fossil fuel. The forests that provide that biomass support key climate change mitigation technologies and practices currently commercially available including, afforestation; reforestation; forest management; reduced deforestation; harvested wood product management; use of forestry products for bioenergy to replace fossil fuel use; tree species improvement to increase biomass productivity and carbon

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- sequestration; improved remote sensing technologies for analysis of vegetation/soil carbon sequestration potential and mapping land-use change.”<sup>10</sup>
- “At a global level, the greenhouse gas emissions from the forest products industry value chain are largely offset by sequestration in forests and forest products.”<sup>11</sup>
- “The carbon removed from the forest by the paper and forest products industry represents only about 0.7% of the carbon that is recycled between the forest and the atmosphere annually, and less than 0.14% of the carbon stored in the world’s forests.”<sup>12</sup>

1. CEPI, 2014
2. [CEPI, 2013](#)
3. [World Resources Institute \(WRI\), 2005](#)
4. [US Department of Energy](#)
5. [CEPI, 2013](#)
6. CEPI, 2014
7. [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\), 2007](#)
8. [Miner, R. 2007](#)
9. [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2010](#)
10. [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\), 2007](#)
11. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development \(WBCSD\) and NCASI, 2011](#)
12. [World Business Council for Sustainable Development \(WBCSD\) and NCASI, 2011](#)

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