

## Copy Paper

### Why we care

Papermaking is one of the world's largest and most resource-intensive industries. Logging can destroy ecosystems, cause erosion, and release carbon into the atmosphere. According to US government figures, pulp and paper manufacturers are the fourth largest industrial emitters of greenhouse gases and the third largest emitters of toxic chemicals into the environment. Paper is also the largest component of our land filled waste. The good news is that reducing, reusing, and recycling greatly lessen these impacts, and paper fibers can be recycled about eight times before becoming too short for papermaking. To close the loop, consumers must purchase recycled paper.

### Simple, positive change

- Distribute written documents electronically when appropriate.
- Reuse paper that has been printed on only one side.
- Purchase *100% post-consumer recycled* paper. Post-consumer means the fiber was returned to a manufacturer through a recycling program. Paper labeled only *recycled* can refer to factory scrap that never left the mill.
- Today's recycled paper is perfected for use in printers and copiers. Choose from these brands available locally:
  - *Boise Aspen 100* from Blue Ribbon Business Products or Veritiv Express
  - *Staples Copy Paper, 100% Recycled* from Staples
- Non-chlorine-based bleaches are best for the environment. Look for recycled paper that is PCF (processed chlorine free) or virgin paper that is TCF (totally chlorine free).
- 100% tree-free papers, such as bagasse, are also a good choice.
- The Forest Stewardship Council certifies forest products that use fibers harvested in a responsible manner. Look for *FSC* when purchasing paper with virgin content.

**Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at [jeanne@earthleaders.org](mailto:jeanne@earthleaders.org).**